

December 7, 2011

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 in Council Chambers, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 9:00pm by Council President Matthew West.

ROLL CALL:

- (X) Vice President Clemente
- (X) Councilman DiGregorio
- (X) Councilman Dunigan
- (X) Councilwoman Fuller
- (X) Councilman Hansen
- () Councilman Riccio – absent
- (X) Councilwoman Scheuring
- (X) Councilman Sobel
- (X) President West
- (X) Mayor Szekely

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, Timothea Kirchner
Finance Director, Brian Shapiro
Code Enforcement Dir., John Ernst
Parks & Rec. Director, Carl Saldutti
Utilities Director, Jake Ziegler

Borough Solicitor, Not present
Borough Engineer, Not present
Police Chief Bob McDyre
Library Director, Tom Meyer

Residents

None

President West announced that Councilman Riccio would not be in attendance this evening.

Agenda Item #4 – Committee Reports

Administration and Finance Committee – Councilman Dunigan

1. Executive Session to discuss a personal matter and to review a memo of agreement with the AFSCME union.
2. Reviewed the Accountability worksheet and Request for Proposals update.
3. Reviewed the draft Purchasing Manual that will be presented to Council in the next few months.
4. The annual Borough financial audit will begin on January 30, 2012.
5. A resolution will be brought before Council regarding GASB 54 which is regarding fund balances.
6. Budget billing will be introduced to residents and businesses in the near future. Also forthcoming will be the ability to pay utility bills by telephone.
7. The 2011 Budget continues to be on schedule.
8. The Fees and Charges Schedule will be presented to Council at its next Business Meeting. Some changes to this document will include payment plans for pool membership and requirement of a non-refundable deposit when applying for a permit in the Borough.
9. Councilman Clemente started the discussion with the Committee regarding a single trash hauler in the Borough.

Code Enforcement Committee – Vice President Clemente

1. The Committee discussed and approved the requirement of a non-refundable deposit to apply for a permit in the amount of \$35 per application. The deposit is considered an administration fee and will be deducted from the final fee once the permit application is approved and processed.

Communication Commission – Ms. Kirchner

1. The Branding project has begun by North Star. They are doing their extensive research regarding the Borough as outlined in their contract.
2. The Commission is currently looking for contact information for community leaders in the area to pass on to North Star to set up interviews and focus groups.

Economic Development Committee – Councilwoman Fuller

1. The next Town Hall meeting is Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at the Parks and Rec. building.

Electric Committee – Councilman DiGregorio

1. The Electric Rate Study is still in progress.
2. A new power contract will need to be negotiated in 2012 for thirty percent of the Borough's power purchase.
3. Verizon remove their poles from Madison Street. The Streetscape project can continue to move along.

Library Committee – Councilwoman Scheuring

1. Will report at the Library Board meeting immediately following this Work Session.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Councilwoman Fuller

1. The Farmer's Market requested to use the Parks and Rec. building one Saturday a month for the market during the winter months. The Committee is currently reviewing their request.
2. Thank you to all of those that coordinated and participated in the Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 2, 2011.
3. Lansdale's Tuba Christmas event is one of only 336 in the United States and is well attended each year in Lansdale.
4. The Menorah will be lit on December 20, 2011 in Railroad Plaza.
5. The Parks and Rec. Department will once again participate in the Winterblast at the Montgomery Mall on Saturday, January 28, 2012 from 11:00 to 4:00.
6. The play Our Town will be the feature play at the Theater in the Park in July 2012.
7. This year Parks and Rec. will celebrate their 30th Anniversary of the White's Road Park Concert Series.
8. The Committee reviewed the 2012 Budget.
9. Discussed installment payments for pool membership sign ups. There will be a nominal administration fee for using the installment payment plan.
10. The Parks and Rec. winter activities flyer will be mailed out soon.
11. The engineering study of the footpaths and paved surfaces in the parks has been completed and projects will begin to move forward.

Public Safety Committee – Councilman Sobel

1. The improvements to the pedestrian crossing at White's Road Park have been completed.
2. The committee reviewed the 2012 Budget.
3. There was discussion about safety at three different pedestrian crosswalks in the Borough.
 - a. One intersection is at Hancock St. and Church Rd. The signal loop will be tested at that intersection.
 - b. The PEAK Center requested a loading zone on Madison Street. A handicapped access ramp will be put in a few feet away so the committee denied their request.
 - c. The intersections and Green St. and Main St. and Susquehanna Ave. and Wood St will be reviewed as part of the PCTI project.
4. A request has been made for a Children at Play sign on Jefferson Street. Chief McDyre will review the request.
5. A request was made to add a stop sign at Walnut and 9th Streets. The request was denied. All requests for stop signs must be approved by PennDOT. The police will monitor these streets for speeding.
6. The Public Safety Committee and Parking Authority will be working together on parking regulations in the Borough.

Public Works Committee – Councilman DiGregorio

1. Madison Street, which is part of the Streetscape project, has been paved. Trees will be planted soon on Madison Street, weather permitting.
2. Public Works will purchase a new backhoe through the PA COSTARS program.
3. Merck has awarded the construction contract for the Merck and WWTP project. Construction will begin in January and start in Upper Gwynedd Township.
4. A change in the sewer ordinance will be required to add a surcharge system for discharge of phosphorus to the Treatment Plant.
5. The underground gas tank at the Treatment Plant has been replaced.

311 W. Main Task Force – Councilman Sobel

1. Reported that a consultant recommendation may be made to Council at the next business meeting.

Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

Councilman Sobel commented that he and Mayor Szekely participated in a Toys for Tots run with several different motorcycle clubs.

Councilwoman Scheuring commented that the Mayor Mike Open House at the Historical Society was a huge success and many, many people came to see Mayor Mike's treasures that were displayed with the assistance of his family.

Councilman Hansen thanked Councilwoman Scheuring for her four years of service to the Borough as a Councilperson.

Councilman Dunigan announced that the Parking Authority is currently in contract negotiations with BPG Properties Limited regarding the Madison Parking Lot. BPG may have a public presentation of their design concepts at the Parking Authority Meeting on December 14, 2011. The Nelson Nygaard parking study is currently on the Borough website.

Councilwoman Fuller announced that the Lansdale Business Association's Festival of Trees is now open for the public to visit and vote for their favorite tree.

Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

A resident asked where the Toys for Tot motorcycle run take place in Lansdale.

Councilman Sobel replied it was held at Century Plaza.

Ms. Kirchner requested for staff to take over the meeting to thank Councilman Riccio and Councilwoman Scheuring for their four years of service on Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38pm.