

April 4, 2019

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, April 4, 2019 at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 9:07 pm by Council President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

- (X) Councilman Angelichio
- (X) Councilman Breish
- (X) President Burnell
- (X) Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton
- ( ) Councilman DiGregorio – work commitment
- (X) Vice President Fuller
- (X) Councilman Hansen
- (X) Councilman Henning
- (X) Councilman Work
- (X) Mayor Herbert

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, John Ernst

Finance Director, John Ramey

Police Chief, Mike Trail

Parks & Rec., Karl Lukens

Electric Superintendent, Andy Krauss

Public Works, Rick DeLong

WWTP Superintendent, Dan Shinskie

Borough Solicitor, not present

Borough Engineer, not present

Library Director, Tom Meyer

IT/GIS Coordinator, not present

Cust. Svc. Manager, not present

HR Director, Nancy Shaw

Project Manager, Chris Kunkel

Residents

None

Agenda Item #5 – Committee Reports

**Administration and Finance Committee – Councilman Angelichio**

1. Revenues are up \$116,000 through February which is a 14% increase. Expenses are up \$28,000 which is a 2% increase over last year. Compared to budget we are on track. Without transfers we are at 10% of revenues for this year which is up from 9% last year.
2. Real estate assessment and reassessment. Montgomery County sets tax assessed value when you purchase or do an addition on your home. When you get permits for work, it then goes to the County. When there is a change, taxes can go up. To appeal you would go to the Board of Appeals with an attorney. Assessed value is the percent of market value. It is up to the County to reassess home sales, but it has been a very long time since it has been completed in Montgomery County.
3. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Agreement with Equus to allow a temporary sign advertising the leasing of apartments in the Madison Apartments complex.
  - Board of Assessment Appeal – Parc Properties have requested that their property be reassessed. Both the school district and the County agreed to a reassessment, so we will follow as well. It costs more to fight the reassessment than pay back some tax money.

The property is Century Plaza and the total refund is \$9,136 and going forward it is \$5,900 a year which will adjust the property to \$4 million using common ratio.

- 421 W. Main Street settlement agreement - The dispute is over some extras which were not part of the change order. We have agreed to some of those, but minimum about \$10,000 more than the whole contract and all workmanship issues have been resolved.
4. We are looking at 2 miles of work on paving roads and Public Works committee is going to approve. Microsurfacing isn't going to be done this year. NPWA did a scope change in work, so now we are looking at paving which increases the costs and have to look at additional costs this year; \$1.6 million, plus bonds and liquid fuels to fund the next 3 years. On North Line Street, this has been a multi-year effort to get things to move more efficiently. We don't have all the issues we had years ago and worked with all parties. The utility work was all done in fall/winter and we gave notification to residents so they have time to do sidewalks now so the road can be paved by the end of the summer.
  5. A Korean War veteran who was Killed in Action with ties to Lansdale was found in 2017. We will be adding George Housekeeper, Jr's name to the Korean War memorial in Memorial Park in time for the Memorial Day ceremony. The cost is not to exceed \$2,500.
  6. There was some public comment about the condition of Line Street.

#### **Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman Hansen**

1. For the month of March, 80 Permits processed last year at this time and in 2019 49 were processed. Year to date; 214 permits have been processed whereas last year this time it was 129 permits. The department responded to 77 complaints and attended one court case resulting in a continuance for the sake of the property owner to come into compliance. The department assisted the Police Department in vacating an illegal single-family residence due to unsafe conditions.
2. New business for the previous month are: 100 W. Main St – Medical Massage; 5 N. Cannon Ave – Financial Service Office; 229-233 S. Broad St- Construction Firm; 134 W. Fifth St -Distributor; 1000 N. Cannon Ave- Commercial Printer.
3. Motion to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Motion to Prepare and Advertise the Adoption of the 2015 International Fire Code and its amendments.
4. Commercial Fire/Safety Inspections: Work on this Ordinance continues, specifically Chapter 204-205 “Administrative Function.”
5. Discussed at the Admin and Finance Committee Meeting, the Borough of Lansdale will be entering a Temporary Lease with Equus for a sign located near W. Main St and Madison St.
6. 43 W. Third St.- Conditional Use Hearing – continued to 04/24/19: Parking garage concerns continue for the Lansdale Borough Council on this project.

**Councilman Angelichio** – Can we clarify what our code covers in regard to fire pits, chimeneas, opening burning, etc.

**Councilman Hansen** – The 2015 International Fire Code will cover those concerns.

**President Burnell** – The new code is much more descriptive in those areas.

**Councilman Angelichio** – Once the code is approved, could we print the do's and don'ts in the Electric Wire.

**Economic Development Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton**

1. The façade improvement grant for 320 Madison Street was approved.
2. Discussed the “hits” of what people look at the most on the Borough website.

**Electric Committee – Councilman Henning**

1. Andy Krauss was voted in as the Vice President of the PMEA Board.
2. Honeywell will be hosting a meter seminar in Council Chambers April 24 and 25.
3. Pole Attachment Audit –Working with Adtell to put together pole audit specifications to collect pole rental revenue.
4. The Electric Department took delivery of both a new high reach Altec bucket truck and new Dodge 3500 dump truck.
5. The committee reviewed a new development from AMP and PMEA. This document will allow us to keep an eye on all legislation at the State House that may affect the public power industry.
6. The Electric Vehicle chargers have been received and will be installed shortly. The crews have been working on pole installations and the various development projects.
7. Montgomery Township has officially stated that they have no interest in installing street lights on Knapp Road.

**Councilman Breish** – Will the pole attachment agreement be part of the fee schedule?

**Mr. Krauss** – We are working on an audit on pole attachments to determine who is attached to our poles. Adtell is assisting us with this project.

**Mayor Herbert** – What is the sense of the response we will see once invoices are sent to those using our poles?

**Mr. Krauss** – We have already had correspondence to several companies about this so they will be expecting it. The larger companies like Verizon and Comcast are familiar with this kind of fee.

**Councilman Angelichio** – Do we know approximately how many poles this will affect to determine revenue?

**Mr. Krauss** – Doing quick math I estimate \$165,000 per year to start.

**Library Committee – Vice President Fuller**

1. Reviewed the community room use policy looked at examples of other libraries, Mr. Ernst has spoken to the Solicitor about the policy. Questions and suggestions were given to Tom Meyer who will compile the

suggestions and comments for the solicitor review and the committee to review. The goal is to have it ready to vote on for the May Board of Trustees meeting.

2. Tom has reviewed database usage and decided not to renew. This will free up \$5500 that will be put into new electronic resources. We now have access to Creativebug by Joann Fabric, it includes thousands of online craft tutorials. We will be purchasing digital magazines and audiobooks through RB Digital. Access to the RB Digital core collection of over 30,000 audiobooks costs \$3,450 per year when we make a commitment to spend an additional \$1,200 on titles we want to add that are not in the core collection. We will promote them through social media and website as well as utilize marketing materials provided by companies.
3. The museum pass program is going well, all but one has been checked out. The most popular are Bucks County Children's museum, Elmwood Park Zoo and the Insectarium.
4. Please take the CCAT survey if you haven't already. About half the invites have been responded to and taken the survey. There may be some questions that you don't know the answer to, don't worry about that.

**Mayor Herbert** – When he met with his Mayors group they were all surprised that Council is also the Library Board. Has it always been this way?

**Vice President Fuller** – To her knowledge Council has always been the Board.

**Mr. Ernst** – The Library by-laws do indicate that Council members are the board members.

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

1. The new Parks & Recreation Director, Karl Lukens, was introduced. He has 30 years-experience in Parks & Recreation. He has worked in Lower Providence, Northampton and Abington.
2. An update will be given during a future meeting about the White's Road Playground equipment.
3. The Korean War Memorial in Memorial Park was discussed. An inscription and name will be added.
4. The Friends of Lansdale Parks group spent the day on March 31 cleaning trash from the parks as well as destroying Spotted Lantern Fly nests. Bill estimates they had over 100 volunteers. It was suggested to look into placing trash cans in strategic areas near the nature trail areas.
5. There was some public comment. Someone asked for an update about the skate park and another person wanted to know how the new director will communicate to the residents who don't attend meetings about what they want to see in the park system.

#### **Public Safety Committee – Councilman Work**

1. The chief is was working with PennDOT to install Lane Separator Curbs on North Broad Street in the 200 block to prohibit cars from driving through the safety zone. Also, public works will be installing meters in several

unmetered parking locations at Susquehanna Avenue near Courtland Street.

2. An update of the previous parking study will be done through the Parking Authority in coming months.
3. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Motion to approve the Fairmount Fire Company Under the Lights Car Show on June 15.
  - Motion to approve Discover Lansdale's First Fridays 2019 season.
  - Motion to approve an ordinance to update parking requirements on Madison Street.
4. Eligible officers sat for the promotional exam for the position of police Sergeant on April 4, 2019 and the results of the exam should be in by the second week of May 2019.
5. The LPD handled 1,725 events in the month of March of which 46 were traffic accidents. The LPD is working to hire a new parking enforcement officer and the job ad should be posted in the next few weeks.
6. Public Comment:
  - requested the Borough consider making the street crossing signage on West Main Street more consistent as currently some crossings have lighted signals while others have audible devices.
  - requested police investigate removing BB guns from juveniles in incidents where kids are shooting the property of others. The chief advised he would look to have officers speak with the parents of such offenders and suggest the parents take the BB guns away.
  - requested LPD review the yield signs at Lakeview and Norway Drives and consider changing the sign to indicate that the oncoming traffic do not stop.
  - requested the PD do something to stop kids on bikes from loitering in front of the bike shop on West Main Street as they are driving away business and are being rude to his customers. He also advised this is the same group of kids who have been riding their bikes in and out of traffic and have no regard for vehicular traffic.

#### **Public Works Committee – Councilman Angelichio**

1. 2017 CDBG E. Third Street – Phase I (Chestnut Street to Ridge Street) – Curb and sidewalk work has been completed. Milling started today and paving will begin tomorrow.
2. W. Third Street Rehabilitation – All utility work is complete. Residents have until the end of June to complete their curb and sidewalk work.
3. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Payment request for N. Line Street project in the amount of \$181,683.67.
  - Change Order #1 for the White's Road Sewer Lining project for a negative \$56,988.
  - Payment request (final) for the White's Road Sewer Lining project in the amount of \$51,870.
4. 2019 Microsurfacing Program – Due to a conflict with NPWA expanding their project on Cherry Street to the connecting streets, the Borough will be cancelling our 2019 microsurfacing work in that area for this year. The

contract currently out for bid encompassed the same connecting streets that NPWA has added to their scope of work.

5. 2019 N. Cannon Avenue Road Rehabilitation – This project is currently out for bid and we are hoping to award the contract in May.
6. 2019 ADA Improvement Project – This project is currently out for bid and are hoping to award the contract in May or June.
7. Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership - At the March 14 meeting there was a discussion of the six Sections of the Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP). The committee is looking for comments on the completed Drafts of Sections 1-4. The minutes are in Dropbox for Council review.

Agenda Item #6 – Announcements

**Vice President Fuller** – Welcome to Karl Lukens our new Parks & Rec. Director. Saturday night is Vegas Night for Variety Club at Montgomery County Community College. It is not too late to attend.

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – Public Works Civics 101 Open House is on Tuesday, April 9 at 7:00pm.

**Councilman Angelichio** – There have been some comments about the intersection at W. 3rd Street and Valley Forge Rd. It is a unique curve and people drive too fast around there. He asked if the PW crew could paint double yellow lines so people stay in their own lane when going around the curve.

**Mr. Kunkel** – A traffic design had been started regarding that area.

**Councilman Breish** – Thank you to everyone who came out to help clean up the parks and to get rid of Lantern Fly egg sacs. We destroyed 28,000 sacs. We will also be doing a clean up of Main Street near Earth Day.

Agenda Item #7 – Public Comment

None

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:07pm*