

Langhorne Borough Council Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2021

A meeting of the Langhorne Borough Council was held on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 7:30 p.m., as a hybrid meeting in Council Chambers as well as online via Zoom. President Thomas called the meeting to order and invited everyone in attendance to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were: President Kari Thomas, Vice President Scott Haldeman, Councilwomen Kathleen Horwatt and Kristen Farry, Councilmen Anthony Marfia and Paul Murdock, Manager/Secretary Christine Schoell, Mayor Joseph Taylor, Police Chief John Godzieba, and Treasurer Ellyn Schoen. Absent was: Councilman Richard Mason.

Announcements & Presentations: President Thomas announced that the next concert will be on August 25th. She also announced that the Langhorne Borough Cultural Day event will take place on August 21st and the Rotary's Annual Pet Fair event will take place on August 28th.

Public Comment: Mayor Taylor stated that he spoke with a resident on N. Bellevue Ave. regarding the downed telephone poles being stored at the end of N. Bellevue Ave. near Summit Ave. Chief Godzieba reported that he had seen the poles being transported in a truck earlier in the day. Councilman Murdock asked for clarification on the specific poles that are supposed to be taken down, and Manager Schoell stated that any that were marked with an X should be taken down. She asked him to let her know if there were any unmarked poles that he has concerns about.

Chief's Report: Chief Godzieba stated that he has been receiving complaints regarding false filings of the Unemployment Compensation Form. He stated that the state of Pennsylvania is working on addressing these issues themselves and that any calls that the Borough Police Department receives regarding this issue are turned over to the State.

Councilman Murdock expressed concern over people running the stop signs on S. Bellevue Ave. and Gillam Ave. Chief Godzieba advised that Gilliam is located in Langhorne Manor Borough, and he will reach out to their Chief to let him know about the concerns. Chief Godzieba stated that he would put the word out to our police officers to sit at the intersection to ticket people for running through the stop signs. Councilwoman Horwatt agreed and stated that the proposed PennDOT Route 1 Interchange project will increase the traffic flow and that issues like this need to be enforced and taken seriously.

Councilwoman Horwatt asked Chief Godzieba about police coverage for the upcoming Cultural Day event. Chief Godzieba assured Council that he had spoken with Morris Derry regarding the event and police coverage. Councilwoman Horwatt also noted that the Rotary Club is having difficulty trying to find vendors for the upcoming event.

Manager's Report: Manager Schoell reported that she attempted to address the Preserved Open Space sign on Maple Avenue., stating that she had contacted the Bucks County

Commissioner's Office and was advised that the sign funds have been exhausted for this year, and that they will be placed on order for next year. Pat Carr asked if Manager Schoell could perhaps add a second plaque that names Langhorne Open Space.

Manager Schoell stated that State Representative Frank Farry contacted her regarding a sinkhole on Route 213 in front of Langhorne United Methodist Church. Mr. Farry contacted Middletown Township to place a steel plate over the affected area in order to prevent pedestrian injury or damage to passing vehicles. Because this was an emergency, K.E. Seifert was contracted to do the work and a camera was placed inside the pipe to determine where exactly the collapse was located. They determined that approximately 30 feet of the pipeline had to be replaced. Manager Schoell reported that, at this point, the repairs have been completed and the curbing has been replaced. The cost of the whole project is estimated to be \$84,000. Vice President Haldeman expressed concerns with the other storm drain pipes in the Borough. Manager Schoell stated that there are indeed issues similar to this going on in other municipalities due to the amount of storms that have occurred in a short period of time. Councilwoman Horwatt stated that the Borough must make sure that, when PennDOT comes to repair or replace the roads that they should also maintain the whole road rather than portions of it. Councilwoman Horwatt stated that camerawork for the other storm drain pipes should be considered.

Manager Schoell reported that she received a request from the Cub Scouts to hold a campout at the Langhorne Heritage Farm from September 25th at 2:00 p.m. to September 26th at 12:00 p.m. and confirmed that they supplied an insurance certificate. She also reported that she received another request from the Cub Scouts to hold their regular meetings at the Heritage Farm from October 1, 2020 to June 24, 2022.

Manager Schoell advised that Ted Dorand stated that the hookups on Richardson Ave. will be completed by August 20th, 2021, weather permitting. She stated that PECO would put a temporary asphalt paving down, and that in approximately 45 to 60 days afterwards a permanent asphalt surface will be placed. She reported that PennDOT is supposed to replace the roadway on Richardson Ave. within the next five years.

Manager Schoell reported that she spoke with Treasurer Schoen regarding the PLGIT funds. Manager Schoell and Treasurer Schoen suggested that the Borough should keep some money in the PLGIT funds to keep it open in order to avoid having to go through documentation again. Councilwoman Horwatt suggested a motion to move \$400,000 to First National Bank and leave the remaining \$58,000 in the PLGIT funds. Vice President Haldeman suggested putting the money into a different bank due concerns regarding the low interest rates.

Motion: On motion of Councilwoman Horwatt seconded by Vice President Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to move \$400,000 of PLGIT funds to First National Bank while seeking the highest short term interest rate.

Manager Schoell reported that she attended a meeting regarding the ARPA funds. She stated that the committee discussed the purchase of four computers (2 for Borough Hall and 2 for Police Department) and two laptops. One for the Manager and one for the Chief of Police.

Councilwoman Farry also stated that she was looking into the purchasing of a system with microphones to use at the Borough Council meetings. Solicitor Porter also suggested purchasing an extension cord and table to place the equipment on in Chambers.

Motion: On motion of Councilman Murdock seconded by Councilman Marfia, Council voted unanimously to approve the use of the ARPA funds to purchase four computers and two laptops.

Manager Schoell reminded Council that there are still three open RDA Grants for 2021, for the Tasers, Building Security, and for the purchase of a Police Vehicle. She reported that the Building Security Grant should be completed soon, stating that the company needed two weeks to order the cameras for Borough Hall. The Police Vehicle Grant is being held up indefinitely due to manufacturers having issues receiving parts due to the ongoing pandemic. She also stated that the RDA Grant Application forms for 2022 are currently available online, and told Council that they must decide which grants they would like to apply for by September 30th, 2021. Councilwoman Horwatt recommended applying for at least three or four solar powered speed limit signs. Manager Schoell stated that she would apply for those as well as additional signs for the Borough because several of the current signs are faded. She stated that she would try and group all the signs together in one grant application. Manager Schoell also stated that she wanted to try and get a price for the apron behind the fire department that connects to E. Richardson Ave. Manager Schoell also said she would get prices for chairs for Council Chambers, as they are old and not in very good condition.

Manager Schoell reported that she received an invoice for the TMA Bucks membership covering the last two years, in the amount of \$392. Councilwoman Horwatt said that no representatives for Langhorne have recently gone to a TMA meeting and urged that someone should be attending them every month. Manager Schoell also stated that she checked the TMA website regarding the EV charging stations and they would be willing to help municipalities fill out the forms.

Motion: On motion of Councilwoman Horwatt seconded by Councilman Marfia, Council voted unanimously to approve payment of the \$392 for the past two years of TMA Bucks membership.

Manager Schoell provided estimates for the replacement of the broken garage door behind Borough Hall. She requested to change the sliding garage door to be a door with a lift, and proposed plans to have one side of the garage open manually and the other side to open mechanically. Manager Schoell noted that the estimates for the door have fluctuated significantly due to Covid. Councilwoman Horwatt asked to try a local garage door company if possible. Manager Schoell advised that this was the only company that contacted her back and noted that it would take eight to ten weeks for the doors to come in. Council suggested having non-insulated steel doors with electric openers. Manager Schoell will attend the HARB meeting for color of doors.

Manager Schoell wanted to confirm who from Council was going to attend the PennDOT meeting regarding the US Route 1 Section RC3 Interchange update project on September 15th,

2021 at 11:00 a.m., either virtually or in person. Councilwoman Horwatt and Councilman Murdock stated that they would both attend the meeting in person. Manager Schoell reported that Brian Smiley and Paul Schneider of the Planning Commission would also be in attendance, as well as the Borough Engineer, Brian Keveaney. President Thomas and Councilwoman Farry would serve as backups if the aforementioned Council members could not attend. Councilwoman Horwatt also said that the traffic signals near the proposed interchange will need to be reworked to compensate for the increased traffic. President Thomas suggested gathering all of the information and points together for the next Council meeting.

Engineer's Report: None.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: On motion of Councilwoman Horwatt seconded by Councilwoman Farry, Council voted unanimously to approve the July 2021 Council Meeting Minutes.

Approval of Treasurer's Report:

Motion: On motion of Councilman Murdock seconded by Councilwoman Horwatt, Council voted unanimously to approve the July 2021 Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Schoen stated that with regards to the PLGIT funds that \$50,000 of the solid waste funds should be moved to another account of the same type.

Motion: On motion of Councilwoman Horwatt seconded by Vice President Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to approve the movement of the \$50,000 in solid waste funds to another account of the same type.

Approval of the Bills:

Motion: On motion of Councilwoman Farry seconded by Councilman Murdock, Council voted unanimously to approve the payment of the bills.

EAC: Councilman Mason sent a report regarding the three possible locations for EV charging stations in the Borough: the library parking lot, the north side of the Will Travel parking lot, and the Pine Watson parking lot, in the order of preference. Councilwoman Horwatt stated that, when a choice of the location is made, the installation cost will vary due to the specific locations. Manager Schoell stated that they are required to be 220 volts and two phased. She also stated that there have to be a minimum of two plugs on the charging stations and that the rebates are per plug. Councilwoman Horwatt recommended not to have a charging station in the Pine Watson Shopping Center due to the fact that the area is usually busy and people shouldn't be parked there for too long. Manager Schoell stated that the rebate is lower if the chargers are situated on private property as opposed to government property. Councilwoman Horwatt stated that she would reach out to a representative at the library and President Thomas would reach out to her mother to try and determine possible specific locations for the EV charging stations.

HARB: HARB recommends approval of the following applications:

1. Darrell Swartz 146 N. Bellevue Ave.
Construction of a 1200 square foot metal four bay garage in the rear of the property – color light brown. Often a garage of this size would be considered out of scale with the size of the house on the front of the property but in this case the lot is very deep and wooded The proposed garage will be 150+ ft. back from the house and its sight line blocked by trees so in this case HARB felt that the scale issue was not disqualifying.
2. Patrick Carr Catawissa entrance at Maple Ave.
(For Langhorne Open Space Inc.)
Installation of a 3' x 2' fiberglass sign with a metal base similar to those already utilized within the nature preserve. The purpose of the sign is provide historical and environmental information about the nature preserve.
3. Joe Kontz 232/234 N. Pine Street
Install sea blue “Hardiplank” siding with white “Azec” trim. Install “Pella” aluminum clad wooden windows. Install a new roof same materials and color as existing roof.
4. Scott Blaydon 320 W. Maple Ave.
Remove and replace 11 windows and 1 patio door, same size no structural change. Windows are “Anderson” fibrex. Color and grid design are staying the same.

Councilwoman Farry questioned the approval of the garage at 146 N. Bellevue Ave. Manager Schoell advised that they would still need to meet zoning requirements before the garage could be constructed. Council agreed that approval would be based on whether an applicant meets all zoning requirements.

Motion: On motion of Councilwoman Horwatt seconded by Vice President Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to approve the August HARB applications on the basis that HARB Application 1 adheres to all zoning/building regulations and requirements.

Farm/L.O.S.I.: Pat Carr reported that the Bucks County Folk Song Society was going to host a concert at the Heritage Farm on September 26th at 2:00 p.m. He also reported that the dryer, which was causing problems before, was successfully repaired for \$150. He stated that the community gardens have been very successful this year.

With regards to the purchase of a commercial lawn mower for the farm that was discussed at the previous Council meeting, Pat Carr provided pictures and additional information on a specific mower. He stated that it was from Foster Mowers and that the owner would be willing to sell it to LOSI for \$8,500. Vice President Haldeman emphasized that the purchase of a zero turn mower would be a wise investment for the future. Mr. Carr requested \$4,000 from the Farm rental account, and L.O.S.I. would pay the difference.

Motion: On motion of Vice President Haldeman seconded by Councilman Marfia, Council voted unanimously to approve the use of up to \$4,000 from the farm rental account for the purchase of a commercial grade lawn mower.

Pat Carr asked Council for the final approval of a donor recognition sign to install at Catawissa. He provided Council with the latest rendition of the sign, saying that it is a two-sided sign to be placed on a pedestal with dimensions of 2'x 3' in the same style as the other informational signs at Catawissa. He stated that he planned to put it along the winding trail near the Maple Ave. entrance.

Motion: On motion of Councilwoman Horwatt seconded by Councilwoman Farry, Council voted unanimously to approve the donor recognition sign for Catawissa.

Pat Carr reported that there was fairly significant erosion near a footbridge in Catawissa. He stated that it needs to be addressed because it may become a tripping hazard. Forrest Zetterberg stated that there is also an issue with water buildup near the footbridge and that the water would have to be diverted. Councilwoman Horwatt felt that Pennoni should look at the area and give suggestions to the Borough regarding what can be done about this matter.

Motion: On motion of Councilman Marfia seconded by Councilwoman Horwatt, Council voted unanimously to authorize Pennoni to evaluate and provide an estimate for the water diversion at the footbridge at Catawissa.

Pat Carr also noted that finer stones were placed on the trails at Catawissa to make them more accessible, but that they were also starting to wash away. Solicitor Porter suggested using a roller on the trails to help fix this problem, and Pat Carr stated that he would speak with Kevin Transue about this.

Pat Carr wanted to formally recognize and thank the members of LOSI, including Beth Delaney and Forrest and Carol Zetterberg.

Motion: On motion of Councilman Murdock seconded by Councilman Marfia, Council voted unanimously to approve the spending of up to \$1,000 for the PRP and \$1,000 for the MS4 for a total of up to \$2,000.

Planning Commission: None.

Recreation Board: Councilwoman Horwatt reported that she had purchased mulch for the Mayors Playground, saying that it would be delivered on Tuesday. She stated that half of it would be placed before the Pet Fair and the other half would be placed after the Pet Fair and that there were volunteers to help spread the mulch. She also reported that the supervisor of the Recreation Board lost his apartment due to flooding and that the Recreation Board as well as the Rotary Club gathered \$610.00 to give to him.

Councilwoman Horwatt stated that the Recreation Board had a meeting with EAC regarding the PRP as well as the MS4 and that the state still did not approve the pollution control

plan due to seeing inconsistencies in the map. She recommended that the Borough should not pay for either of the maps and that the PRP should be corrected, stating the work should be done at a cost of \$1,000. She also stated that the Borough should pay \$1,000 to finish the MS4, which is due by September 30th.

Shade Tree Commission: None.

Public Comment: None.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Porter stated that she had contacted the school board solicitor, Mr. Torrente, but did not receive any response from him because they are not meeting right now. She said that she would try following up with him again before the next Council meeting.

Solicitor Porter reported that she was working on the Small Cell Ordinance regarding the transmission towers. She said that it should be advertised as a Small Wireless Facility Ordinance which would amend Article 4 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Motion: On motion of Councilwoman Horwatt seconded by Councilwoman Farry, Council voted unanimously to approve the advertisement of the Small Wireless Facility Ordinance.

Solicitor Porter asked if the Borough owned any of the utility poles. Councilwoman Horwatt replied that the Borough only owns the ones on that Mayors Playground. Councilwoman Horwatt also stated that the facilities should not be installed on any of the decorative street lights or on the interior poles at the Mayors Playground.

Solicitor Porter stated that Lisa Deon of 210 S. Bellevue Ave., who is a neighbor of Beverly Adams at 118 W. Richardson Ave. and was in dispute over the location of Ms. Adams' pool and filter system, wrote a letter for Council. Ms. Deon said that she had requested more information regarding the permits and plans for Ms. Adams' pool. She stated that, according to her own survey and measurements, the pool equipment was only 6 feet from the property line while the pool itself was 10 feet from the property line, noting that pools are required to have a 15 feet setback from all surrounding property lines. Ms. Adams had contended that the pool installer did not know that the filtration equipment needed to be 15 feet away from the property lines. Ms. Deon stated that she asked Ms. Adams to move the pool filter to the other side of the pool and she has yet to do so. Ms. Deon formally asked the Borough to have Ms. Adams move the pool because, according to her measurements, it does not meet the 15 feet required setbacks.

Manager Schoell stated that she had been in contact with Ms. Deon who initially was going to let the pool go if the filter system was moved. She stated that the zoning officer was going to allow her to keep the equipment there until the end of the swimming season but affirmed that the filtration equipment. According to the property markers that the zoning officer measured from, the pool is actually 16.5 feet from the property line. Councilman Murdock stated last month Council had decided to waive enforcement of the pool if the neighbors were fine with where it was placed and if the pool owner got a variance prior to selling the property. President

Thomas suggested following up only on the filter situation due to the fact that the Borough's zoning officer measured it to be too close to the adjoining property line.

Solicitor Porter reported that the Borough was sued during the previous week for a sidewalk fall, but that the fall actually occurred within another municipality and the documentation was wrongfully sent to Langhorne Borough.

Mr. Haughney, a former landlord in Langhorne Borough, decided to sue Keystone Municipal Services for \$5,639 due to issues regarding fencing with a former neighbor's property. His lawsuit was ultimately dismissed by a judge, but Mr. Haughney has 30 days to appeal the dismissal.

Councilman Murdock asked about the half hour parking signs that are throughout the Borough, especially the ones on South Bellevue. Councilwoman Horwatt stated that the signs were initially placed due to complaints from either residents or businesses and that they will be enforced on a per-complaint basis. Councilman Murdock stated that if the signs are to be left up that they should be enforced, not just from complaints, or otherwise the signs should be taken down. President Thomas stated that she would talk to a representative at First National Bank about their half hour parking signs to see if they are in agreement that they can be removed.

Adjournment: With no other business, on motion of Councilman Marfia seconded by Councilman Murdock, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the August 2021 Council meeting at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine Schoell
Borough Secretary