

## Langhorne Borough Council Meeting

August 10, 2022

A meeting of the Langhorne Borough Council was held Wednesday, August 10, 2022, in person with no Zoom attendees as the Wi-Fi was unavailable. President Paul Murdock called the meeting 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 Nancy Culleton, Kristen Farry, Kathleen Horwatt, Scott Haldeman, and Tony Marfia; Solicitor Catherine Anne Porter; Police Chief John Godzieba; Manager Paul Leonard; Clerk/Secretary Kate Transue.

**Absent:** Mayor Joseph Taylor, Treasurer Ellyn Schoen.

**RC3 Project:** President Murdock reported that PennDOT had not responded to the SAFE letter of July 21 or to the letter from the three municipalities regarding the public meetings. According to Representative Farry, PennDOT has taken these issues under advisement. Councilperson Horwatt reported that she requested clarity from PennDOT on new plans for the cultural and architectural review.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Mayor's Report:** None.

**Police Chief's Report:** The duty weapon replacement was completed. All officers are now qualified to use the new weapons. Seven locations have been identified for the solar powered speed signs, and installation will take place shortly. Council can apply for new RDA grants in September. There was a recent pedestrian accident on North Pine Street.

**Manager's Report:** Manager Leonard introduced new clerk Kate Transue. Regarding the Toll Brothers development plan, no land development permit application is pending, as Toll was applying to the Zoning Hearing Board first. Toll applied for 23 zoning variances but postponed the Zoning Hearing Board meeting until September. In the meantime, Toll will work with Borough and County professionals to address the issues with a revised ordinance. No Council vote is required until the proposed ordinance is brought forward. A first draft may be circulated in November.

At the request of the Mayor, the Manager obtained information from Keystone on what a Borough Earned Income Tax might look like. Keystone estimates that nearly 500 Borough residents are currently paying an EIT in neighboring municipalities. They would pay it to Langhorne Borough instead if an EIT ordinance is enacted.

Regarding the potential sale of the BCWSA sewer system to Aqua, the Manager will send a letter to BCWSA that doesn't take a formal position on the sale but states that the Borough reserves all rights listed in the original agreement when the Borough's system was transferred to BCWSA. The letter will ask how much money has been invested in the Borough's system since it was acquired by BCWSA. Should the sale to Aqua be approved, the Borough could make an offer for the return of its system.

**Engineer's Report:** None.

**Minutes:** *On motion* of Vice President Mason seconded by Councilperson Horwatt, Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 13 Council meeting and the July 5 work session.

**Treasurer's Report:** *On motion* of Councilperson Farry seconded by Councilperson Marfia, Council voted unanimously to approve the Treasurer's report.

**Payment of the Bills:** *On motion* of Councilperson Horwatt seconded by Vice President Mason, Council voted unanimously to pay all bills except for a \$33 bill from Tanner that will be investigated.

**EAC Report:** Vice President Mason reported that plans were moving ahead for the retrofit of the stormwater retention basin, which would give Borough sediment credits that could be potentially sold to PennDOT. The next EAC meeting is August 18.

*On motion* of Vice President Mason seconded by Councilperson Horwatt, Council voted unanimously to pay CKS Engineers up to \$1800 to provide substantial expertise in preparing the MS4 report for 2021-2022.

**Fire Company Report:** None.

**HARB Report:** HARB approved two applications, one for paint selection at a residence on Pine Street and one for a ground level patio to replace a deck on West Maple Avenue. The HARB report was not forwarded to Council so no vote could be taken to approve it.

**LOSI/Heritage Farm:** Pat Carr reported that water line coverage was added to the Borough insurance policy. The manager will make sure that sewer line coverage is also included and will follow up on the reimbursement still outstanding for the sewer pipe incident. The Cub Scouts will have their campout at the farm on September 24, the fall flea market is scheduled for October 15, and two fall concerts have been booked. Pat will send information on these events to Councilperson Farry for posting on Facebook.

**Planning Commission Report:** None.

**Recreation Board Report:** *On motion* of Councilperson Horwatt seconded by Councilperson Culleton, Council unanimously voted to approve Hulmeville Soccer's fall and spring session application. They will be asked to pay for two years, as payment was not received for last year.

The Mayor's Playground Dedication will take place during the Rotary Pet Fair at 1:00 p.m. on August 27. Vice President Mason suggested revising the playground signage to highlight the word "Langhorne."

Graffiti at the playground is an ongoing problem.

**Shade Tree Commission Report:** None.

**Zoning Hearing Board Appointment:** *On motion* of Councilperson Marfia seconded by Councilperson Culleton, Council voted 6-0 to approve Wendy Latham Rollins as an alternate member of the Zoning Hearing Board. President Murdock abstained because he had only just seen the application. Barry Truchil is interested in serving as an alternate. Council will vote on Barry's application in September. Alternate members are not rank ordered.

*On motion* of Councilperson Marfia seconded by Councilperson Farry, Council voted unanimously to approve the parade permit for the American Legion's Veterans Day 5K run.

**Public Comment:**

*Paul Schneider, 233 N Bellevue Avenue,* requested clarification on Zoom availability for the next Council meeting. He was advised that the Wi-Fi issue should be solved by then. He was also advised that Planning Commission may use the Borough Wi-Fi for its Zoom meetings.

*Carol Zetterberg, 129 W Marshall Avenue,* had been attending Middletown Zoning Hearing Board meetings about Woods Services' proposed Beechwood apartment complex, which have been heavily attended by residents concerned about height, density, and the fact that the property is not zoned for apartment buildings. She suggested that Council ask the solicitor to send a letter to Middletown Township stating Council's position on the proposed development. President Murdock replied that sending such a letter did not seem appropriate. Carol provided each Council member with a copy of the petition opposing the RC3 partial cloverleaf plan including all signatures collected.

*Becky Gilbert, 502 S. Bellevue Ave, Middletown Township,* asked for better notification of Council Meeting agendas and access to Council minutes. She reported that debris has accumulated on Woods Services Crestwood property around the empty residence buildings. Councilperson Marfia suggested that Woods be asked to clean the debris. President Murdock explained that Council meeting agendas are posted on the Borough website the Monday before each meeting and that minutes are posted immediately after they have been approved the following month. Minutes are now posted for meetings going back to January 2021.

*Pat Carr, 240 N Green Street,* reported that trees along Marshall Avenue are encroaching on the road and should be trimmed back, and that unused utility poles that have been lying around the Borough for two years should be removed. President Murdock said he would ask the manager to address these issues as well as overgrowth on the curb in front of the country club. Pat hoped that the new ordinance governing the Toll Brothers development would prohibit front facing garages. President Murdock noted that front-facing garages create more open space.

Councilperson Horwatt announced that the Garden Club will hold a golf outing on September 30 at the country club.

**Solicitor's Report:** None.

The meeting paused at 9:20 p.m. for an executive session regarding personnel matters.

Council returned from Executive Session and the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Transue (Secretary at the time of the meeting)

Nancy Culleton, Interim Secretary