

May 6, 2020

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 online via Zoom Meeting and called to order at 7:03pm 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, not present  
Borough Engineer, Chris Fazio  
Library Director, Tom Meyer  
IT/GIS Coordinator, Bryan Poster  
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame  
WWTP Superintendent, Dan Shinskie

Residents

Manny Matos – no address given  
Carol Farrell – no address given  
Carol Zellers – 101 Elm Drive

Agenda Item #4 – Committee Reports

**Administration and Finance Committee – John Ramey**

1. Financials – as of 3/31/2020 we are down \$29,000 in revenues. Real Estate Tax Transfers are down \$18,000 and overall expenses are down \$5,000 from last year at this time.
2. Budget – following the trend as last year so we are doing pretty good despite the quarantine. It is too premature to look at April's numbers right now because most bills have not been submitted to the Borough yet.  
**Councilman Angelichio** – We don't want inaccurate numbers, but we will get stable numbers out as soon as possible.  
**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – A webinar she participated in suggested looking at the 2008 audit to get some yearly comparisons since the recession of 2008 is similar to now.  
**Mr. Ernst** – We are working closely to get a grasp on this budget and where we are going for the rest of 2020.  
**Councilman DiGregorio** – Can we get an email with the breakdown of cost savings and where we need to cut back?
3. Bond refinancing update – savings over the next 14 years will be \$315,000. \$26,000 for the current year and then the next year \$22,000 and so forth.

4. 2019 Audit update – The auditors were scheduled to come to Borough Hall to begin the audit on April 9. Since they couldn't be here in person, Mr. Ramey scanned and sent them the information they needed to start the audit. The auditors are working from home and they hope to have the audit completed by June 30.
5. Motion(s) to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Approval of the 2019 Recycling contract with FX Browne/Bogia Engineers.  
**Councilman Angelichio** – This is a contract we do every year. Has anyone used Retreivr, formerly Curb my Clutter?  
**Councilman DiGregorio** – They just started back up again last week.
6. Public comment –
  - **Ms. Carole Farrell** – When will our budget see the effects of COVID-19?  
**Mr. Ramey** – It is hitting us now, but we will be hardest hit in July.

#### **Code Enforcement Committee – Jason Van Dame**

1. Bee Keeping discussion –
 

**Councilman Breish** we discussed this at the last in-person meeting. The State already regulates bee keeping. Unless we add additional language to the model ordinance, we don't need to pass an ordinance for the Borough. The model ordinance does not address any of the residents' concerns. If we do add to it then we have to be able to enforce it and that is an additional expense. There would be no incentive for new bee keepers in the Borough especially if we charge them to have bees.

**Councilman Henning** – The model ordinance is not any different from the State ordinance.

**Mr. Van Dame** – The State does not regulate, they just require registration. The model ordinance would be helpful and it would not affect current bee keepers. To add a nuisance section to the ordinance would require injury or affects the community as a whole.

**Councilman Breish** – The model ordinance does not address the concerns of the neighbors who have issues.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – We would start with the model ordinance and then add to it later if we need to.

**President Burnell** – We should ask our Solicitor if we can make the ordinance more stringent.

**Mayor Herbert** – When a representative from the State came to speak with us, they mentioned that the honeybees are docile by nature but the swarms can be scary looking.

**Councilman Angelichio** – People who own dogs pay a license fee or a group pays a fee for a special event so why not charge a beekeeper a nominal fee? We would at least know where they are all located if they register.

**Mr. Van Dame** – Beekeepers pay a \$10 fee to the State. The fee is low because bee keeping is an important need for the environment. We do have a list of those who keep bees. Hatfield Borough had an issue 2 years ago. They added a nuisance line to their ordinance, but it can also be difficult to prove whose hive the bees really came from to fine/warn the owners.

**Ms. Nancy Frei** – She is not against bees or the keepers. She hears everyone talk about the keepers, but not those who are affected by the swarms and don't want them on their property.

**Councilman Henning** – If we are proposing 2 hives per every 2,000 square feet, does this contradict anything in the State law?

**Mr. Van Dame** – It does not.

**Mr. Ernst** – Are there any municipalities that prohibit bees?

**Mr. Van Dame** – Not that he is aware of. Most owners typically do not keep more than 4 hives at a time.

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – Could we grandfather in those who already have hives and then the ordinance would apply to any new beekeepers.

**Mayor Herbert** – Swarms will happen no matter what an ordinance says. It is just nature at work.

2. Online permitting update – We are getting closer to making this feature live. We are happy with the initial product that we have been testing. We hope to be able to go live in July.
3. 43 W. Third Street – They are expected to have a hearing at an upcoming meeting.

**Ms. Farrell** – Are construction projects allowed to be open and starting work again?

**Mr. Van Dame** – Yes, as of May 4 per State guidelines.

**Councilman Breish** – Were there any major code issues while we were closed down? He noticed while walking on the Liberty Bell Trail looking at the back of the old Finishers building there is trash and graffiti.

**Mr. Van Dame** – That property is currently going through land development.

#### **Electric Committee – Andy Krauss**

1. Motion(s) to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Payment #1 for the WWTP Solar Array project to BSI in the amount of \$61,251. This is for design by the contractor and a preconstruction meeting will be held on May 8.
2. AMP is reporting a 3% decrease in load from where we normally are at this time of year.

**President Burnell** – How are operations?

**Mr. Krauss** – Good. We are completing infrastructure work that had been put off while doing construction project work.

#### **Library Committee – Tom Meyer**

1. Seeing an increase in online resource usage.
2. We moved our WiFi box closer to the front door and this gave a boost in the parking lot so people can park, stay in their cars and use the free WiFi.
3. Staff continues to work from home. They are working on the strategic plan and procedures manual.
4. Thinking of moving the Clean and Green event to the fall since July won't be an option.
5. There are public information announcements in the windows for people to read.

**Councilman Breish** – Are we trying to figure out ways for people to be able to use or borrow computers?

**Mr. Meyer** – He is looking to work out a future laptop loaning protocol, but not yet.

### **Public Safety Committee – Chief Trail**

1. Motion(s) to appear before Council at the next business meeting:

- **Farmers' Market** – The organization has requested to use the 9<sup>th</sup> Street municipal parking lot to hold the Farmers' Market this season. NPSD won't allow the use of their parking lot due to COVID-19. They have a detailed plan in place on how to hold the Market this year. Council will have to approve their revised plan and change of venue.

**Councilman Breish** – We need to try and make this work.

**Vice President Fuller** – There has been no change from patrons pre-ordering and showing up to pick up their already paid and bagged order. She worries about people gathering.

**Ms. Carol Zellers** – They are following a more stringent plan than any other Market around. They will allow people to pay cash, but no change will be given and the money is put into a box by the patron. As some point, when the County moves to yellow and green stages, they would like to slowly allow for more browsing and retail sales without having to pre-order. They will start with 10 vendors and then increase their vendors each week.

**Vice President Fuller** – She has concerns with opening the retail portion of the Market. She would expect everyone to follow social distancing guidelines.

**Mr. Ernst** – This request is for the whole season and we have to think about what if the little league baseball decides to have some sort of a season wouldn't they need the parking lot?

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – She is on the little league board and they are trying to come up with some sort of abbreviated season, but they just don't know yet.

**Councilman Angelichio** – For years little league existed without that additional parking lot. They could again for a season if they do play.

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – Tournament season is over the summer. Travel teams have already been cancelled.

**President Burnell** – He is guessing there will be less sign ups if they do play this season and they did run for years without that parking lot.

**Ms. Zellers** – It would be an incredible feat to try and shift the Market to another location mid-season even if NPSD would let them go back to the middle school.

**Chief Trail** – He feels it gets approved as presented tonight or denied for the season.

2. Operations update - An update was given on the operations of the police department during this time. Officers are still doing their everyday work as well as the administrative staff. They have posted some parking spots on Main Street as pick up only zones for food take out.

3. Budget impacts – They are looking at ways to save in their budget. If special events are canceled through July 1 there will be a savings of \$30,000.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Is the box for prescription drop off still available?

**Chief Trail** – Not at this time.

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – She had forwarded an email about a group wanting to provide port-o-potty's for the homeless to use. One is at Trinity Lutheran Church as well as St. John's Church and in Whites Road Park and Stony Creek Park.

**Councilman Breish** – Are domestic violence campaigns any higher during this quarantine? Is there a PSA out there or something that tells a victim to use a code word when calling the police?

**Chief Trail** – They are working on a campaign to put out soon.

### **Public Works Committee – Rick DeLong & Dan Shinskie**

1. Motion(s) to appear before Council at the next business meeting:

- Bid award for the Pennbrook Sanitary Sewer project to AJ Jurich, Inc.

**Councilman Angelichio** – Have we worked with this contractor before?

**Mr. Fazio** – Yes, RVE has on several projects in Delaware County.

2. Knapp Pedestrian Bridge (Mr. Van Dame) – the old concrete was taken out and the timber was set yesterday. They hope to have it opened to the public next week.

**Councilman Angelichio** – Was there any significant elevation change?

**Mr. Van Dame** – It is about 5 ½ inches from the original concrete, but they will level the difference out.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Is there any structure support under the beams?

**Mr. Van Dame** – What they had there before is under the beams.

**Councilman Breish** – Is there anything else to report, Dan?

**Mr. Shinskie** – No issues and he will be back to full staff on May 18.

**Councilman Angelichio** – Are there any issues with clogs because of people flushing wipes, gloves, etc.?

**Mr. Shinskie** – They have the new bar screen installed 9 years ago and that is really protecting the plant. Also, the pump houses are grinding materials, but they will have to clean out the wet well.

**Mr. Ernst** – Public Works will be up to full crew too. They are working on the bridge as well as road work and hanging banners.

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – Will alley work get started too?

**Mr. Ernst** – In a few weeks they will start.

### **Parks and Recreation Committee – Karl Lukens**

1. A request was received to refund a pool membership in the amount of \$180 because she did not use the pool at all in 2019 for medical reasons.

**Vice President Fuller** – Why is she asking almost a year later?

**Mr. Lukens** – He is not sure why she waited so long.

**Councilman Henning** – He is worried that refunding would start a precedent.

**Mayor Herbert** – This gives up the opportunity to create a policy for future asks.

**Councilman Breish** – He thinks we should refund the money.

**Ms. Farrell** – Should there be a policy regarding this? It is easy to get a doctor to right a note.

- Mr. Lukens will get more information from the requestor and get back to the committee at the next meeting.
2. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
    - Payment #1 for skatepark project to 5<sup>th</sup> Pocket.
    - Advertise bid specifications for Stony Creek Park Liberty Bell Trail.
      - **Mr. Ernst** – The trail is 10-feet wide and boardwalk areas will be replaced with 14-foot wide boards. The trail picks up at Andale Green and cross at Stoney Creel Park to a 10-foot wide sidewalk.
      - **Mr. Van Dame** – The trail turns in before the pavers so it will not disturb the ADA compliancy.
  3. Whites Road Playground – looking to change the climbing mound to a rope climbing 3-dimensional matrix feature.
 

**Councilman Henning** – What is the life expectancy of the rope feature?  
**Mr. Lukens** – About 10-15 years. The mound should be on a flat area and will see more wear and tear and it is more expensive.  
**Councilman Angelichio** – Will this open us to an additional exposure to injury with the rope feature?  
**Mr. Lukens** – It meets all safety standards.  
**Councilman Breish** – Will this feature be ADA accessible and will the playground be fenced in?  
**Mr. Lukens** – It is an all inclusive playground so it will be acceptable. Not every piece of the playground has to be ADA. There will not be a fence around the playground at this time.
  4. Most of the programs for the summer have been cancelled due to COVID-19 and low enrollment rate. Refunds were issued for cancelled programs.
  5. Concerts in Whites Road Park are slated to start in July if we are able to have them at all this year. Ideas for how to make that happen were discussed. Movies in the Park have been cancelled as well as Theater in the Park.
  6. Pools Opening – Pools will not open before July 1 if they are to open at all this year. There is a lot of thought and planning that would need to go into opening the pools. The safety of staff and patrons is a top priority. Discussion went back and forth about if we should limit attendees per day, have timed visits, only allow day passes or are memberships better. Is it better to have no cash payments and pay ahead of time? What kind of training will staff get to deal with those who do not want to comply with new COVID-19 rules? Sanitation will be a top priority as well.
 

**Mr. Lukens** – Recommended that swim teams be cancelled this year.  
**Mayor Herbert** – Would like to see a plan on paper so we can all review what to expect if we do open.  
**Mr. Lukens** – We are entertaining every option out there. The problem is things are so fluid right now it is hard to keep up with the daily changes/suggestions.  
**Ms. Farrell** – If someone were to get sick with COVID-19, how could they prove the got it from going to the pool? Daily rates would be very expensive for some families to afford.  
**Vice President Fuller** – We would have to have modified rates for this season.

Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

**Manny Matos** – There was a lot of good discussion tonight.

**Carole Farrell** – Thank you for your hard work. Stay healthy.

**Carol Zellers** – She admires Council and staff for all the work that they do.

Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

**President Burnell** – At this time we have postponed appointing someone for the Council vacancy until we can meet in person, possibly at the May business meeting.

**Mr. Ernst** – We are working on a Borough Hall re-opening plan and we will share with Council hopefully by the end of this week. Opening would be according to the Governor's guidelines and when we reach the Yellow Phase.

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:53pm*