

February 5, 2020

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 8:44pm by President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

- (X) Councilman Angelichio
- (X) Councilman Breish
- (X) President Burnell
- (X) Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton
- (X) Councilman DiGregorio
- (X) Vice President Fuller
- (X) Councilman Henning
- (X) Councilwoman Currie Teoh
- (X) Councilman Work
- (X) Mayor Herbert

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, not present
Finance Director, John Ramey
Police Chief, Mike Trail
Parks & Rec., Karl Lukens
Electric Superintendent, Andy Krauss
Public Works, Rick DeLong
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

Borough Solicitor, not present
Borough Engineer, not present
Library Director, Tom Meyer
IT/GIS Coordinator, Jen Ames
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame
WWTP Superintendent, Dan Shinskie

Residents

Carole Farrell – no address given

Agenda Item #5 – Committee Reports

Administration and Finance Committee – Councilman Angelichio

1. Joe Clement, who represents Westrum Developers, requested a Local Economic Revitalization Tax Abatement (LERTA) from the Borough. NPSD saw their presentation and agreed to a 5-year LERTA as long as the Borough approved it. This does not mean they won't pay taxes for 5 years; they will. It means that they will not pay the full appraised value of the property for 5 years. Currently the property is taxed for \$4,500 per year and they will pay at least that. Each year the tax amount paid to the borough increases. The LERTA helps the developer finance the project since there are so many environmental issues with the property that will cost a lot to remedy so residential usage can happen on the property. They are asking Council to pass an ordinance to move forward with LERTA.
2. Financial Reports - We got 101% of revenues compared to budget and we are 100% of expenses within \$70k and are under that right now. There are other revenues and expenses, but it looks like we hit budget pretty even with the additional salaries that weren't here last year.
3. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:

- Refinancing of the 2010, 2014 and 2015 general obligation bonds. The borough could potentially save \$210,000+ over 7 years. Rates for bank loans are not as good this time.
 - Bid award for the Turf Maintenance 3-year contract to M&M Landscaping in the amount of \$180,000.
4. The EDC will move forward with Eric Goldstein who will be providing us with a road map for the EDC. He will be looking at demographics of the businesses in the borough and will interview 8 to 10 businesses of our choosing. The cost is not to exceed price of \$7,000.
 5. Public comment – Ed Scheuring would like to see the E. Main Street Streetscape project. Jack Hansen suggests that the stipend to Council be raised for a higher amount each month. Council does a lot of work for very little.

Resident – What is the stipend amount per month?

Councilman Angelichio - \$200 a month minus taxes.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh – Did NPSD agree to the 5-year LERTA?

Councilman Angelichio – They proposed the 5-year gradual LERTA as long as the borough approves.

Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman DiGregorio

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Annual renewal of the junkyard license for Mattero’s junkyard.
 - Walnut Crossing at 3rd and Walnut Streets preliminary land development approval as conditions have been complied with.
 - 700 Knapp Road waiver of escrow fees approval.
 - Update the schedule of fees and charges to add in certain fees and remove state fees that are currently included in our fees and have separate line for them.
2. Discuss beekeeping in the borough. A model ordinance is in Dropbox for Council to review. This item was tabled until all of Council has a chance to review.
3. Discussed commercial property inspections program. Staff continues to work on identifying locations that would be a part of this type of program.
4. The Planning Commission will review and vote on whether to move forward the Montco 2040 plan for the next step in the approval process.

Economic Development Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton

1. Appointed the slate of officers for the year.
2. The committee has decided to move forward with Eric Goldstein’s proposal for \$7,000 and will pay out of their budget.
3. Working on a Business of the Month schedule for the year.
4. Discussed parking in the downtown business area.

Councilman Angelichio – How successful is the façade improvement program? How will \$7,000 impact that program?

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – We have had several recipients over the past 2 years and have denied 2 due to insurance and location to the downtown area.

Councilman Angelichio – How impactful will Eric be?

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – Businesses have changed in the last 8 years and he could be helpful in creating a roadmap for the EDC moving forward.

Electric Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Payment #1 to Armour & Sons for the ARLE grant to replace traffic controls cabinets.
2. Radar loop detections for newly paved roads cost about \$9,000 to \$12,000 per intersection.
3. Andy Krauss and Joe Green spoke on an AMP webinar last week about the Borough's experience with obtaining grant funding for electric vehicles, charging infrastructures, etc. Lansdale Electric will be hosting PMEA members for a one-day informational seminar regarding securing rebates for electric vehicles, charging stations, etc.
4. The first generation of LED streetlights on Main Street in the business district and PTCL area are beginning to fail. They have a 10-year warranty and we are researching options for replacement of the heads and/or boards. Spring City Electrical Manufacturing sells a retrofit kit for \$300 compared to the \$1500 to replace the entire head of the fixture.
5. A small group of Council and Staff met to talk about the PPA savings. We are looking into forming a subcommittee to make recommendations on how the savings would be utilized.
6. Mr. Krauss reviewed 2019 accomplishments within the department as well as their 2020 goals.
7. Pole Attachment Negotiations Update – There will be a meeting in February with Verizon to continue negotiation rates. Invoices have been sent to PECO.

Vice President Fuller – Why are the LED not covered under warranty for replacement?

Mr. Krauss – They may be warrantied from the time of purchase, not the time of installation. He will double check that. These are not the same lights that we are putting up now.

Mayor Herbert – What can radar cameras do at an intersection in addition to timing the traffic lights?

Mr. Krauss – Radar cameras can detect vehicles regardless of weather or sun glare. Traffic cameras can't do that.

Mayor Herbert – Do they collect data that can give us traffic information?

Mr. Krauss – No, they just “watch” the vehicles at the intersections. They aren’t “learning” or collecting data.

Library Committee – Vice President Fuller

1. Staff reviewed the strategic plan on January 2. There are a lot of key items and it will take a lot of work to get this plan completed. Mr. Meyer will prioritize the items in the plan.
2. The fire alarm system plan was revised which drove the cost up 50%. New proposals will be needed.
3. On January 28 the library had a gas leak in an outside pipe going into the building. Marcel, their HVAC contractor, fixed the problem quickly and since the weather was mild the library was able to stay open.
4. Their website went down January 28 for several hours. It just went blank. They had a backup from March 2019 that they could use to get it up and running then updated. No data was compromised.
5. Two new food databases were added to the website and Mr. Meyer has also increased the virtual magazines by 3,500.
6. Both public printers/copiers stopped working the same week. The black and white printer has to be replaced and the color one needs a replacement part.
7. Reviewed the 2020 budget to date; not much data since it is the beginning of the year.
8. Some 2020 events coming up are: The International Spring Festival on April 18, Clean and Green in July and Founders Day Beer Garden on August 29.
9. Books in Motion has expanded to Manhattan Bagel and will be adding locations possibly at Backyard Beans and Representative Malagari’s office.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Vice President Fuller

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Approval to use Memorial Park for the Festival of the Arts on August 29.
 - Approval for St. John’s UCC to use Whites Road Park for Easter Sunrise Service on April 12.
 - Approval of Remington & Vernick’s proposal to the Whites Road Playground Improvement Project.
2. A new program will be added to the schedule this year, Jump Into Gym. A rain barrel workshop will be held in the Wissahickon Park building on March 21 in conjunction with the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy.
3. Ground breaking for the skate park will be on February 3.
4. Cornhole boards will be added to the 4th Street Pool for teams and leagues to play.
5. The toilets in Whites Road Pool will be replaced before the season starts.
6. The contractor for the skate park, 5th Pocket, wants to donate a wall at the entrance to the skate park at their expense. They will send renderings to be reviewed.
7. Discussed a proposed policy change to allow for an alcohol permit when renting the P&R multi-purpose room. The policy would require the renter to be 21 years of age or older as well as providing non-alcoholic beverages and serving of food as well. Alcohol is limited to beer (bottles or cans only, no kegs) and wine only.

8. The Santa House will stay where it is throughout the year instead of moving each season. Moving it causes a lot of wear and tear to it.
9. It has been noted that dog owners are not cleaning up after their dogs near the Liberty Bell trail on Madison Street and the Madison Apartments. Additional signage will be posted in that area as well as strategic placing of signs along other parts of the trail.
10. Cannoneers football and cheerleading had questions about the new field usage fee and questions about the ability to improve the bathroom/snack bar building. They will fundraise for the improvements, but may need some borough assistance.

Councilman Breish – The alcohol permit will stipulate food must be served?

Vice President Fuller – Non-alcoholic beverages have to be provided.

Mr. Lukens – We can require whatever Council wants us to.

Councilman Breish – The playground equipment at Whites Road Park was removed?

Vice President Fuller – The gaga pit was removed and will be relocated in the park.

Councilman DiGregorio – The Wissahickon Park bridge looks like it needs to be inspected by our engineer. It is looking a bit worn.

Councilman Breish – In respect to the dog bag stations, is it possible to do something about the bags coming out in a clump? Maybe we could have a better system for the bags to come out one at a time like a smaller station similar to a vet's office.

Public Safety Committee – Councilman Work

1. Traffic Study for Highland Avenue- Chief Trail advised the committee of the results of the traffic study for the intersection of Highland Avenue and Forest Avenue. Pennoni did not find a need for the above intersection to be changed to a 4-way stop.
2. The chief will be working with Pennoni and PD staff to develop a traffic calming policy for the entire borough to address concerns for speeding and distracted driving on borough streets.
3. The handicapped parking request was tabled for 23 E. 6th Street so the chief could review further.
4. There are a lot of complaints about the intersection of 9th and Walnut Streets because of cars parked along 9th Street blocking the line of site and it being only a 2-way stop. The chief and public works crews will work to post signage and increase enforcement of illegally parked vehicles.
5. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Approval of Manna on Main Streets 5K race April 4.
 - Approval of Lansdale Day on June 6.
 - Approval of Lansdale Farmers' Market 2020 season.

- Activate Civil Service Commission to update current regulations and amend the Civil Service Ordinance.
6. The chief advised the committee that he will be making a presentation of the PD's 2019 Annual Report at the business meeting.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – Has anyone from the fire department come in to give a report to the Public Safety Committee.

President Burnell – Did we invite them to?

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – We have asked them in the past to attend the Public Safety meeting.

Councilman DiGregorio – Could we look at getting speed bumps to stop speeding on Norway Drive.

Chief Trail – We need to do a comprehensive study of traffic in the entire borough first to see what is really feasible to do.

Mayor Herbert – We have to collect data first to address the systematic problems within the borough before putting band aids on to do a quick fix.

Public Works Committee – Councilman Breish

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Line Street Rehabilitation - Change Order #1, a balancing change order in the amount of **-238,602.20** as well as payment request #5 (final) in the amount of \$79,612.44 to DOLI Contractors.
 - W. Third Street Rehabilitation –Change Order #3, a balancing change order due to unforeseen field conditions in the amount of **-\$40,120.54** and payment request #4 (final) in the amount of \$128,564.82 to SJM Construction Co.
 - 2019 N. Cannon Avenue Road Rehabilitation –Change Order #2, a balancing change order in the amount of **-\$86,070.02** and payment request #5 (final) in the amount of \$359,001.05 to Marino Corporation.
 - Payment request #1 from A.N. Lynch for work completed on the WWTP fire & security alarm project in the amount of \$26,281.80.
 - Request for Proposals for design of UV Disinfection System approval
 - Approval of hanging banners for PennSuburban Chamber of Commerce on certain areas of Broad Street and Vine Street.
 - Approval of hanging banners for the International Spring Festival on West Main Street.
 - Approval to purchase WWTP HIMS database software.
2. Pennbrook Avenue Base Repairs – Work has been completed on the base repairs and these streets are ready for paving later in 2020.
3. 2018 CDBG E. Third Street – Phase II (Chestnut Street to Ridge Street) – SJM Construction began construction the week of January 13 and work is moving ahead quickly.
4. 2020 Microsurfacing Program – Bids are currently being advertised with a bid due date of February 26, 2020.

5. 2020 Mill & Overlay Program – Bids are currently being advertised with a bid due date of February 26, 2020.
6. E. Hancock Street Rehabilitation – Bids were received on today for this project and the apparent low bidder is SJM Construction. The committee gave verbal authorization to put forth a motion to full council to award this contract, base bid, alternates #2, #3 and #4 upon receipt and review of the bid tab and letter of recommendation from RV Engineers.
7. Street Sweeper – Mr. Delong reminded the committee he had requested in 2019 to purchase a new street sweeper in 2020 and he has been in contact with a company that offers a four-year lease on street sweepers. With leasing, all maintenance and repairs will be covered under the lease agreement and will be done by the leasing company. He feels this would be a good option over an outright purchase because after four years, we would be able to get a new sweeper and not have the additional expense of equipment maintenance and repairs which can be very costly in the long run. A question was raised on the purpose of the street sweeper and Mr. Delong stated that 7 tons of debris, 225 tons of sifted debris, and 81 6-wheel dump truckloads of leaves were removed from borough streets in 2019.
8. Curb Work included in Future Road Projects Discussion – Tyler Williams from RV Engineers discussed the financial impact of including curb work in future road projects. He estimated the cost for curbing on the four major road projects for 2019 would have been an additional \$303,350 in borough cost. Using the 2020 mill and overlay project as an example, the additional cost to the borough would be approximately \$217,800. With two projects currently being out for bid, it is too late to include this option in these contracts.
9. There was public discussion about alley maintenance.

Agenda Item #6 – Announcements

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – Don't forget that Nissan is offering a discount to Borough residents for the purchase of an electric Leaf through them.

Councilman Henning – This week is Restaurant Week so we encourage everyone to try a new restaurant or all of them!

Vice President Fuller – We are hoping for a completion date of October for the Whites Road Playground.

President Burnell – We are accepting letters of intent and resumes for the Environmental Advisory Commission until March 13. We are also accepting letters of interest and resume for Borough Treasurer. This person is an independent of borough staff to sign checks and it is usually a commitment of two afternoons a month.

Agenda Item #7 – Public Comment

Carole Farrell – Just clarifying that NPSD did not agree to the LERTA yet. They will act once the Borough does.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04pm