

March 1, 2023

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 8:35pm by President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

- ( ) Councilwoman Bollens - sick
- (X) Councilman Breish
- (X) President Burnell
- (X) Councilman Carroll
- (X) Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton
- (X) Councilman DiGregorio
- (X) Vice President Fuller
- ( ) Councilman Ladley – left after PW committee (sick)
- (X) Councilwoman Currie Teoh
- (X) Mayor Herbert

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, John Ernst  
Finance Director, Glenn Dickerson  
Police Chief, absent  
Parks & Rec., Courtney Meehan  
Electric Dept., Andy Krauss  
Public Works, Chris Kunkel  
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

Borough Solicitor, not present  
Borough Engineer, not present  
Library Director,  
IT Dept., Kevin Kissinger  
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame  
WWTP Superintendent, Greg Rapp

Residents

None

**President Burnell** – An Executive Session was held earlier this evening related to a personnel matter. There will not be action taken tonight.

Agenda Item #4 – Committee Reports

**Administration and Finance Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton**

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Motion to eliminate residential electric deposits and hire Portnoff Law Group to collect unpaid electric bills.
  - Motion to remove Paymentus and install Xpressbillpay as the credit card platform for utility bill payments.
  - Motion to change banking institutions for the Borough to reduce banking fees.
2. Financial report - Total revenue is up \$661k and is real estate transfer taxes, EIT & LST, SRU fees are most of this. In prior years, we transferred what was budgeted and a set amount. This year, we transferred what was needed to transfer rather than the budgeted amount. In Parking, revenue is spot on and expenses are down a little bit. For 421 W Main Street one month of revenue needs to be recorded and checked. In Electric, revenue is right-on and expenses are slightly below. In Sewer, revenue is up and expenses are up. In Parks & Recreation, the revenue is a little less. We didn't sell

discount tickets and daily pool admission was down. We sent people to the Park office to purchase daily admission tickets and we aren't going to do that this year. In Debt Service, we are right on. In Capital, the revenue is up and expenses are up a little bit. We did a lot of upgrades to handle the flow from Merck so revenue and expenses are both up. In Highway, the money is sitting there and allocated. So, overall revenue versus expenses, we are in excess of \$230k and money allocated to road programs for 2023. The audit process has started and hopefully in May/June it will be done. We are continuing to transition to the new system and using A/P, A/R, Bank reconciliations and Code. We have approval for AML software for electric billing info by the end of the month to get that transitioned.

**Vice President Fuller** – have we vetted the new proposed banks?

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – Glenn has vetted four banks and the bank chosen will be Penn Community Bank. They will not charge excess fees.

**Councilman Breish** – He heard a lot of unfavorable numbers in that report.

**Mr. Dickerson** – The offset will be favorable in the revenues that will help the unfavorable balances. There is a surplus that will be used for a project pushed from 2022's budget.

**Councilman Breish** – Will we continue to see this trend?

**Mr. Dickerson** – We did budget well and we did include inflation. Inflation is going down, but some expenses were higher than we could anticipate.

**Councilman Breish** – Has there been anymore discussion regarding ARPA funds?

**Mr. Dickerson** – The list is in One Drive for all of Council to review. We will discuss at the next committee meeting.

#### **Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman DiGregorio**

1. Permits applied for and issued: December-153; January-64 applied for and 59 issued; and in February 80 were applied for.
2. Training classes are ongoing for staff to continue with their certifications.
3. The new Caselle software is user friendly for the Borough staff and will be for the residents as well.
4. Planning Commission – The propane station on Moyers Road is still moving forward and discussions continue on 215 S. Broad Street.
5. Zoning Hearing Board – A request was made for a sign on N. Cannon Avenue and Trinity Lutheran Church at 1000 W. Main Street would like to add a pavilion.
6. The Fire Marshal changed out nine smoke detectors this month.

#### **Economic Development Committee – Councilman Ladley**

1. No report

#### **Electric Committee – Councilman Carroll**

1. The Crown Castle pole attachment agreement will bring in about \$3,800 a year in revenue. This agreement is expected to be executed soon.
2. To have the Borough's electric ordinance reviewed by the PMEA solicitors will cost about \$10,000 for extensive review.
3. Discussion about solar panels at Willow Street Park continued. Blue Sky sent over a quote of \$10,000 to \$15,000 just to have a 3D look of the area with panels. The committee decided this was too much money and asked Mr. Krauss to have Utility Engineers give a quote.
4. The committee will review the Ready for 100 ordinance proposal by the EAC at the next meeting with members of the EAC.

5. PPL Relay Project – PPL is insistent that we do the relays as originally specified. Staff will work with Utility Engineers to help lessen cost.
6. Electric meter program – 3,386 meters were changed so far and there are 5,100 more remaining. We have 2,500 of those meters and need to purchase 2,600. We are talking about outsourcing the installs to save time and costs.

**Councilman Breish** – In regard to Willow Street Park solar, would you loop in the EAC as well for other options there too for things like landscaping?

**Mr. Krauss** – He agrees we should and they can assist in improving that area.

#### **Library Committee – Vice President Fuller**

1. Tom Meyer, Library Director, submitted his resignation and will be leaving in March. The exact date has not been decided yet. HR will work with the Montgomery County District Library Group's consultant, which is a free service, to assist us in hiring a new director. A plan is being put in place to for day to day operations; Mr. Ernst has been meeting with staff regarding the process. We are now seeking four positions for the new structure of the Library Board of Trustees sooner rather than later.
2. A public meeting was held about the reorganization of the Library Board and minimal people showed up to listen and ask questions.

**Mr. Ernst** – There is a possibility of abbreviated hours at the library during the transition to a new director. If that happens, we will put out on social media as soon as possible.

#### **Parks and Recreation Committee – Vice President Fuller**

1. NPV Softball has put in their annual request for tournaments for the season. They would like to add more teams and tournaments this year. The committee tabled the discussion until Ms. Meehan can do some more research.
2. The spring/summer programs are advertised and sign ups are starting. April 1 is the Easter Egg Hunt at White's Road Park. Pre-registration is required.
3. Pool membership sales are going well as well as hiring summer staff.
4. The paving of Stony Creek Park parking lot will start in the spring. They also discussed the playground and some areas that need a facelift. Councilman Breish did bring up that maybe the binoculars should not be replaced because they can be turned toward the Andale Development and you can see in homeowners windows.
5. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Bid award for the White's Road Park Facilities Improvement Project to Marino Corporation for \$166,987 to repave the trail and do work around the pavilion area.
6. We are looking into grant money for the library story time walks.
7. Discussed the Cannoneers field get usage throughout the year so the unwanted activity cannot take place if the fields are used more often in the winter months.
8. Looking for ideas on how the Wissahickon Park Building can be utilized more.

#### **Public Safety Committee – Councilwoman Currie Teoh**

1. The new temporary one-way designation signs on E. Second Street seem to be working well as they are more visible to drivers.
2. Discussed the directional changes to be two-way will be done on a sixty-day trial period. If the changes work well, then the traffic ordinance can be updated to permanently make the changes. This will make getting around downtown and accessing parking easier particularly for people who come to patronize our businesses from outside the Borough.

3. The new traffic unit will roll out in May and they will work rotating shifts from 5am to 1am.
4. The department responded to 2,052 events in the month of February and they are various kinds of events for police assistance.
5. Fairmount Fire Company – they will receive their new fire truck in September. On April 29 they will hold their second craft show in the fire house. The Under the Lights Car Show will be June 17. The crews continue their hazmat training.

### **Public Works Committee – Councilman Breish**

1. The committee discussed trash hauling. Three people in attendance oppose single hauler and want to know why we are bringing it up again. Only the low bidder can be awarded the contract, but that does not mean that bidder would be the most responsible particularly JP Mascaro who no one wants. They want to choose their own trash hauler. Councilman Ladley commented at the committee meeting that he has received resident comments that were in favor of single hauler trash. The committee would like to put out an RFP for a trash consultant. They don't have enough facts whether single hauler or municipal trash collection would be better. It won't cost money to do an RFP to seek proposals.
2. E. Main Streetscape SEPTA section – is on hold due to SEPTA needing to update their crossing arms which will be done in 2024. Hoping the rest of the project will still come to plan and on budget.
3. Discussed the directional road changes on Susquehanna Avenue and Courtland Street.
4. 2023 Mill & Overlay project – W. Seventh Street was taken off the list due to the need to update the storm sewers first. They are looking at alternates on some other roads. Microsurfacing is coming off the list for some roads as well due to the conditions of the targeted roads.
5. Reviewed the Safe Streets for All program and the committee feels it should move to Public Safety at this point as it will include traffic and pedestrian safety as well. Jacqui Baxter Rollins commented at the meeting that there is another grant TASA for bike lanes.
6. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Approve the PECO right of way for a gas main transition through Borough property for future consideration at the treatment plan.
7. Discussed the WWTP aeration upgrade project.
8. Public attended to talk about bike lanes and the need for them. Mr. Morgan wanted to say that the contractors that are working on the sewer main replacements are doing a great job.

### Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

**Councilman Breish** – Last week when we had warm weather there were at least 100 people at Stony Creek Park and White's Road Parks . Thank you John and Glenn for the help you are giving to the library during this transition.

### Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

None

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm*