

**Langhorne Borough Council Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2021**

A meeting of the Langhorne Borough Council was held on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 7:30 p.m., as a hybrid meeting, both in-person in Council Chambers and virtually via Zoom. President Thomas called the meeting to order and invited everyone in attendance to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Announcements and Presentations: President Thomas announced the October 17th Heritage Farm Swing Band Concert, Heritage Farm Christmas Tree sale starting 11/28th, October 30th Harvest Day and December 3rd Dickens Night/Tree lighting.

Public Comment: Patricia Mervine of 969 Langhorne-Yardley Road thanked everyone for their support with the Porch Fest, announced plans to make the Porch Fest an annual tradition on the fourth weekend of September, announced the April 23, 2022 (rain date April 24th) Edward Hicks Day and requested permission to paint murals on the traffic control boxes at the Mayors Playground and Langhorne Hotel. Jean-Marc Dubus of 333 Station Ave. would paint the murals, which would be protected by two coats of varnish and monitored on a regular basis.

Motion: On motion of Councilman Murdock seconded by Councilwoman Farry, Council voted unanimously to approve painting murals on the traffic control boxes at the Mayors Playground and the Langhorne Hotel.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Taylor commended the dedication event at Catawissa.

Chief's Report: Chief Godzieba reported on the burglary at the Dollar General that was under investigation by the State Police and on the analysis of speeding on W. Maple Ave. which indicated that 85% of people were not speeding. Councilman Murdock suggested dropping the data from the pedestrians and bicyclists that the signs also pick up in order to get a more accurate data measurement. Chief Godzieba stated that could be done.

Manager's Report: Manager Schoell reported that the Open Space signs would each cost \$422 in aluminum and \$758 in bronze. Councilwoman Horwatt recommended the bronze signs to match the existing signs.

Manager Schoell received the annual banner requests for the LOSI Swing Band Concert (10/3 to 10/18/21), the LOSI Christmas Tree Sale (11/22 to 12/21/21), the American Legion Auxiliary (10/9 to 10/31/21) and the LBBA Dickens Night (11/8 to 12/4/21). There was also a road closure request for Dickens Night from 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on December 3, 2021.

Manager Schoell submitted five RDA grant applications on September 29th, but that the stormwater drainage grant was not submitted as the Borough could not obtain an estimate.

Manager Schoell investigated getting microphones for Council meetings with the ARPA funds, but the costs varied widely, so she would be seeking professional advice. Manager Schoell investigated getting a color printer for the Borough Office. Saxon, the Borough's copier supplier, gave an estimate of \$1,575, which would come with a service contract to be billed quarterly. She confirmed that there was money in the office supply budget for the purchase.

After discussion, it was agreed that only one leaf pick-up was needed this year at a price not to exceed \$4,000. LS Land Construction will be contacted to perform the work.

Motion: On motion of Councilman Murdock seconded by Councilman Marfia, Council voted 5-0-1 in favor of paying for one leaf pick up not to exceed \$4,000. Councilwoman Horwatt abstained for personal reasons.

Solicitor Porter suggested that the Borough seek snow bids for 2021-2022 season and mowing bids for 2022 at the same, with an option to submit for both contracts.

Motion: On motion of Councilman Mason seconded by Councilman Murdock, Council voted unanimously to approve seeking bids for 2021-2022 snow removal and 2021 mowing.

While the EV charging stations might not necessarily be economical, Councilman Mason still thought it would be a good idea to get estimates. Manager Schoell stated that while a parking spot could be used behind the Will Travel property, it would have to be hooked up to a power supply elsewhere and suggested the Richardson House. Councilman Mason supported the idea and will set up a meeting with President Thomas and Mr. Delfing to get an installation estimate.

Manager Schoell reported that Kehoe Construction prioritized correcting the issues at Pine St. and E. Richardson Ave. due to the many complaints of the poor condition of the repairs. The work will continue until October 14th. The pipe on N. Bellevue Ave. owned by Verizon was cleaned, but still blocked going towards Marshall Ave. A camera was required to find the clog.

Manager Schoell reported that the Borough received a clean Liquid Fuels Audit, that the Borough still needed to send in the required reports to get the funds in March of 2022, and that the Borough was allocated to get \$36,673.19 in Liquid Fuels funds.

Councilman Marfia expressed concerns about the anticipated Woods School project and the property near the Revolutionary War Burial Ground. Solicitor Porter had little information on the proposed project, except that it was a residential development project.

Engineer's Report: None.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion: On motion of Councilwoman Horwatt seconded by Councilman Mason, Council voted unanimously to approve the September 2021 Council Meeting Minutes, as revised by the Solicitor.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report:

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

Councilwoman Horwatt noted the swale on the property and expressed concerns about it as well as the size of the structure. Solicitor Porter advised that these issues were not before HARB, but should be addressed before the appropriate permits were issued. Carol Zetterberg thought there may be general confusion regarding the fact that HARB approval did not mean that a resident was approved to go forward with a project and suggested that more clearly state that HARB approval did not mean project approval. Council assured her that there was wording in the HARB documents and that it was conveyed to the applicant at the HARB meeting.

Motion: On motion of Councilwoman Horwatt seconded by Councilman Murdock, Council voted 5-1 to approve the HARB application conditioned on zoning and building approval. Councilman Murdock dissented.

Solicitor Porter suggested using a single form for HARB, building, and zoning applications so that everything could be evaluated at once. Councilwoman Horwatt suggested that HARB should only be considered after the building permit application was approved.

Farm/LOSI: Carol Zetterberg announced the October 17th Concert at the Heritage Farm and the November 28th start of Christmas Tree Sales. She reported that the Catawissa Dedication Ceremony was a resounding success, thanked those who attended, and thanked Council for their constant support. She stated that repairs were done at Heritage Farm to the chicken coop windows and the siding on the Farmhouse and a tree taken down at the Revolutionary War Burial Site due its condition. She also expressed hopes on planting bulbs in the Borough, but stated that she would need more information before proceeding with the idea.

Planning Commission: The next meeting would be on Wednesday, October 20th.

Recreation Board: Councilwoman Horwatt recommended that a \$250.00 escrow be secured as part of the approval process for larger scale events at the Mayors Playground. She hoped Feeny's would replace the dead tree removed in the Mayors Playground at no charge.

Shade Tree Commission: The next Shade Tree Meeting would be on January 3, 2022.

Public Comment: Councilwoman Horwatt stated that there was great difficulty in doing the MS4 paperwork alone this year. President Thomas thanked her for her efforts. Councilman Murdock thanked the LBBA for putting the lights up in the Borough.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Porter stated that a recently filed lawsuit actually involved Langhorne Manor Borough and that she was working with the attorneys to get the Borough dropped from the suit. She was advised that the previously discussed parking signs on S. Bellevue Ave. would be removed. Solicitor Porter could not find any information on the planned development of Woods near Bella Tori Mansion, but that thought there may be difficulties finding an engineer to represent the Borough who had not worked for Toll or Woods Services.

Because there were conflicting surveys affecting whether the location of the pool at 118 W. Richardson Ave. was too close to the property line, the Borough could not issue notices of violation. Solicitor Porter suggested notifying the homeowner that she may be in violation of side yard setback requirements and asking her to provide proof if she disagreed. Councilwoman Horwatt confirmed that the mechanical equipment for the pool was moved.

Solicitor Porter provided the resolution needed to confirm the emergency storm drain repairs so the work could be paid using Liquid Fuels funds.

Motion: On motion of Councilwoman Horwatt seconded by Councilman Murdock, Council voted unanimously to approve the Resolution confirming the emergency July storm drain repairs.

Solicitor Porter reported that Bucks County circulated a resolution requiring the Borough to adopt the Bucks County 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan, which would then qualify the Borough to receive federal funding. She would send it out so it could be voted on next month.


Councilman Murdock stated that there was a meeting of the Neshaminy School Board at which the Neshaminy School District agreed to transfer the three tax parcels that made up the Mayors Playground to the Borough. Solicitor Porter reported that School District, through its Solicitor, Mr. John Torrente, reduced the asking price for the Mayors Playground to \$175,000, preferably without a funding contingency, but including a Section 7-707(8) reversion clause. If Council agreed to the terms, they would like to settle by November 30, 2021. There was discussion of the specifics of the Pennsylvania School Code Section 7-707, which set the procedures a school board must follow to dispose of property. The School Board did not proceed under the subsections involving highest bidder or court approval, but under subsection (8) which required a 2/3's vote that the property was unused and unnecessary, was being transferred to a governmental entity in which the property was located, and could include a clause whereby the property reverted to the school district if it was no longer used for municipal purposes. The clause in the proposed agreement of sale included the return of the purchase price if the property was no longer used as a park. While there would be title insurance costs, as the two entities were tax-exempt, there shouldn't be any transfer taxes.

Motion: On motion of Councilwoman Horwatt seconded by Councilwoman Farry, Council voted unanimously to purchase the Mayors Playground from the Neshaminy School District for a price of \$175,000 and to authorize the Borough Manager and President of Council to sign the necessary documents to finalize the contract and transfer the property.

Motion: On motion of Councilwoman Horwatt seconded by Councilman Murdock, Council voted unanimously to continue in the Bucks County Planning Commission Hazardous Waste Collection Program.

Adjournment: With no other business, on motion of Councilman Murdock seconded by Councilman Mason, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the October 2021 Council Meeting at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Christine Schoell

Borough Secretary