

March 4, 2020

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 9:04pm 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) 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
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

Borough Solicitor, Patrick Hitchens
Borough Engineer, not present
Library Director, Tom Meyer
IT/GIS Coordinator, Kevin Kissinger
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame
WWTP Superintendent, Dan Shinskie

Residents

Bill Allen – York Avenue

Agenda Item #4 – Committee Reports

Administration and Finance Committee – Councilman Angelichio

1. Financials - Comparing actual to budget for January we are tracking at 2% of total revenue. We are also 3% of prior year for expenses. One difference there is a decrease in revenue of \$91k which may be a little deflated because of EnerGov and revenue for apartment licenses came in the beginning of January rather than the prior year. Expenses are up \$49k and that is part because HSA and employer switching into a high deductible plan and gives employees money upfront, but it will even out by the end of the year.
2. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - a. Ordinance for debt refinancing of the 2015 General Obligation Bond.
 - b. Motion to prepare and advertise a public hearing for LERTA for the Westrum development project.
3. Informational Items - Public works looking to award mill & overlay and microsurfacing contracts which will be coming out of capital plan.
 - a. Public works intergovernmental agreement with NPWA for road work.
 - b. Parks and Rec resolution in support of a TCDI grant application with DVRPC

- c. The Borough received grant approval for the flashing signal on White's Road.
4. Public comment – Ed Scheuring felt the Borough should pay to replace sidewalks as well as maintain them.

Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman DiGregorio

1. Commercial Fire/Safety Inspections - Introduced a Commercial Inspection Program Brochure. As the Fire Safety Inspection program is developed, this brochure will offer an education component and contains a checklist to assist users when the program begins. Fees and time schedule are still under review.
2. Resident Construction meetings – Pennbrook neighborhood is on Thursday March 12, 2020 at 7:00 PM and Heritage Valley (Norway, Lakeview & Barberry Dr's) is on March 19, 2020 7:00pm. Borough Staff members including Lansdale Borough Engineer and representatives from the North Penn Water Authority will be available to assist residents and address questions and concerns regarding the upcoming projects in their neighborhoods.
3. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - a. Motion to prepare and advertise a public hearing for the Lansdale 2040 plan.
 - b. Motion to prepare and advertise update to the plumbing ordinance.
4. Zoning Hearing Board Meeting April 21, 2020 - Code Enforcement and Land Planning Committee recommend that Mr. Kennedy, Lansdale Borough Planning Consultant, attend the meeting on April 21, 2020 regarding the hearing for the applicant at 117 E. Hancock St.
5. Department activity continues to be very busy with an increase of 30% from 2019 to present. For 2020, 251 applications have been received with 234 issued to date.
6. Zoning Hearing Board Meeting February 18, 2020 - 151 E. Mt. Vernon St.: Applicant is proposing to build three new duplex buildings. Seeking relief for setbacks and parking requirements.

Economic Development Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton

1. Reviewed the gatefold mailer at the February meeting.
2. Discussed parking for businesses in the downtown area.
3. Eric Goldstein, consultant for the committee, will begin to interview businesses.
4. March meeting was cancelled.

Electric Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton

1. Solar Project Update – Design, bidding, award and notice to proceed is complete. We saw renderings of the projects and an extension was received for both grants due to the lead time on the equipment. Design, bidding, award and notice to proceed have been completed on the Borough Hall Solar Project. Antennas on the roof utilized by the Police Department may need to be moved prior to the installation of the solar panels.
2. Municibid Update – The Borough sold \$15,000 worth of vehicles and equipment on Municibid.
3. LED Replacement Completion – 1,403 streetlights have been replaced to date. There are still 351 lights to be replaced.

4. Oil Circuit Breaker at Stony Creek – The breaker failed in early January, so the engineer is looking into replacing it with a smaller, vacuum packed unit instead of an oil filled unit that we currently have.
5. Lansdale will host an EV Class in Council Chambers on March 10 to include representatives from ten other municipalities, DEP and PMEA.
6. Radar Signals at Church Road & E. Hancock Street – discussed adding radar to the intersection because of the loops cut during the road construction and paving last year. Technology has changed since the loops were installed and cameras or radar are more up-to-date. The committee discussed having the replacement of traffic loops added to future road contracts, so work can be completed prior to final paving. Pennoni Associates will investigate cost and benefit for loops, cameras or radar for the next committee meeting.
7. Workload – Mr. Krauss discussed the various projects his crew is currently working on which include keeping up with the various developments like Andale Green, completing the installation of fiber to the Whites Road Pump Station and Whites Road Pool before the pool season starts in the end of May, upgrading the service facilities on Pennbrook Avenue and spring substation maintenance. His crews are also working on streetlight and meter replacement, rig and sling inspection safety class and working on the design phase of a service upgrade at 307 Derstine Avenue. The crews were also busy with several wind events that put their daily work on hold until all necessary repairs were completed. All work must be prioritized and it sometimes gets pushed to Saturdays to keep ahead of the everchanging workload.

Library Committee – Vice President Fuller

1. Strategic Plan – We have begun work on the strategic plan items. A spreadsheet is in Dropbox to track progress and timelines. Key highlights include the in-service day held at the library March 2. New Outreach efforts like celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday at Manhattan Bagel and the creation of new two up event fliers with QR codes that lead to Facebook events to hang in bulletin boards at locations around town.
2. Budget Review – In reviewing the budget, we discussed updating the categories used for tracking. Due to the gas main leak, the building repair budget is already over projection for the year. John suggested that we check to see if insurance may cover some of the cost.
3. Compensation Surveys – In looking at compensation survey results from other libraries in Montgomery County, we saw a wide range of pay rates for professional and non-professional staff. One common theme was that Lansdale was at the low end. Mr. Breish suggested that we look at what effect raising the minimum hourly rate to \$11 would have in addition to conducting further research into what is considered a living wage in Montgomery County.
4. ISF and the future of the library's involvement – We discussed the amount of time and effort put into the International Spring Festival by the library. In the past the event was considered a fundraiser for the library. In more recent years, there has been a much lower return on investment for the library. We will ask the ISF committee to contribute to events and materials that fit the celebration of diversity tenet of the library's mission.

5. Books in motion – shelves at Manna and Manhattan Bagel are doing well and need to be restocked about every two weeks. The new signage will be added to older existing locations.
6. Storywalk – Tom will share information from latest webinar he attended with the committee.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Vice President Fuller

1. Requests - A non-resident pool member requested to add her mother to the membership. The mother is moving into the household beginning in June. The committee granted the request for this year and stated that each case will be determined on a case by case basis.
2. Programs - two new programs this spring are “Sing Sign & Grow” and a Rain Barrel workshop. Additionally, other annual programs including T-ball registration, Pysanky Easter Egg Decoration and Karate will be back. The 38th annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 3 at White’s Road Park. Mr. Lukens also advised the Committee that a weeklong skateboarding camp has been scheduled at the soon to be completed skatepark in 4th Street Park. Several one-day clinics will be offered throughout the year as well.
3. 2020 Budget - There were no unbudgeted expenses to date. Mr. Lukens will bring information on potential changes to the capital budget to allow for changes to the scope of work on the Memorial Park tennis courts. The work on those courts are more extensive than just filling in cracks.
4. Skatepark update – Construction work is coming along and Vice President Fuller will be in touch with Jesse Clayton of 5th Pocket to discuss the wall he wants to donate to the park.
5. White’s Road Park Playground – RVE is in progress of putting together the project specifications and bid documents for the project.
6. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - a. Payment #1 for work completed on the Skatepark in the amount of \$24,615.00.
 - b. TCDI Application with several area municipalities for the continuation of the Liberty Bell Trail. Our portion is about \$2,500 since most of our trail is complete.
 - c. Approve 2020 Seasonal Employee wage schedule.
7. Whites Road pedestrian crossing flashing beacon grant has been approved and we can move forward with this project.
Mr. Ernst – We have received the PennDOT permits and will be ready to go out to bid soon.

Councilman Angelichio – Regarding pool memberships is there the thought of having a third rate for 19446 zip code but not actual borough residents?

Vice President Fuller – Those people would be considered in the non-resident rate.

Councilman Breish – Was the large amount of pet waste along the Liberty Bell Trail discussed?

Vice President Fuller – Did not discuss that tonight.

Mr. Lukens – He did purchase and added signs along the Trail about picking up dog waste.

Mr. Van Dame – We do let people know that this is a finable offense up to \$1,000.

Chief Trail – He did talk to management at the Madison apartments.

Councilman Breish – When will Stony Creek pond be filled and the Kugel Ball opened again?

Mr. Lukens – The Kugel opens after April 15 and the pond will be filled in another month.

Councilman DiGregorio – If we don't stock fish in there we should.

Public Safety Committee – Councilwoman Currie Teoh

1. 9th and Walnut St. - The police department has increased their presence at the intersection. It was decided that new lines should be painted to update the setbacks from the stop signs and crosswalks.
2. A request for a handicapped parking space at 711 W. 3rd Street; 853 Wedgewood Dr and 165 E. 2nd St were all denied due to adequate parking at the rear of the home.
3. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - a. Approve the Knapp Rd School Zone signal to move forward.
 - b. Approve the BAPS Walk on June 13
 - c. Approve 2020 Founders Day on August 29
 - d. Approve the 2020 Fairmount Fire Company's Under the Lights Car Show on June 20.
 - There were some complaints last year about the staging area on Cannon Ave due to the exhaust and noise.
4. A request came in have a look at the corners at Perkiomen and Susquehanna Avenues. Cars are parked too close to the intersection; Chief Trail will review.

President Burnell - He also received some complaints about Cannon Ave as the car show staging area.

Chief Trail – If after this year these are still issues, we will mandate them to a new staging area.

President Burnell – There are several intersections in the West Ward that have issues with cars parked too close to the corners.

Chief Trail – There are certain setbacks in the vehicle code and when he receives a complaint he looks at that area.

Mr. Ernst – We asked if the school zone would be updated on Knapp Rd before school starts in the Fall of 2020 rather than at the end of the project.

Public Works Committee – Councilman Breish

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - a. 2019 Mill & Overlay Program –change order #1 for balancing the contract in the amount of -\$104,517.42 and payment #2 (final) in the amount of \$118,063.43 to James D. Morrissey.
 - b. 2019 ADA Curb Ramp Replacement Program – change order #1 for additional work (cheek walls) completed by Albert Cipolloni & Sons in the amount of \$28,241.91 and payment #2 (final) in the amount of \$90,914.03.
 - c. 2018 CDBG E. Third Street - payment request #1 in the amount of \$177,284.94 from SJM Construction.
 - d. Whites Road Streambank Stabilization – We are waiting for PADEP approvals. The committee voted to put forth a motion to prepare and advertise for this project in anticipation of receiving PADEP approvals.
 - e. 2020 Microsurfacing Program - recommend awarding the base bid \$237,900.00 and alternate bid #1 \$59,100.00 for a total of \$297,000.00 to Marino Corporation.
 - f. 2020 Mill & Overly Program – RVE received bids on February 26th and recommend awarding the base bid \$714,071.75, Alternate Bid #1 \$435,692.50, Alternate Bid #2 \$201,947.75, Alternate Bid #3 \$74,235.00 and Alternate bid #4 \$163,800.00 for a total of \$1,589,747.00 to Harris Blacktopping. Intergovernmental Cost Sharing Agreement with North Penn Water Authority for alternate base bid #1. This work is taking place along Norway Drive, Lakeview Drive, and Berberry Drive and NPWA will reimburse the borough in the amount of \$90,463.75.
 - g. Street Sweeper Lease – Approval to enter a four-year lease for a new street sweeper.
 - h. Fire Alarm & Security System Upgrade a payment request in the amount of \$24,138.00 to AN Lynch.
 - i. Resolution to approve the Hometown Hero Banner Program.
2. E. Hancock Street Rehabilitation – A preconstruction meeting was held with the contractor, SJM Construction Company, on February 27th. A notice to proceed will be issued shortly.
3. Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership - The committee approved a contract with the Montgomery County Planning Commission for planning assistance. There was discussion on potential collaborative activities, how progress would be measured and what formula could be used to determine cost distribution among the municipalities. With the help of the County, we will be applying for a NFWF (National Fish and Wildlife Federation) Grant.
4. Discussed doing a proclamation in conjunction with Pennsylvania One Call System to make April 2020 “Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month. Call before you Dig!!!”
5. Montgomery Township and North Penn Water Authority will be doing work on Knapp Road between Lansdale Avenue and Valley Brook Drive. There may be road closures and detours on Knapp Road during the construction. Lansdale Borough will pass on any information received by Montgomery Township on this construction to the residents.
6. Public comment – There is no center line painted on N. Line St. between 7th St. and Main St. but it is on the Hatfield side. Can this line be painted on the street. A question was raised on the possible installation of a “No Turn on Red”

sign at the intersection of N. Cannon Avenue and Main Street since the stop bar was moved to allow tracker trailers to make the turn onto Cannon Avenue from Main Street. Chief Trail stated that we are in the process of getting the necessary permits for installation of the sign. He also stated he is in contact with the owner of 7-11 at Main and Cannon to see if we could install a “No Left Turn” sign on their property to restrict cars from existing from their parking lot onto Cannon.

Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

Mr. Bill Allen of York Ave – Will enforcement continue at the intersection of 9th Street and Walnut Street? There are a lot of near misses at that intersection since his office faces that way he sees it all day long.

Chief Trail – We are getting signs for that intersection as well as painting the curbs for sight line issues.

Mr. Allen – We have four electric car chargers for people to use which has been reported that over 600 charges have been done for about \$4 per charge. The residents are paying for that?

Mr. Burnell – We are trying to build interest in using the chargers. In the future the EV chargers will be pay per use.

Mr. Allen – During construction projects are the curbs all the curbs being replaced or just the ones that need replacement? How as a homeowner can we get all the curbs done at the same time by the borough’s contractor so the curbs match in front of my/resident’s home?

Mr. Van Dame – Homeowners can still do their curb ahead of the contractor and pay for it if they so choose. Replacement of curbs is only for the pieces that need to be replaced not the whole curb.

Mr. Allen – That means the curbs will look different and not cohesive. I could replace the rest of my curb at the same time with my own contractor and it still won’t match unless I pay the borough contractor to do my curb.

Mr. Van Dame – You can replace by the contractor deadline. Homeowners can wait to do their sidewalk work until after the curb work has been done.

President Burnell – This is not a perfect solution, but it is better to have curb work done at the time of the road work to preserve the new road put in.

Mr. Allen – He didn’t like how the process was done to make this kind of decision. Why was it not on the agenda ahead of time and brought up during a meeting?

President Burnell – It had been brought up in committee several times and due to time constraints with upcoming projects we needed to make a decision.

Mr. Allen – It just doesn’t look good when motions are brought up on the floor like that.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – If a homeowner wants to replace their curb on their own they have to wait for a road project?

Mr. Hitchens- A homeowner can replace their curb any time as long as they have a permit to do so. They can also wait until a road project is being done to replace the curb that is deteriorated and choose to replace the rest of the curb on their own while the road work is being done or use the borough contractor.

Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – Thank you for working to get the bridge to Knapp Elementary temporarily fixed.

Councilman Breish – The Lions Club is supplying supplies for the Spotted Lantern Fly event on March 27.

Vice President Fuller – It was sad to hear that WNPV is shutting down the end of April.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh – Happy Birthday to Mary.

President Burnell – Resumes for the following openings are:
Environmental Advisory Commission – March 13
Treasurer – March 20
Ward 2 vacancy – March 20

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37pm