

Langhorne Borough Council Meeting

June 14, 2023

A Langhorne Borough Council Meeting was held in person in Council Chambers on Wednesday, June 14, 2023. President Murdock called the session to order at 7:31 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, Kathleen Horwatt, Scott Haldeman, and Kristen Farry; Solicitor representative Barbara Kirk; Manager Steve Bradshaw.

ABSENT: Mayor Joe Taylor; Police Chief John Godzieba; Treasurer Elyn Schoen; Clerk Mary Zimmerman.

MAYOR'S REPORT: See attached document.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: See attached document.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bernadette West, 312 N. Bellevue Avenue, representing the Langhorne Council for The Arts, shared details of the upcoming Porch Fest. The event will be held September 9th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. with rain date of September 10th. LBCA is requesting that Hill Avenue be closed between Maple and Richardson Avenue. LBCA is also requesting to hang a sign at Mayor's Playground.

Pat Carr, 240 N. Green Street, would like an update on Safe Engineering and PennDOT. Council President Murdock spoke to the fact that Joseph Fiocco from SAFE Highway Engineering is planning to have an update at the Council Work Session on June 29th.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

George DiPersio from CKS Engineering reported:

BOROUGH HALL RE-ROOFING: During gutter installation, the fiberglass flagpole was damaged and had to be removed. It was determined that the pole was not on Borough property and would need to be relocated. A new aluminum pole was furnished by the contractor and installed in the brick paver sidewalk area west of the former location. The memorial plaque was re-attached. CKS will review the final invoice for accuracy once received; ProCon has indicated it should be issued this week.

Richardson Avenue: Drainage Improvements Project: The contractor is currently wrapping up other projects and hopes to start at some point in June. There will be no impact to the upcoming car show the weekend of June 17th. CKS had asked PECO for the status of their PennDOT approvals. Two permits were applied for, and one was received to date. Scheduling had been pushed to mid-July due to material supply issues.

Crestwood – Bellevue Avenue Residential Development Project: Guiding Principles were developed and coordination meetings with Borough Planning Commission members, CKS, TCA, and BCPC took place from March through May of 2023. A draft "by-right" exhibit plan considering the above was prepared by CKS and presented at the May 17, 2023 PC meeting. The yield of the exhibit plan was 28 new units plus three historic structures. All units were shown to be single-family dwellings or duplexes. It's CKS's

understanding that Toll would like to have an opportunity to respond to the guiding principles and plan.

An outline of the proposed overlay ordinance was prepared by BCPC and will be discussed further at the upcoming PC meeting; however, this outline was not shared with Toll/ESE yet.

COUINCIL DISCUSSION:

Council decided that the funds to cover the \$15K overage on the Borough Hall re-roofing project should come from the Building Fund and that additional engineering fees for the Richardson drainage project should come from the ARPA Fund. Councilperson Marfia asked to have the white drainage pipe painted.

ACTION STEPS: Have the Public Works person paint the drainage pipe.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS: Jake Forbes presented his proposed plan for his Eagle Scout project. The project is to remove invasive species and debris from the storm water basin behind the Langhorne Methodist Church. The project would take place on Saturday July 8th. Jake was hoping to have 20 volunteers.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Councilperson Horwatt suggested the chipping fees for the invasive species removal could come from the Liquid Fuels Account.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Haldeman, seconded by Councilperson Farry, Council voted unanimously to pay Transue Tree Service \$250 out of the Liquid Fuels account to chip the debris from the storm water basin.

MOTION: On motion of Vice President Mason, seconded by Councilperson Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to approve Jake Forbes' Eagle Scout project to remove invasive species and debris from the storm water basin.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Horwatt, seconded by Councilperson Marfia, Council voted unanimously to approve the transfer of \$12,000 from the General Fund to the Street Light Fund for emergency repairs to the decorative streetlight near 311 W. Maple Ave and to cover the Street Light Fund deficit for the remainder of the year.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Horwatt, seconded by Councilperson Marfia, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2023-07, as revised, to support amending the Sterling Act.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION: Council discussed the impact the amendment of the Sterling Act would potentially have in bringing 1% of the 3.44% in wage tax paid by non-residents of Philadelphia back to their municipalities. Councilperson Culleton hoped the public could be more fully informed on the issue before a vote was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Paul Schneider, 223 N. Bellevue Ave, explained his support for the resolution to amend the Sterling Act. He would appreciate funds being returned to our borough.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Haldeman, seconded by Councilperson Culleton, Council voted unanimously to allow the Borough Manager to submit Ordinances/Resolutions to Hill-Wallack, which would submit them to the Law Library.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Horwatt, seconded by Vice President Mason, Council voted

unanimously to advertise “An Ordinance of the Borough Council of the Borough of Langhorne, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Amending the Langhorne Borough Resource Protection and Stormwater Management Ordinance to be in Compliance with the Borough’s NPDES Permit Requirements.”

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Culleton, seconded by Councilperson Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to authorize the Borough Manager to obtain a Borough credit card with a limit of \$5,000 at the lowest available interest rate.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Discussion of placing a 25MPH Speed Limit & Watch for Children signs along Green St. near the Farm.

ACTION: The Public Works person will look for a Watch Children sign.

- Codification: General Code projects the total project cost will be \$17,795. The milestone costs for 2023 would be estimated at \$12,995. Because it’s mid-year the cost would be closer to \$7,200 and the remainder would be paid in 2024. Vice President Mason stated that Council should see the contract before voting to approve the expense. The 2009 - 2014 Ordinances were reported as missing. Attempts were being made to locate them in Doylestown.
- The Mayor’s Park basketball backboard replacements would cost \$1,400- \$1,700 each. Vinyl coating won’t work.

ACTION: Look into getting the current backboards painted.

- For the flagpole at the Mayor’s Park, the manager was waiting for a price quote for a pole top, a new rope, a 4x8 flag, and installation.
- African American Museum of Bucks County (AAMBC) Meet & Greet reminder: June 28th at 6:30 pm at Sesame Place.
- Fire Company: An ordinance was being drafted to address excessive false alarms and Knox Boxes. An intergovernmental agreement is being worked on between the Borough and Middletown Township regarding inspections for rental apartments.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT: Solicitor Barbara Kirk said that the firm is working with the Borough on many issues that were mentioned in other reports.

COMMITTEE, BOARD & COMMISSION REPORTS:

Environmental Advisory Council: Vice President Mason reported that the group did not meet this month. It was working on this year’s MS4 report, which is due on September 30th, but will be based on activities taking place up through June 30th. CKS gave EAC a list of things to do, which are being followed up on by various people. The next meeting is August 17th at 7:00 pm.

ACTION: Have the Manager follow up with the Public Works person to go over the check list.

Fire Company: No Report.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION: Councilperson Marfia brought up the fact that there is still no report as to

what happened to the fire hydrant on Flowers Ave.

Councilperson Haldeman asked if there was an update from the Fire Company pertaining to other matters. President Murdock reported that the Solicitor has been working on a lease agreement, a maintenance agreement for the stormwater drain, and how to handle the driveway moving forward.

HARB: HARB unanimously approved the following applications:

M&M Masonry Restoration LLC. (applicant) - 119 W. Richardson Ave.
Replace brick steps with concrete as per photos and specifications provided.

M&M Masonry Restoration LLC. (applicant) - 118 S. Bellevue Ave. Donna Thomas (Owner)
Replace Slate steps with concrete, as per photos and specifications provided.

Shane Cimino (applicant) - 318 N. Bellevue Ave. (Gerry Ehrlin, Owner)

a. Window replacement: Replace all existing windows with 6 over 6 "Pella Reserve" traditional wooden window, as per specifications provided.

b. Side Door replacement: The existing side door will be replaced by a wooden door, similar to the original, as per specifications and photo provided.

c. Basement door plan: The existing entrance to the basement will be replaced by a Bilco style wooden door.

Note: the paint colors for this project have not as yet been determined and will be subject to future approval

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Haldeman, seconded by Councilperson Horwatt, Council voted unanimously to approve the HARB Report.

Heritage Farm/L.O.S.I.: Pat Carr reported that the renovation of the Caretakers' house is progressing. The approximate total is \$15,000. The original authorization was not to exceed \$12,000 but L.O.S.I. plans to split the cost 50/50 with the Borough. Solicitor Kirk has been helping to prepare a lease agreement.

L.O.S.I. is in the process of getting estimates for the repaving of the driveway. Approval would be sought next month to move ahead with the project. There was discussion on the amount of rent to charge for the Caretakers' house and plans to repair the main water valve. President Murdock is filling in to help with public works maintenance.

Planning Commission: Chair Paul Schneider spoke to the fact that the process that the Planning Commission is using for the overlay ordinance is working very well. Representatives from Toll Brothers will most likely be at the next meeting on June 21st.

Recreation Board: See attached document.

Shade Tree Commission: Councilperson Culleton reported that the next meeting will be July 10. Shade Tree Commission did have an Arbor Day celebration at Historic Langhorne Association recognizing the white oak as a Legacy Tree. The Mayor made a proclamation.

The Mayor's Playground tree work was provided by Transue Trees service. It went well and the price came in under the budgeted amount.

Pat Carr from L.O.S.I. discussed future trimming and removal of trees at Catawissa. Recently planted trees that have died are no longer under contract and can't be replaced.

Communications Team: Manager Bradshaw reported that members of the team have discussed possibilities for improving the website, such as updating content on the boards and commission pages. The team has been working on drafting the photo contest rules.

APPROVAL OF PERMITS, ZONING, MINUTES, TREASURER’S REPORT & BILLS

COUNCIL DISCUSSION: An application was received to rezone 201 E. Watson Ave. from R-2 to Mixed Use. No Council action was needed.

Minutes:

Motion: On motion of Councilperson Horwatt, seconded by Vice President Mason, Council voted unanimously to approve the April 12 Council Meeting minutes as revised by Councilperson Horwatt.

Treasurer’s Report:

Motion: After discussion, on motion of Councilperson Horwatt, seconded by Councilperson Marfia, Council voted unanimously to table until June the vote to approve the Treasurer’s Report.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION: Councilperson Haldeman had questions on the deposit detail. Councilperson Culleton noted that the Borough had received \$85,586 (76.4%) of the budgeted amount of \$115,000 in EIT money.

Approval to Pay the Bills

Motion: On motion of Vice President Mason, seconded by Councilperson Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to approve paying the bills.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Betsy Carr, 240 N. Green Street, had traffic concerns regarding bicycles and loud vehicles.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council entered Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. and came out of Executive Session at 10:04 p.m.

Adjournment: With no other business, on motion of Vice President Mason, seconded by Councilperson Culleton, Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Bradshaw, Secretary

Next Council Meeting: July 12th, 2023 at 7:30pm