

Langhorne Borough Council Meeting
January 10, 2024

A Langhorne Borough Council Meeting was held at Council Chambers on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. President Culleton called the session to order at 7:30 p.m. and invited those in attendance to pledge allegiance to the Flag.

IN ATTENDANCE: President Nancy Culleton; Vice President Kathleen Horwatt; Councilpersons Tony Marfia, Tim Harris, Bob Cumming, Kristen Farry, and Scott Haldeman; Mayor Joe Taylor; Solicitor David Truelove; Police Chief John Godzieba; Treasurer Ellyn Schoen; Manager Steve Bradshaw; Clerk Gabriel Tenaglia.

Vice President Horwatt left at approximately 8:55 p.m.

AGENDA REVIEW: President Culleton explained that the purpose of Agenda Review is to make sure Council has had a chance to review the agenda and move items around to accommodate members of Council who may have to leave early.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND COUNCIL RESPONSES: Beth Delaney, 119 West Marshall Avenue, congratulated and welcomed President Culleton and the new Council members.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Taylor responded to a question from President Culleton about declaring a snow emergency in the Borough, saying that a snow emergency can only be declared if there is 6 or more inches of snow.

Mayor Taylor commented on the power outages the previous night, and said that a high-power line came down in Winchester, causing a power outage and a small fire this morning. President Culleton asked about the outage on Flowers Avenue, and Mayor Taylor explained how power is provided to the Borough. He said that the transformers at the end of Bellevue were damaged last night, and they cover most of the Borough.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: See attached document.

PUBLIC & COUNCIL DISCUSSION: Mayor Taylor addressed the comments made by Rudy Taurino, 317 Station Avenue, during the Special Meeting on December 28th and confirmed that Chief Godzieba had sent a letter out to Mr. Taurino's neighbor regarding the class 8 vehicle he had parked in the street. Chief Godzieba added that the neighbor had also received copies of two relevant ordinances regarding parking in the Borough. The neighbor was unaware of the ordinances.

Vice President Horwatt said that there was a comment on the Facebook page about the road closures on Winchester and 413 and requested that that information be put on Facebook. Chief Godzieba replied that he is putting that information out on Twitter as well as on radio, newspaper, and through SEPTA.

Councilperson Farry requested that the fire company's post about the procession for John Scheetz on Saturday the 13th at 1:30 p.m. be shared on Facebook. President Culleton said that should be shared by

tomorrow night, if possible.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: George DiPersio thanked Council for reappointing CKS as the Borough Engineer, and congratulated President Culleton, Vice President Horwatt, and Councilpersons Cumming and Harris.

141-151 W. Maple Ave. Minor Subdivision: The subdivision application remains pending. However, the applicant filed a waiver of the municipality planning code timeline, so they do not need to keep asking for extensions. CKS has yet to see any revised plans.

Crestwood – Bellevue Avenue Residential Development Project: Final arguments will be presented at the Zoning Hearing Board on January 29th. Mr. DiPersio said that there is agreement that a decision could be rendered 45 days after closing arguments on the 29th.

Country Club Lane: Legal descriptions for the right of way and the snow storage easements off the cul-de-sac were provided to the Solicitor's office. Manager Bradshaw stated that all but two signatures have been received.

Route 413 Storm Inlets and East Watson Avenue Crossing: CKS does not yet have designs for Council to review, but they are working on preparing them as quickly as possible. CKS' tentative schedule is to have the specifications and plans completed this week. They will then forward notice to the Borough Manager for advertisement, with the goal of advertising by the end of next week.

Mr. DiPersio presented two issues for Council's consideration. The first was regarding the inlets of concern identified by PennDOT. They identified 13, but CKS found an additional inlet that PennDOT did not identify. CKS suggests that this be included as an add alternate so that CKS can get a price for it and Council can decide how to proceed.

The second was regarding the corner of Maple Avenue. Mr. DiPersio handed out pictures, and he said that CKS' representative who inspected the site saw that two of the ADA Compliant Truncated Mats, at Brother's Pizza and Exxon, are heavily deteriorated. CKS recommends including replacement of these as an add alternate.

Councilperson Cumming suggested adding a post there to deter trucks from rolling over the Truncated Mats, which Councilperson Haldeman agreed with. Mr. DiPersio said that CKS would have to check with PennDOT about adding a post.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Farry, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted unanimously to approve A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF LANGHORNE, COUNTY OF BUCKS, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF BUCKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$274,080.00 FOR THE BOROUGH'S ROUTE 413 STORMWATER INLET IMPROVEMENTS AND NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING PROJECT.

DISCUSSION: Councilperson Haldeman suggested adding the 14th inlet through an addendum to the motion. Solicitor Truelove concluded that an addendum is unnecessary as the resolution is non-specific enough that the motion does not need to be changed.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Haldeman, seconded by Councilperson Marfia, Council voted

unanimously to advertise for the solicitation of bids for the Route 413 Stormwater Inlet Improvements and New Pedestrian Crossing project as prepared by CKS Engineers, in accordance with terms of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks Municipal Grant.

DISCUSSION: Solicitor Truelove asked that the minutes reflect that the additional inlet and the 4 crosswalk mats are included in the motion as add alternates.

CKS hopes to have a list of bids and recommendations for the contractor at the February meeting.

POINT OF PROCEDURE: Vice President Horwatt brought to Council's attention the issue of who will sign to administer grant funds.

MOTION: On motion of Vice President Horwatt, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted unanimously to authorize President Culleton and Manager Bradshaw to sign for and administer grant funds for all RDA grants.

MOTION: On motion of Vice President Horwatt, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted unanimously to approve the November 8th and December 13th, 2023 Council Meeting minutes, the December 28th, 2023 Special Meeting minutes, and the January 2nd, 2024 Re-Organization Meeting minutes.

DISCUSSION: President Culleton thanked the Borough Clerk for his work on the minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: President Culleton asked Treasurer Schoen to explain the reallocation of funds in the report. Treasurer Schoen explained that a new account, account 357, was made. It is an RDA grant account only, and grant monies were moved from 354 to 357. All RDAs are in 357, and 354 as of now only has the recycling grant. Treasurer Schoen said that she had also moved the monies in the comprehensive plan to Engineering. She asked to be kept informed on the RDA grants in account 357.

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

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Farry, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted unanimously to pay the bills.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Haldeman, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted unanimously to approve the permit application for the Recreation Board Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23rd with a rain date of Saturday, March 30th, including approval of fence signage.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Farry, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted unanimously to approve the permit application for the Rotary Pet Fair on Saturday, August 24th with a rain date of Saturday, September 14th, including approval of fence signage.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- 75% of the Greater Philadelphia area had their power restored. Manager Bradshaw confirmed before the meeting that fewer than five customers are without power in the Borough.
- Bucks County 911 is the best source for the most current information and emergency resources.

- PECO recommends staying clear of downed power lines, leaving refrigerator and freezer doors closed, and leaving water at a slow drip to prevent pipes from freezing.
- The above information was posted on Facebook and the website by 3:00 p.m. today.
- Manager Bradshaw has scheduled a call with Luke Rosanova from the Bucks County Planning Commission to discuss the new BCPC portal.
- There are new bidding thresholds for this year. Anything below \$12,600 does not need a bid, while anything from \$12,600 to \$23,200 requires telephone bids, and anything above \$23,200 must be advertised.

DISCUSSION: Councilperson Haldeman asked what a telephone bid was, and Solicitor Truelove clarified for him. Council then discussed the bidding threshold.

Vice President Horwatt asked if Council should get estimates for repairing the pillar at the playground. Solicitor Truelove said it was not necessary.

Council discussed the firefighter’s tax credit ordinance and the ordinances for the amendments to the zoning ordinance.

COMMITTEE, BOARD & COMMISSION REPORTS:

Fire Company: No report.

Environmental Advisory Council: Rich Mason, acting Chair of the EAC, announced that the EAC has scheduled its meetings for this year. There are four of them scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Thursday on January 18th, April 18th, July 18th, and October 17th. Mr. Mason also requested that Council reappoint members who were up for reappointment.

The Borough still has sediment reduction credits; the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection expects the Borough to account for them. DEP will approve sufficient sediment reductions if the Borough retrofits the Methodist Church basin. There are grants available, but they are reimbursements, so the Borough must pay for the project and complete it before receiving grant monies. Mr. Mason requested Council’s approval to get an estimate from CKS for determining whether a partial retrofit of the basin would be enough for the Borough’s sediment reduction credits. Solicitor Truelove advised that this be deferred to the next Council meeting.

HARB: HARB has looked at the design of the Daughters of the American Revolution’s bench for the cemetery.

Heritage Farm/L.O.S.I.: No report.

Planning Commission: Chair Paul Schneider said that he emailed Solicitor Barbara Kirk regarding the revised map, and that BCPC will pursue appendix G of the TND overlay at their next meeting.

Councilperson Culleton asked whether BCPC will review their comprehensive plan, as the last one was dated 2014.

Councilperson Haldeman said that he wrote to Solicitor Barbara Kirk about the definitions in the zoning ordinance, and there are many revisions required.

Recreation Board: Vice President Horwatt asked what the Recreation Board should do regarding repairs to the pillar in the playground. Councilperson Cumming said that their insurance is reimbursing them, and that they should get an estimate and then submit a quote to the insurance company.

Shade Tree Commission: Shade Tree Commission met on Monday, January 8th. They received regional approval of their Tree City 2023 application. It now must be approved by the state and the Arbor Day Foundation. President Culleton brought up the spring planting and said they are talking about putting an invitation out on social media for people who want to request a tree. Shade Tree is also hoping to have an Arbor Day celebration on either the 26th or 27th of April. President Culleton asked if a permit was necessary for that, and Council agreed it was not.

Communications Team: Communications Team discussed doing monthly/seasonal photo submissions. They will pick one or several of the best submissions to use through the year. They also discussed the Borough Motto, and decided to have residents submit their suggestions to the Borough Manager. Administration will submit them to the Communications Team, who will narrow down the submissions to the best 5-10, to be presented to Council for the final decision.

The Communications Team plans to get the post out in the next couple of weeks, and have people send their submissions to the Borough Manager by the end of February. The submissions will be 15 words or less. Ideally, the Borough Motto will be decided by April to help guide photo submissions.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL LIAISONS TO BOARD AND COMMITTEES: President Culleton presented the appointments of liaisons: Councilperson Marfia to HARB; Vice President Horwatt to EAC; Vice President Horwatt to Recreation Board; Vice President Horwatt to Planning Commission; President Culleton to Shade Tree Commission; Councilpersons Farry, Haldeman, and Cumming to Budget Committee; Vice President Horwatt to Solid Waste; Councilperson Marfia to Artists of the Farm; President Culleton, Manager Bradshaw, and Borough Clerk Gabriel Tenaglia and consultant Mary Zimmerman to Communications Team. Human Relations Commission has not yet been set up and President Culleton offered to be the initial liaison. Heritage Farm/L.O.S.I liaison will be Councilperson Cumming. Councilperson Cumming will take over as liaison for Borough Hall. Personnel Committee will now be President Culleton, Councilpersons Farry and Haldeman. Councilperson Marfia will be Police liaison, Councilperson Haldeman will continue as the Streets and Roads liaison, and Vice President Horwatt will be Transportation liaison.

MOTION: On motion of Vice President Horwatt, seconded by Councilperson Marfia, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Peggy Malandra and Dick O’Hern to the Environmental Advisory Committee for four-year terms ending in 2027, and to appoint Councilperson Harris.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Marfia, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Amy Mladjen and George Sengpiel, Jr. to the Historic Architectural Review Board for three-year terms ending in 2026.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Farry, seconded by Vice President Horwatt, Council voted unanimously to approve A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF LANGHORNE, COUNTY OF BUCKS, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF BUCKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,272.45 FOR THE BOROUGH’S POLICE TASER REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

MOTION: On motion of Vice President Horwatt, seconded by Councilperson Marfia, Council voted unanimously to approve A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF LANGHORNE, COUNTY OF BUCKS, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF BUCKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,421.00 FOR THE BOROUGH'S PENNDEL-MIDDLETOWN EMERGENCY SQUAD CPR/CHEST COMPRESSION SYSTEMS PROJECT.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Haldeman, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted unanimously to create the position of President Pro Tem.

DISCUSSION: President Culleton explained why she felt a President Pro Tem position was necessary. Council and the Borough Manager agreed. A President Pro Tem will be elected at the next meeting.

FEE SCHEDULE: President Culleton asked if the current fee schedule, which is from 2022, should be updated. Solicitor Truelove suggested looking at fees every couple of years, but said that it does not need to be reapproved every year.

RECYCLING GRANT: The contract with Hough for recycling has been accepted and signed.

SCANTEK PROPOSAL: Manager Bradshaw explained the proposal for the digitization of all the files in the Borough office. He informed Council that there is a grant from last year that included upgrades to software that was never used. It is approximately \$16,000, and can be used for digitization as long as it is used by the end of the year. Council agreed to look over the proposal and discuss it at a future meeting.

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER: President Culleton explained why she was considering adopting Robert's rules of Order, and Solicitor Truelove passed around a reference document to Council that explains Robert's Rules. He advised that Council should be careful to follow the spirit of Robert's Rules without allowing it to bog down discussion. He suggested that Council look over the Rules before adopting anything formally. Councilperson Haldeman asked if other municipalities operate like the Borough, and Solicitor Truelove replied that the Borough is consistent with other municipalities. Council then further discussed the merits of adopting Robert's Rules of Order.

FUTURE HIRING OF FIREFIGHTER: Councilperson Haldeman discussed hiring one or two firefighters to work on a part-time basis, which could eliminate the need for the siren. Mayor Taylor noted that they would need a minimum of four firefighters. Mayor Taylor estimated it could cost \$75,000 a person, and Councilperson Farry added that it would likely be closer to \$100,000. Councilperson Haldeman and Mayor Taylor continued to discuss a cost estimate and the possibility of sharing the cost.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: President Culleton discussed creating a public safety committee that would include the Police Chief and Mayor along with Council liaisons. She suggested that this committee could meet to help make their work easier and discuss safety concerns.

JANUARY 25th WORK SESSION: President Culleton explained the nature of the work session as an orientation for new Council members focused on the Borough's workings. The Solicitor and Engineer confirmed they would be present, and President Culleton hoped that Mayor Taylor and Chief Godzieba could attend as well. Councilperson Farry was supportive of the idea but suggested that the full orientation be spread over the January and February work sessions. President Culleton agreed this was a

good idea.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Patt Carr, 240 North Green Street, asked about the redundant telephone poles. He said that they have been there for three years and that whenever he calls PECO, his conversations are unproductive. He noted that the problem was likely with Verizon's telephone wires, not PECO. Manager Bradshaw said that when he reached out to PECO, they told him that the telecommunications are holding up the process of removing them. Solicitor Truelove said that he would contact other municipalities to see how they have handled this issue. Councilperson Marfia said that he contacted the state Senator and state Representative to deal with a similar issue, and suggested that Manager Bradshaw reach out to them.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Truelove thanked the Borough for their continued partnership with Hill Wallack.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Culleton announced that there would be an Executive Session after the Council Meeting was concluded.

ADJOURNMENT: With no other business, on motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Harris, Council voted 6 to 0 to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. Vice President Horwatt was not present.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Bradshaw, Borough Manager / Secretary

Next Council Meeting: February 14, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.