

August 19, 2020

The Business Meeting of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 online via Zoom Meeting and called to order at 7:02pm by Council 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	Borough Solicitor, Patrick Hitchens
Finance Dir, John Ramey	Borough Engineer, Chris Fazio
Police Chief, Mike Trail	Library Director, Tom Meyer
Parks & Rec. Director, Karl Lukens	IT/GIS Coordinator, Bryan Poster
Electric Superintendent, Andy Krauss	Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame
Public Works Superintendent, Rick Delong	WWTP Superintendent, Dan Shinskie
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak	

Residents:

Nancy Frei – Cypress Street

Agenda Item #5 – President’s Comments

President Burnell – Reviewed the Zoom meeting process and procedures. An Executive Session was held on August 12, 2020 regarding potential litigation. No action will be taken tonight.

Agenda Item #6 - Public Hearing:

The hearing was recorded by a Court Reporter and is not included in the Business Meeting minutes.

1. LERTA – Westrum Development Project – The hearing started at 7:08pm and ended at 7:31pm.

Agenda Item #7 - Petitions

None

Agenda Item #8 – Residents to be heard on any item

Nancy Frei of Cypress Street – On the bills paid over \$1000 there are two entries for Kilkenny Law Offices?

Councilman Angelichio – They are paid when they are presented to the Borough so it could be two months payments recorded in the same month.

- What is the Comcast business ABGV for the police department?

Chief Trail – That is the monthly fee plus the VIOP, internet, etc.

Mr. Ramey – The description really should say Comcast EDGE.

- In the General Fund what is the sidewalk/curb reimbursement?

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Mr. Ramey – A resident signed a contract with a contractor before it was decided the Borough would pay for curb work as part of a road project and the contractor wouldn't let them out of the contract so we reimbursed them for the work that was done on their curbs.

- Is that the mill and overlay bill for Hancock Street?

Mr. Ramey – That is for work on the other side of the Borough, not Hancock Street.

Agenda Item #9 – Action Items

Councilman Angelichio presented Motion A and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of July which shows the expenditures listed on the attachment.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Councilman Angelichio presented Motion B and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the bills \$1,000.00 and over as per the attachment.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman Angelichio presented Motion C and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the following meeting minutes:

Work Session: July 1, 2020
Business Meeting: July 15, 2020

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Councilman Angelichio presented Motion D and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Ordinance 1940 amending Borough Ordinance Part II, Chapter 354, to add Article VIII to establish tax abatements for certain deteriorated property located within the Borough.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman DiGregorio presented Motion E and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 20-19 approving the sale, by electronic auction, of various used vehicles and equipment through Municibid.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman DiGregorio presented Motion F and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and the Borough Manager to advertise an ordinance to amend Chapter 405, Article XXXV (Downtown Business Overlay District) amending Sections 405-3500, 405-3504 and 405-3506 and the advertisement of a public hearing for consideration.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Councilman DiGregorio presented Motion G and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and the Borough Manager to advertise an ordinance to amend Chapter 405, Article XVII (Off street parking and loading), adding a new section addressing automated and mechanical parking standards and the advertisement of a public hearing for consideration.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman DiGregorio presented Motion H and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Solicitor to advertise a Conditional Use Hearing for the property located at 1000 N. Cannon Avenue, said hearing to be held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 7:00pm virtually via Zoom.

Motion seconded by Councilman Henning and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion I and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council award the contract for the Liberty Bell Trail in Stony Creek Park Section to Barwis Construction, LLC for its total project bid of \$323,144.00 as the lowest responsible bidder meeting all prequalification requirements provided that the Borough is awarded additional funding from DCNR, which, if awarded will include additional matching contributions from Lansdale Borough as outlined in the July 20, 2020 amendment letter request to DCNR from the Borough Manager.

Councilman Angelichio – Are we are only awarding the bid only if we get the extra funding from DCNR and if we don't get the funding we won't award the bid?

Mr. Ernst – We are on the hook for an additional \$30,000 and we have not heard back from DCNR yet. You can vote to award based on what DCNR does or table the motion until we know for sure if they will give us the additional funding.

Mr. Hitchens – You could amend the motion to not make the bid contingent on DCNR or table it until next month.

Vice President Fuller – What is the length of time we have for the bid to be qualified if we don't vote tonight?

Mr. Van Dame – We did ask the contractor for an extension of the bid and they agreed to another 30 days.

Motion seconded by Councilman Angelichio.

The motion was tabled and Council will revisit it next month after hearing from DCNR.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion J and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 20-20 naming the skatepark to the Carl W. Saldutti, Jr. Skatepark.

Vice President Fuller – She has been the skatepark a few times and Carl is definitely watching.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – She is excited to honor him and hope we can celebrate it sometime soon.

Motion seconded by Councilman Henning and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh presented Motion K and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to purchase 38 body worn cameras for the Lansdale Borough Police Department for a cost not to exceed \$78,000.

Councilman DiGregorio – Are these cameras in this year or next year's budget?

Chief Trail – We have savings in this year's budget due to COVID-19 and having no events so not as much overtime.

Councilman Angelichio – Are there spare cameras? Will officers always have the same cameras?

Chief Trail – There are enough cameras for every officer plus spares.

Councilman Angelichio – Does this fund the programming and storage of data?

Chief Trail – This quote includes everything for one year. The residual cost will be \$25,000 per year thereafter.

Councilman Breish – There is no issue absorbing the cost in this year's budget. Where did the savings come from, special events?

Chief Trail – Yes, because policing events is all overtime cost and we are putting a freeze on new uniforms next year. Also, we did not attend trainings in 2020 because of the pandemic.

Councilman Breish – Next year \$25,000 will be added to the budget as an additional expense?

Chief Trail – We will have to make this a priority in the budget.

Councilman Angelichio – We are not kicking the cost down the road with no new uniforms and asking officers to keep them longer?

Chief Trail – Each year we spend about \$120,000 per year in overtime just for special events.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh presented Motion L and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Solicitor to prepare and the Borough Manager to advertise an Ordinance amending Chapter 7 of the Lansdale Borough Code to amend the rules of Civil Service relating to hiring and promotion of police officers in Lansdale Borough.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh presented Motion M and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and the Borough Manager to advertise an ordinance to create a new chapter titled " Noise Nuisance Ordinance".

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion N and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 20-21 concerning the approval of the Master Casting Agreement for adjustment of incorporated utility facilities (Casting Agreement) with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Motion seconded by Councilman Angelichio and unanimously approved.

President Burnell – Tonight we will be filling the council vacancy in Ward Two. While this is not how he thought we would be appointing a new council person, we will appoint a new member this evening. Each candidate will get the opportunity to tell everyone about themselves and why they want to be on Council.

Andrew Carroll – Read a prepared statement of why he felt he should be on council and he wanted to put his name out there and be part of the continued rise of the Borough. He has lived here for five years but had worked in the Borough since 2004. He wants to do his part to help the Borough make sound decisions in its future.

Tabitha Geiger – She has lived in the Borough for 16 years and works for Nationwide Insurance. She is a retired Marine Corp. vet of 21 ½ years. She has a diverse background and has a desire to serve her community.

Manny Matos – He moved to the Borough 20 years ago with his parents and siblings. He didn't know anyone here, but the community was so welcoming and he felt that this was his home. He was given many opportunities in Lansdale and now it is his turn to give back.

Bethann Konzempl – She and her husband moved here in 2003 and chose to stay and raise their family here. She had been Treasurer for a local elementary school for 4 years. She loves this community and would be honored to serve on Council.

President Burnell – It is a sacrifice to sit on council as it takes up a lot of your personal and family time. Nominations are now open.

Councilman Angelichio nominated Tabitha Geiger

Councilman Henning nominated Andrew Carroll

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton nominated Bethann Konzempl

Councilman Breish nominated Manny Matos

Roll Call Vote for Tabitha Geiger

BJ Breish – yes

Mary Fuller – no

Bill Henning – no

Rich DiGregorio – yes

Meg Currie Teoh – no

Leon Angelichio – yes

Denton Burnell – no

Carrie Hawkins Charlton – no

Roll Call Vote for Andrew Carroll

BJ Breish – yes

Mary Fuller – yes

Bill Henning – yes

Rich DiGregorio – no

Meg Currie Teoh – yes

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Leon Angelichio – no
Denton Burnell – yes
Carrie Hawkins Charlton – no

President Burnell presented Motion O and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council appoint Andrew Carroll to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of Borough Councilperson for Ward II pursuant to Resolution 20-22.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Item #11 – Information Items

Mayor's Report: Mayor Herbert

1. On August 5th I attended and participated in the overdue celebration of Officer Tim Cornelius's retirement from the Lansdale Police Department. Officer Cornelius dedicated over 30 years of service to our community. Lansdale is extremely lucky to have enjoyed the professionalism and passion of such a great officer.
2. I am extremely proud that council has approved the use of Body Worn Cameras for our Lansdale Police Department. The addition of this tool set will help increase transparency with the community and training for the officers. Through their adoption, body cameras create the opportunity for improvement and evolution and I am confident we will seize that opportunity going forward.
3. Over the last few weeks recently retired Dr. Jayraj has been putting together a committee to help honor Doctor Boston who helped create both Lansdale Hospital and VMSC here in our community. As Mayor, I have been working with this committee to help identify an appropriate spot to honor the Doctor in Borough Hall. There will be more to come on this subject but this project is coming together quickly and I am extremely proud to be honoring such an important figure in our communities history.
4. My work on the challenges related to mail delivery in the Borough has continued and Congressman Fitzpatrick and I have been discussing a potential meeting with the new Postmaster General. To date, he has not responded to our request.

Solicitor's Report: Patrick Hitchens

1. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work on comprehensive plan and ordinance matters including bee keeping, noise/nuisance ordinance, and Industrial District parking reduction by conditional use. – Approximately 5.2 hours
2. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding COVID-19 and related emergency program matters. – Approximately 2.5 hours
3. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work on various land development matters including 1000 Cannon Ave (North Penn Business Campus), 411 Church, 320 Madison St, and 901 Moyers. – Approximately 4.1 hours
4. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding Liberty Bell Trail matters including DCNR grant paperwork and related deed search. - Approximately 12.6 hours
5. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding miscellaneous Borough matters including litigation, code enforcement, solicitor audit letter, and legal updates and compliance. – Approximately 8.4 hours

Borough Manager's Report: John Ernst

1. The LED light bulb exchange program is 90% complete. Traffic lights and single lights on Borough property still need to be done.
2. Rep. Malagari and Sen. Mensch have both assisted the Borough in receiving a PA Small Water grant in the amount of \$324,000.
3. NPWA will be raising the tank of their Hillcrest water tower on Friday.

4. Bob Miller of the WWTP retired after 40 years of service to the Borough.
Councilman DiGregorio – When will Knapp Road be opened from the construction project?
Mr. Ernst – That is a Montgomery Township project.
Mr. Van Dame – He spoke with his counterpart at Montgomery Township and the milling and paving should take place early next week and then opened by the end of week.

Comments for the good of Council:

Councilwoman Currie Teoh – Congratulations to Andrew. The Farmers' Market will be moving back to Penndale on August 29.

Councilman Breish – Our staff did a great job during the recent storms we have had, especially the Electric Department.

Councilman Henning – Congratulations to Andrew. Discover Lansdale put together a #lansdalestrong campaign with businesses. If you purchase 3 items from any participating business and get your card stamped you get a free #lansdalestrong T-shirt. This is to help recognize Founders Day since we can't have it this year.

Vice President Fuller – Welcome Andrew. We will have Founders Day next year and we are planning the Borough's 150th Anniversary in 2022.

President Burnell – He is happy to announce that Councilman Angelichio, Vice President Fuller and Mayor Herbert will represent the Borough on the BLM Coalition that is a private/public partnership with the group that approached the borough a couple of months ago to paint Black Lives Matter on the Liberty Bell Trail.

Agenda Item #12 – Old Business

None

Agenda Item #13 New Business

Councilman Angelichio – We are in unprecedented times right now. We have some residents who are having an issue paying their electric and sewer bills. Council needs to consider creating a Community Block Grant program to earmark and assist those who have been affected by COVID-19. This should be considered the beginning of a discussion, but we can't wait too long to make a decision and start this program.

President Burnell – This would be a program in context with the emergency declaration and expanding on who we already work with when they are in need.

Councilman Angelichio – There are very few programs to help individuals in need in paying their utility bills.

Councilman Breish – This is awesome. Is there anyway we can speed this up?

President Burnell – We can discuss at the Admin & Finance committee and if we have enough support we could do a special motion at the Work Session.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16pm.