

## Langhorne Borough Council Meeting

April 12, 2023

A Langhorne Borough Council was held in person in Council Chambers on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. President Paul Murdock called the session to order at 7:30 p.m. and invited those in attendance to pledge allegiance to the Flag.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** President Paul Murdock; Vice President Rich Mason; Councilpersons Tony Marfia, Nancy Culleton, Kristen Farry, Kathleen Horwatt, and Scott Haldeman; Treasurer Ellyn Schoen; Manager Steve Bradshaw; Clerk Mary Zimmerman.

**ABSENT:** Mayor Joe Taylor, Police Chief John Godzieba.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** No Report.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:** No Report.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATION:** President Murdock presented Councilperson Kathleen Horwatt with a proclamation and award in honor of her 40 years of dedication and service to the Borough and Council.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Horwatt, seconded by Councilperson Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to approve returning permit fees to Saint James Church for roof repairs minus the costs of the application fee, inspection fee, and state fees. The final amount should be determined after the last inspection.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:** It was felt that the policy to refund or waive some portion of permit fees to non-profits should be clearly stated and made known to the public.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Ms. Linda Salley and Board members of the African American Museum of Bucks County announced that they had decided to withdraw their application for a permit for the Juneteenth Celebration on June 24, 2023, due to another event happening on the same date.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:** A new fee schedule was submitted by Keystone Municipal Services.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Culleton seconded by Councilperson Farry, Council voted unanimously to approve Keystone Municipal Services to provide Building and Zoning Code enforcement for the Borough.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Horwatt seconded by Councilperson Culleton, Council voted unanimously to approve moving forward with General Code providing codification of the SALDO and Zoning Ordinances for an amount not to exceed \$15,000, with a contractual guarantee of Borough ownership of the electronic searchable data base.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Farry, seconded by Councilperson Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to authorize Comcast Business to update Borough office and police phones and Internet service.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Horwatt seconded by Councilperson Marfia, Council voted unanimously to rezone Mayor’s Park from (R-2) Residential-2 District to (OR) Open Recreational Space.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Horwatt seconded by Councilperson Farry, Council voted 5 to 2 to approve the condensed format of meeting minutes. Councilpersons Murdock, Mason, Culleton, Farry, and Horwatt, voted in favor. Councilpersons Marfia and Haldeman opposed.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:** Councilpersons Marfia and Haldeman said they would prefer more detail than less in the minutes.

**FIRE SIREN:** Councilperson Haldeman noted it had been seven weeks since questions were sent to the fire company, to which there had been no response. Manager Bradshaw read part of a letter from Fire Company Chief Farry advising that although he had had direct conversations with several Council members, there would not be a formal response at this time. The requested meeting of the manager and fire company representative had not been held. Councilperson Haldeman pointed out that if the questions were not answered and he were to remain silent, the issue would die. Council members felt that the questions should still be answered and asked that Council be sent a full list of the questions, some of which had been added since they saw the original list. Manager Bradshaw agreed to continue conversations with President Link.

**MOTION:** On motion of Vice President Mason seconded by Councilperson Horwatt, Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2023, Council meeting, the February 22, 2023, work session, and the March 8, 2023, Council meeting.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Culleton seconded by Councilperson Marfia, Council voted unanimously to approve the Treasurer’s Report.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Farry, seconded by Councilperson Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to approve and pay the bills.

**MOTION:** On motion of Vice President Mason seconded by Councilperson Farry, Council voted unanimously to approve Rotary Club’s Pet Fair permit application for August 26, 2023, with a rain date of September 16, 2023.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Haldeman, seconded by Councilperson Marfia, Council voted 6-0 to approve Langhorne Borough Democratic Committee/Langhorne Blue’s permit application for a yard sale fundraiser in the Community Park on June 10, 2023, with a rain date of June 11. Councilperson Culleton abstained.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- PennDOT is going to perform a traffic study in the Borough.
- Public works employee Rick Schoen offered his resignation. There is a person interested in the position.
- The manager is receiving quotes for the basketball backboards.
- The office is working on updating the website and taking online payments.
- Borough street signs have been replaced.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** George DiPersio of CKS Engineers reported on the following:

- **Utility hole cover repair at Maple and Pine Streets:** Passerini and Sons would perform the repair

the week of April 19.

- **West Richardson Avenue Drainage Project:** After the engineers met PennDOT's initial requests, PennDOT asked that temporary mats be installed on the grass of the corner properties where the curb ramps will be rebuilt, to protect the construction area. One property owner had given permission, and CKS was still trying to connect with the other. The construction would not affect the Memorial Day parade route.
- **Borough Hall Roofing:** ProCom had provided insurance and bonding information. It was suggested that a formal written agreement be made with the neighbor at 118 E. Maple for scaffolding and temporary use of the driveway and perhaps a portion of the parking lot for a dumpster. OSHA regulations would require the fire siren to be off during working hours. The logistics of that would be addressed. On March 24, the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority authorized payment of the full grant amount. The money had not yet been received. The project would need to move forward as soon as possible so that the Borough's cancelled check to the contractors could be returned to the RDA by the end of May.
- **Toll Brothers Project:** Bucks County Planning Commission, Tom Comitta, CKS, and representatives from Toll met on April 5 to discuss high level items. In response to their request a site analysis plan was created by CKS. A full-size copy of the analysis was left for Council's review.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:** Councilperson Marfia expressed concern about the historic zoning of the overlay district and the future renovations of the new construction. It was explained that HARB guidelines could be built into the HOA covenant to address those concerns. Treasurer Schoen confirmed that Toll Brothers had reimbursed the escrow for the planning costs.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Vice President Mason reported that the next meeting on April 20 would be offered on Zoom.

**HARB:** It was noted that HARB still needed to confirm in writing its approval of Pat Carr's application for window replacement at 240 N. Green Street, which Council approved last month.

**HERITAGE FARM/L.O.S.I.:** Pat Carr gave an update on events and renovations.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** Paul Schneider reported on the evolving fluid progress on the overlay ordinance related to the Toll Brothers project.

**RECREATION BOARD:** Councilperson Horwatt reported on a fantastic Easter egg hunt. Community service takes place on Tuesday afternoons until summer then it will be mornings. Jeff Bartlett of Big Oak Tree Service voluntarily took down a dead evergreen in the garden area of the Mayors Playground.

**Action Items:**

- Get hoses from the shed.
- Get the flags out for the parade.
- Debris is being dumped at Cherry Street. It was suggested to get a motion activated video camera.

**SHADE TREE COMMISSION:** Councilperson Culleton reported on the April 3 meeting. Chair Chris Blydon attended a walk of the Crestwood property with Toll representatives. Quotes to trim the trees in the playground had still not been received. There would be a walk-through of Catawissa on April 16 to identify hazardous trees. An Arbor Day celebration might be held with a legacy tree dedication in June.

**COMMUNICATIONS TEAM:** President Murdock reported working on a process for social media posting and

plans to increase the functionality of the website. The team planned to have a photo contest for the website.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** No Report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**Executive Session:** Council held an executive session from 9:14 p.m. to 9:26 p.m. to discuss solicitor candidates.

**MOTION:** On motion of Vice President Mason seconded by Councilperson Culleton, Council voted unanimously to hire David Truelove of Hill Wallack, LLP, as Langhorne Borough Solicitor as per the agreed upon contract.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no other business, on motion of Councilperson Haldeman, seconded by Councilperson Farry, Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Bradshaw, Borough Secretary

**Next Council Meeting: May 10, 2023**