

## Langhorne Borough Council Meeting

November 9, 2022

A meeting of the Langhorne Borough Council was held Wednesday, November 9, 2022, in person at Borough Hall with Zoom attendees.

**In attendance:** President Paul Murdock, Vice President Rich Mason, Councilpersons Nancy Culleton, Kristen Farry, Scott Haldeman, Kathleen Horwatt, and Tony Marfia; Solicitor Catherine Anne Porter; Mayor Joseph Taylor; Treasurer Elyn Schoen. **Absent:** Police Chief John Godzieba.

President Paul Murdock called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and invited those in attendance to pledge allegiance to the Flag.

**Mayor's Report:** None.

**Police Chief's Report:** The Chief provided a written report. Councilperson Horwatt commended the Chief for addressing the issue of a downed sign that had come late to his attention.

**Announcements and Presentations:** President Murdock commended the success of Harvest Day.

**Public comment:**

Paul Schneider, 233 N Bellevue Avenue, asked about the status of the RC3 project and the meaning of "core borings."

President Murdock explained that PennDOT was proceeding with a required environmental analysis. A required public meeting to report on their findings would be held, likely in June 2023. Due to this process, construction might be delayed until 2027. Vice President Mason explained that at its October 20 meeting with public officials, PennDOT projected that all four striped lanes coming off the proposed interchange would be in use sometime between 2035 and 2050, though only for a short distance, and that PennDOT planned to leave in place part of the current access road between Hill and Hulmeville Avenues on the north side of US 1. He felt this supported the argument that there was no compelling safety reason for eliminating the access roads. Councilperson Horwatt noted that PennDOT planned to put in an additional sidewalk on the west side of the interchange as far as Highland Avenue and said that according to the Mayor of Langhorne Manor, the Manor had not been paying for the upkeep of the access roads. "Core borings" are borings into current structures such as bridges to see what needs to be replaced.

Greg Stobb, 175 Country Lane, thanked Council for the budget discussion at the November 1 Work Session and asked whether Keystone Collections takes a fee from the EIT. He also asked about the vendor selection process.

Treasurer Schoen could not yet confirm the amount of Keystone's fee. Solicitor Porter explained that for vendor contracts over \$19,075, the Borough must invite public bids through a notice that goes out electronically. Previous bidders are specifically invited to bid. For contracts between \$10K and \$19K, at least three written bids must be solicited. For contracts under \$10K, at least three phone bids should be solicited. Exceptions were when a bid was received through the CoSTARS Program, which provided the lowest qualified bidder from among its approved vendors. In the absence of extenuating factors, the Borough must accept the lowest responsible bidder.

Beverly Adams, 118 W Richardson Avenue, thanked Council for its work during a period of short staffing.

Pat Carr, 240 N. Green Street, asked whether the Borough would be at a disadvantage without supplemental funding for SAFE Engineering and whether outside donations could help.

President Murdock responded that donations would be welcome, but that Joe Fiocco recommended that no more work be done by SAFE before January. Joe would send an estimate which the Borough would respond to in due course. The proposed budget for 2023 included \$10K for SAFE Engineering.

**Advertisement of the Budget:**

**Public Comment:** Beverly Adams asked for clarification about a line item in the proposed budget and suggested money could be saved by asking organizations that do community service to help with leaf pickup on public property.

**Motion:** On motion of Councilperson Farry, seconded by Councilperson Marfia, Council voted unanimously to advertise the Proposed Budget for 2023.

**Solid Waste Collection Bid:** This item was moved to the Solicitor's Report.

**Manager's Report:** None.

Councilperson Haldeman reported that he received a bid from DeFrehn for the roofing of Borough Hall. DeFrehn would not use synthetic slate. Using real slate would increase the price well beyond what could be covered by the \$100K RDA grant. Synthetic slate eventually curls from heat. US Roofing has offered a quote of \$151K for real slate. The issue was tabled until December.

Councilperson Horwatt reported that CKS Engineering had estimated the work needed to solve the West Richardson drainage issue would cost about \$70K. CKS would prepare the bid specs. ARPA money could be used. Council agreed that CKS should be asked to address the question of potential increase in runoff onto properties in and outside the Borough.

President Murdock expected that the Chief and the manager would work with Comcast to resolve the problem of poor Wi-Fi service on the first floor of Borough Hall.

**Engineer's Report:** None.

**Approval of the Minutes, Treasurer's Report, and Bills:**

On motion of Councilperson Horwatt, seconded by Councilperson Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 5 Work Session and the October 13 Council Meeting.

On motion of Councilperson Farry, seconded by Vice President Mason, Council voted unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report.

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

**Environmental Advisory Committee:** Vice President Mason reported that the DEP was taking comments concerning restructuring stormwater management requirements for small municipalities,

and that he was working with a representative from PSAB to explain that current expectations were unmanageable for the Borough.

**Fire Company:** No report.

**HARB:** HARB recommended approval of the following applications:

Neil Sklaroff representing PECO, and Henry Carfagno, Jr., for installation of a natural gas regulator shut-off valve on the side of the building at 125 S. Bellevue Avenue.

Tom Regan, 221 W. Maple Avenue, for installation of windows throughout the house.

HARB recommended tabling the application of Dawn and John Scheidell, 311/313 N. Bellevue Avenue, for a hardscaping project, based on a request for additional information.

On motion of Councilperson Horwatt, seconded by Vice President Mason, Council voted unanimously to approve the HARB report. Clerk Zimmerman would be asked to notify applicants of the decisions.

**LOSI:** No Report.

**Planning Commission:** Paul Schneider reported that at its November 16 meeting, Planning Commission would look at the draft of the proposed overlay ordinance for the Crestwood property. There should be alignment between the Borough Planning Commission, the Bucks County Planning Commission, and the Borough Solicitor before sending a draft to Toll. The process would take some time. As of now, Toll would like to restore the exterior but not the interior of the historic homes and sell them as single-family homes. Bucks County Planning Commission and CKS Engineering would be invited to the Planning Commission meeting. Representatives from Toll may attend but would not participate.

**Recreation Board:** Councilperson Horwatt reported that one of the swings at the playground was not working and would be replaced, and that the price of the bench that was being ordered had gone down, but delivery would cost \$500. She reported that lights had been put up at the pavilion and that Brothers Pizza had been generous with community service help. Help was still needed to put up bows and wreaths. President Murdock offered to help with setup for Dickens Night along with incoming Manager Bradshaw.

**Shade Tree Commission:** President Murdock spoke to Shade Tree Commission chair Chris Blaydon, who agreed to write a letter to the owner of 209 N Bellevue stating that a tree facing Watson Avenue must come down.

**Communications Team:** The Communications Team of President Murdock and Councilpersons Culleton and Farry agreed to meet next week.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Solicitor's Report:**

Solicitor Porter advised on the actions below.

Councilperson Horwatt made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Marfia, to join the Bucks County Hazardous Waste program for 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

A new state law requires Boroughs to pass a resolution by December 1, 2022, to enable them to issue a waiver of the penalty for late payment of real estate taxes if the taxpayer could prove the bill was not received on time. On motion of Councilperson Horwatt, seconded by Vice President Mason, Council voted unanimously to Implement Act 57 of the 2022 Property Tax Waiver provision.

Vice President Mason made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Horwatt, to put the solid waste contract out to bid for 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor Porter said she had advised Clerk Zimmerman on the process for advertising the proposed budget and the solid waste contract.

**Adjournment:** On motion of Vice President Mason seconded by Councilperson Horwatt, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Culleton, Councilperson/Interim Secretary