

Langhorne Borough Council Meeting
September 11, 2024

A Langhorne Borough Council Meeting was held at Council Chambers on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. President Culleton called the session to order at 7:00 p.m. and invited those in attendance to pledge allegiance to the Flag.

IN ATTENDANCE: President Nancy Culleton; Vice President Kathleen Horwatt; Councilpersons Bob Cumming, Tim Harris, Anthony Marfia, Scott Haldeman, and Adam Zielinski; Solicitor Dave Truelove; Police Chief John Godzieba; Manager Steve Bradshaw; Clerk Gabe Tenaglia

ABSENT: Mayor Joe Taylor; Treasurer Ellyn Schoen

AGENDA REVIEW: President Culleton said that the wording of the agenda had been amended to include the full title of the proposed Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough to include appendices H and I.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS: Nick Foufas, Battalion Chief of the Penn-del-Middletown Emergency Squad, informed Council that the Penn-del-Middletown EMS is looking to have more interaction with the community, and someone from EMS leadership will attend Council Meetings quarterly. President Culleton then announced that yesterday, she, Manager Bradshaw, Vice President Horwatt, and the Borough Engineer and Solicitor met with Erin Development's engineer and their attorney. Erin Development will address the concerns raised by Planning Commission and submit a revised plan with the Borough within the next few weeks. This plan will replace the current application on file with the Borough.

MOTION: On motion of Vice President Horwatt, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted unanimously to accept Resolution 2024-26: AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A MUNICIPAL GRANT APPLICATION TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTRY OF BUCKS FOR THE BOROUGH'S ROOF TOP HVAC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT FOR THE PENNDEL-MIDDLETOWN EMERGENCY SQUAD.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Don Minnick, with the American Legion Jesse W. Soby Post, thanked the Borough for approving the Soby Post's Veterans Day 5K Run on November 2nd.

John Pierce, 214 North Pine Street, informed the Borough of a safety concern at the 7-11 intersection handicap ramp. Engineer George DiPersio explained that the distance between the pole and the curb is not passable by wheelchair and it was designed to guide pedestrians around the pole to utilize the Pine Street crosswalk. He also suggested that the base around the utility pole be painted yellow.

Joanne Cumming, 311 West Maple Avenue, expressed concern about traffic and speeding on Maple Avenue. President Culleton announced that Council will hold a traffic safety forum sometime in October for members of the public to hear what is being done and to make comments and suggestions.

Bonnie Miles, 150 North Bellevue Avenue, said that she heard that Representative Hogan is prepared to co-sponsor legislation that will allow local police to use speed cameras in the Borough. She also spoke with Manager Bradshaw, who informed her that an RDA grant could be proposed to help finance expenses for speed enforcement in the future.

Teresa Newman, 117 Flowers Avenue, said that there are traffic issues on Flowers Avenue. She complained that the traffic causes her house to shake and drivers shout profanity out their windows.

Margaret Malandra, 203 Station Avenue, also voiced complaint about speeding in the Borough. President Culleton said that Chief Godzieba will be submitting an RDA grant application for speed cushions. She also pointed out that the police department only has one on-duty officer at any given time, so resources are limited.

Janet Maher, 212 North Bellevue Avenue, said that there are too many cars and trucks parked on Watson Avenue by the 7-11 and at the corner of Pine Street. She also said that the houses on Watson have shrubbery hanging over the sidewalk, forcing people to walk in the street. Chief Godzieba said that the 7-11 does not have a no truck sign; it has a no parking sign, but the cars parked at the 7-11 are parked legally. Councilperson Haldeman asked where the shrubbery is specifically; Mrs. Maher said that it is on East Watson and Bellevue, between Watson and the Langhorne Hotel. President Culleton said that Manager Bradshaw can confer with the code enforcement officer.

Dale Festa, 131 North Pine Street, complained that people going north and turning left into the Pine Watson Shopping Center have trouble getting in because of the traffic going south. She also noted that larger cars can back up traffic, causing cars to be stuck in the middle of the intersection of Maple and Pine. President Culleton said that once the crosswalk flashers come up, people will hopefully be more aware of the crosswalk at the intersection.

Gina Pardovich, 317 North Bellevue Avenue, said that the Neshaminy school buses barrel through Maple and Bellevue prior to picking up and dropping off students. They go through red lights and do not adhere to speed zones. She has contacted the Neshaminy School District multiple times but her concerns have not been addressed.

Joanne Cumming reiterated her complaints about the electronic speed signs that aren't working. Chief Godzieba said that he will follow up with the repair company. He also said that the issue with traffic in the Borough is not so much speed, but volume, and cars are not able to go over 35 miles per hour because of the heavy congestion. Chief Godzieba continued to explain the difficulties of monitoring speeding and informed the public of what he has done and is currently doing to address traffic issues.

Peter Miles, 150 North Bellevue Avenue, said that more officers need to be out patrolling and more help must be given to the Chief. President Culleton suggested continuing the discussion of traffic safety at the traffic safety forum. She said that the comments made tonight will be taken into account in planning the agenda for the forum.

Robert Bealer, with the Sons of the American Legion, applied for two food truck permits. He was coordinating with the organizers of Porch Fest, as the American Legion typically provides hot dogs and burgers. The American Legion is also running an event later in the day on October 5th called Phantom Festival. There was discussion about the permits; Manager Bradshaw said they were paid for as solicitation permits. Vice President Horwatt said this was not correct and after further discussion, Vice President Horwatt said that the American Legion must submit an event permit. President Culleton suggested that Mr. Bealer follow up tomorrow with Clerk Tenaglia, Manager Bradshaw, Pat Mervine, and the American Legion to see what needs to be done.

Betsy Carr, 240 North Green Street, said that the overgrowth along West Marshall Avenue should be cut to allow cars to more easily pass through.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Godzieba received a call last night about a sinkhole forming on West Marshall and Wells Avenue. Bucks County Water and Sewer came out early this morning to repair the sinkhole. Chief Godzieba also met with the technician from TWG Security who handles the Borough's intersections. They discussed different ways to get better video feed back to the office from the playground. Chief Godzieba then informed Council that on the 28th of August, Officer Dekalb responded to an emergency medical call at Brothers Pizza. A man in his car was having a heart attack; Officer Dekalb found a loaded gun and drugs in the man's possession. The man was taken to Saint Mary's Hospital and Officer Dekalb pulled his firearm permit. Chief Godzieba also mentioned that he had requested RDA funding for the speed cushions, camera improvements, a thermal imaging camera, and two additional radios. President Culleton said that the Resolutions for the first two items are on the agenda; a resolution for the other two will be voted on at the Work Session on the 26th.

CONSENT AGENDA: The consent agenda consisted of the minutes for the 8/14 Council Meeting and the 8/29 Work Session, The Treasurer's Report, payment of bills, a permit for the Langhorne Council for the Arts Porch Fest on 10/5 (10/6 rain date), procedure for appointment to Boards and Commissions, and Resolution 2024-24: TO RATIFY AND CONFIRM THE MONTHLY TRANSFER OF BOROUGH FUNDS IN EXCESS OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS BY THE BOROUGH TREASURER INTO THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT TRUST (KNOWN AS PLGIT). Councilperson Haldeman took the Treasurer's Report off the consent agenda for further review.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Zielinski, Council voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda minus the Treasurer's report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Country Club Lane & North Bellevue Avenue Paving and Sidewalk Project: Engineer George DiPersio discussed the BCRDA grant application to fund the repaving of Country Club Lane and North Bellevue Avenue above Summit Avenue. CKS recommends that the Borough apply for a grant of \$124,160 and Mr. DiPersio offered to provide a copy of the estimate that will be submitted with the application.

MOTION: On motion of Vice President Horwatt, seconded by Councilperson Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to accept Resolution 2024-25: AUTHORIZING A SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION TO THE COUNTY OF BUCKS REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UNDER THE MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM TO SECURE FUNDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE BOROUGH.

Crosswalk at Pine & Watson: As of yesterday, all the signage and delineators have been installed. The flashers are expected to be delivered in late September and installed by early October.

Maple Square Basin: Mr. DiPersio said that the Solicitor suggested it may be worthwhile for CKS to prepare a report before reaching out to Middletown's engineer. He asked Council for feedback on what they want CKS to include. Vice President Horwatt said that CKS should confirm that the basin is in the Borough. Since the basin is backed up, she anticipates that CKS will find blockage that goes from the basin into the Methodist Church Basin. President Culleton said that the motion should be changed to direct CKS to perform a field investigation of the Maple Square Basin and then reach out to Middletown. She said that CKS will also reach out to PennDOT regarding the pipes beneath the Methodist Church. Mr.

DiPersio said that he can prepare a summary in time for the Work Session on the 26th. There was also discussion about the MS4.

MOTION: On motion of Vice President Horwatt, seconded by Councilperson Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to direct the Engineer to conduct a field investigation of the Maple Square Basin and then contact Middletown Township regarding the maintenance agreement, as well as contact PennDOT regarding maintenance of the elliptical pipes beneath the Methodist Church driveway and parking lot.

The Mayors' Playground: CKS submitted the ARPA grant for the multi-purpose community facility at the Mayors' Playground. Notification of grant awards was expected back in July or August, but it has not been announced yet. Mr. DiPersio said that it may be useful for the Borough consider an alternative program if the ARPA grant is not successful. CKS recommends the DCED's Statewide Local Share Account (LSA), which does not require a match and offers up to a million dollars.

Richardson Avenue Drainage Improvement Project: CKS will perform the one-year maintenance inspection of the project this month. Mr. DiPersio suggested that Councilperson Harris, who had raised concerns about the volume of water in front of his home at 205 Hulmeville Avenue, provide his availability to Manager Bradshaw so CKS can have their inspector meet with him during a rain event.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: No one from the Planning Commission was present to give a report. President Culleton said that the three Ordinances to amend the Zoning Ordinance have been advertised and will be voted on in October. The Ordinance being voted on to advertise today will add the additional appendices H and I to the TND Ordinance.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Marfia, seconded by Councilperson Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to approve advertisement of proposed Ordinance 2024-XX: AMENDING A PORTION OF THE ZONING CODE OF THE BOROUGH, SPECIFICALLY THE TND-1 OVERLAY DISTRICT AS ORDAINED BY ORDINANCE NO. 2024-01A, IN ORDER TO INCLUDE APPENDIX H REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AND AMENITIES FOR THE TND-1 OVERLAY DISTRICT AND APPENDIX I REGARDING IDEAL DEVELOPMENT BUILD OUT PLAN (IDBO), TO REPEAL INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS, AND TO ESTABLISH SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

RC3 PARTIAL CLOVERLEAF PROJECT: President Culleton informed the public of the Borough's outreach efforts to Middletown Township and Langhorne Manor in the last few months regarding the RC3 Project. Middletown does not support any delay in the RC3 Project, and their traffic engineer does not support the alternative plan drawn up by Joe Fiocco of SAFE Engineering. Langhorne Manor has not responded. Recently, Senator Farry reached out to President Culleton and Manager Bradshaw with an offer to set up a meeting with himself, Representative Hogan, and PennDOT representatives to open a channel of communication. President Culleton has agreed to meet with PennDOT this Friday, but made it clear that she would use the meeting to discuss the Borough's concerns and had no intention of dropping her opposition to the Cloverleaf Project. Councilperson Haldeman expressed his concerns that the Borough is spending far too much money on engineering. President Culleton suggested that she, Vice President Horwatt, and Councilperson Cumming meet with Manager Bradshaw to discuss what they want the conversation with PennDOT to raise. Councilperson Haldeman said that he has withdrawn the motion he proposed during the August Work Session to drop opposition to the RC3 Partial Cloverleaf Project because he believes the Borough's strategy with PennDOT is moving in a positive direction. President Culleton noted that Middletown supports the Borough in asking PennDOT to hold a public meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Carol Ann Aicher, a resident of Langhorne Manor Borough, said that she represents fifty-seven Manor residents who feel that their Council is not representing them regarding their opposition to the RC3 Project. She also spoke in support of the service roads.

Margaret Malandra, 203 Station Avenue said that Borough residents should attend the next Manor Council Meeting.

Jean White, 149 West Richardson Avenue, expressed her concerns about how the Borough will be altered if Gillam Avenue becomes the service road.

Larry Zetterberg, 129 West Marshall Avenue, encouraged the Borough not to give up opposition to PennDOT.

Joy Ward, a resident of Langhorne Manor Borough, thanked the Borough for having a discussion and continuing to oppose PennDOT.

Pat Carr, 240 North Green Street, expressed his skepticism about President Culleton and Manager Bradshaw's meeting with PennDOT. He worried the purpose of the meeting is to push Council into dropping opposition to the RC3 Project. President Culleton said that she made it clear that she is not dropping opposition to the Partial Cloverleaf.

Carol Zetterberg, 129 West Marshall Avenue, echoed Mr. Carr's concerns about the meeting and suggested that the meeting be held publicly. President Culleton said that such a meeting could happen in the future. Council and Mrs. Zetterberg also spoke about the environmental study that PennDOT is conducting. Vice President Horwatt asked residents to inform Council if PennDOT approaches them about participating in the study.

Bonnie Miles, 150 North Bellevue, said that delaying the environmental study to be done correctly is preferable to a rushed and imperfect study. President Culleton said that the environmental study must be completed before the project can enter its final stage. She said that the likelihood of anything changing from the current to the final stage depends largely on the findings of the environmental study.

Pat Carr, 240 North Green Street, asked if Joe Fiocco of SAFE Engineering is included in the Friday meeting with PennDOT; President Culleton said that he is not. Mr. Carr also said that \$20,000 over three years for SAFE Engineering is not a lot of money, and Mr. Fiocco's services have been worth the cost.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- The sinkhole on West Marshall and Wells has been fixed and should be filled by tomorrow.
- Manager Bradshaw has requested a speed study for North Bellevue.
- The Borough office's new cybersecurity equipment has been installed.
- Clerk Tenaglia has been working on a revised fee schedule for 2025. It will be available for discussion at the October Council Meeting.
- Manager Bradshaw asked for the priorities for the RDA grants. President Culleton suggested that Chief Godzieba prioritize his RDA grant applications. The PMEMS will be number two.
- Clerk Tenaglia asked what should be done about the "Welcome to Langhorne" signs, which have

been approved by HARB. The signs will come before Council at their next meeting.

COMMITTEE, BOARD & COMMISSION REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Councilperson Haldeman said that there were some corrections to the Treasurer's Report that he went over with Treasurer Ellyn Schoen. He wants to make changes to show where the money is being spent so Council can review the report more easily. Council discussed the report further and whether to approve it; President Culleton said that it can be tabled until the October Council Meeting. Vice President Horwatt moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Councilperson Cumming seconded. Councilperson Haldeman moved to table the Treasurer's Report. Solicitor Truelove said that the motion to table can be voted on first. If it passes, the report will be discussed at the next meeting.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Haldeman, seconded by Councilperson Zielinski, Council voted 4-3 to table the Treasurer's Report until the October Council Meeting. President Culleton and Councilpersons Harris, Zielinski, and Haldeman voted in favor. Vice President Horwatt and Councilpersons Cumming and Marfia voted against.

Environmental Advisory Committee: Vice President Horwatt said that the MS4 report has been submitted to the engineer. She also said that the EAC needs more members. If EAC didn't prepare the report, it would cost the Borough anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to have the MS4 report done. President Culleton said that a call for new EAC members has been posted on the Borough website and social media and invited any residents interested in joining to send a letter of interest to Manager Bradshaw.

Heritage Farm/L.O.S.I.: Pat Carr said that Heritage Farm has an upcoming Swingin' at the Farm event this Sunday, and their fall Flea Market will be held next Saturday the 21st. They are also getting ready for the Christmas tree and wreath sale. Mr. Carr also said that the trees on the perimeter of the farm have been trimmed. Carol Zetterberg took a moment to inform Council that a very popular Artist-at-the-Farm, Joan Curtis, recently passed away. Mr. Carr continued with his report, telling Council that Transue Tree Service will fell the dead ash trees on the Catawissa Trail on October 2nd. He also told Council that several weeks ago, the sign at the Catawissa entrance on Maple Avenue fell over because the wooden post had rotted. L.O.S.I. will pay for the repairs. Mr. Carr recommended getting a powder-coated aluminum post instead. President Culleton asked if that needs to go through HARB; Vice President Horwatt recommended submitting a Repair-Replace-In-Kind form.

Recreation Board: Councilperson Zielinski said that one of their cars was vandalized. He stressed the importance of getting the new cameras for the Mayors Playground.

Shade Tree Commission: No meeting. There were seven requests for fall planting.

Zoning/Building Inspection Reports: Councilperson Marfia said that the zoning report should say more about what the zoning officer has done. He also noted that there was no HARB report. He said that HARB reports should include the Repair-Replace-In-Kind HARB applications. President Culleton said that could be a request from the office.

SIDEWALK & CURB ORDINANCE: President Culleton explained the proposed Sidewalk & Curb Ordinance. Councilperson Haldeman asked about the requirements of the Ordinance. Solicitor Truelove said that it will fall under the Property Maintenance Code and give the Borough more power to enforce sidewalk

maintenance. There was further discussion about the necessity of the Ordinance.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Zielinski, Council voted unanimously to request the Solicitor to draft a Sidewalk & Curb Ordinance.

POST-COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT: President Culleton explained that this is an agreement with the Neshaminy School District to amend the conditions of sale of the Mayors' Playground to permit the multi-purpose community building. Councilperson Haldeman pointed out a typo on 5B, page 2. Solicitor Truelove said that Council can vote to approve the agreement subject to revision.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Zielinski, Council voted unanimously to approve the post-compliance agreement with the Neshaminy School District regarding the Mayors' Playground, subject to the correction of the typo on 5B, page 2.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Zielinski, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted unanimously to accept Resolution 2024-27: AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A MUNICIPAL GRANT APPLICATION TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF BUCKS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF ROAD SPEED CUSHION BY THE BOROUGH, and Resolution 2024-28: AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A MUNICIPAL GRANT APPLICATION TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF BUCKS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SECURITY CAMERA UPGRADES AS USED BY AND MONITORED BY THE BOROUGH'S POLICE DEPARTMENT.

SNOW PLOWING AND LEAF CLEANUP: Vice President Horwatt explained the timeline and what needed to be done to advertise. Solicitor Truelove and Vice President Horwatt said that it does not require a formal bid process because it is below the bidding threshold. Councilperson Cumming asked how often leaf cleanup gets done, and Council discussed doing cleanup twice in the fall. It was decided that Manager Bradshaw would get quotes for the cleanup.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Marfia, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted unanimously to advertise for snow plowing.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Pat Carr, 240 North Green Street, mentioned an issue with a telephone pole. Manager Bradshaw said he will follow up.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: No report.

ADJOURNMENT & EXECUTIVE SESSION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Zielinski, Council voted unanimously to adjourn and enter into executive session at 9:52 p.m.

The executive session ended at 10:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Bradshaw, Borough Manager / Secretary

Next Council Meeting: October 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.