

Langhorne Borough Council Meeting

September 13, 2023

A Langhorne Borough Council meeting was held in person in Council Chambers on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. President Paul Murdock called the meeting 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, Kristen Farry and Scott Haldeman; Mayor Joe Taylor; Treasurer Ellyn Schoen; Solicitor representative Barbara Kirk; Police Chief John Godzieba; and Manager Steve Bradshaw.

Absent: Clerk Mary Zimmerman

Mayor's Report: Mayor discussed the resurfacing of Richardson Ave and Hulmeville Rd following the PECO gas line upgrade. President Murdock noted that Richardson Avenue had recently been repaved and asked if PECO would be responsible to return the road back to its original state. Mr. DiPersio said he believed that PECO should be responsible.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Godzieba asked Council to approve a Resolution to submit an application to the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority (RDA) Municipal Grant Program to upgrade and replace the Police Departments Less Lethal Taser systems for \$29,000.

Motion: On motion of Councilperson Horwatt seconded by Councilperson Farry, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2023-15, allowing the Borough Manager to submit an RDA Grant for the Police Department for the purchase of Less Lethal Taser systems for \$29,000.

Announcements & Presentation: None

Engineer's Report: George DiPersio from CKS Engineers reported:

- The Richardson Ave Drainage Project is completed. Borough Manager signed the final pay estimate and change order to include the Maple Ave manhole repair. The one-year maintenance period for the drainage project began on September 7, 2023. There will be an inspection before September 7, 2024 and the contractor will be required to correct any observed deficiencies.
- Route 413 Storm Inlet project is progressing. An RDA grant application is being prepared to cover the cost of repairing/replacing 13 stormwater inlets as well as adding an ADA compliant crosswalk with rapid flashing beacons and new line striping at East Watson and Route 413 intersection for \$274,080. A second inspection will be scheduled with a Borough hired contractor to pull the covers so the inlets can be thoroughly inspected prior any work being done. PennDOT staff can attend the inspection if ample notice is given.
- Pending minor-subdivision for 141-151 West Maple Ave. Application was discussed at the August 16, 2023 Planning Commission meeting. No recommendation was issued at that meeting. Applicant is working with their engineer to revise the plans. Bucks County Planning Commission has not issued a review to date.
- Crestwood-Bellevue Ave Residential Development Project (Woods Services/Toll Bros.) Zoning Hearing was held on August 30, 2023. Toll described the 31-unit Exhibit Plan presented by Langhorne Borough Planning Commission as being "unbuildable". The top three issues of concern from residents are Density/housing type, Impervious cover/stormwater, and Site access/circulation. A second hearing is scheduled to take place on September 28, 2023. Borough Solicitor was supplied

with a copy of an Impervious Coverage Exhibit for use in the next hearing.

Public Comment: Mr. Timothy Harris, 205 Hulmeville Ave., asked about the maintenance program and stormwater being diverted on Hulmeville Ave and damage to private property. Mr. DiPersio explained that within the scope of the project, the contractor is only responsible for areas that were touched by the contractors. George advised Mr. Harris to address his concerns to the Borough Manager so that they can be forwarded to a CKS inspector that is local to the area.

Councilperson Haldeman asked about the timing of PennDOT repaving Route 413. Mr. DiPersio advised that the RDA awards their grants in the November/December time frame and PennDOT plans on doing the repaving sometime in the spring. It's CKS's hope that the project could be designed, bided, and permitted no later than March of 2024. Councilperson Horwatt asked if the grates needed to be pulled now. Mr. DiPersio stated that it would be beneficial to have them inspected prior to the planning of the project. Councilperson Haldeman asked about bicycle safe grates. Mr. DiPersio replied that PennDOT would replace and cover the cost of any grates that were not bicycle safe.

Mr. Patrick Carr of 240 N. Green St asked for clarification on the 141/151 W Maple Ave. application timeline. Mr. DiPersio stated that the Borough Planning Commission has a 60-day timeline per Borough Code to make a recommendation. Borough Clerk has sent an extension letter to the residents to submit a 30-day extension.

Public Comment: None

Motion: On motion of Councilperson Marfia seconded by Councilperson Mason, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2023-11, Authorizing the Borough submission of an application to the Redevelopment Authority of Bucks County to secure funds for the infrastructure and safety improvements within the Borough.

Council Discussion: Establishing a Borough Motto. Councilperson Mason brought up that for very little cost the Borough could raise its profile and bring some positive publicity to the Borough. He suggested that a poll be posted on Facebook to have residents involved. The Communications Team would be setting it up.

Council Discussion: Councilperson Culleton discussed the updates to proposed Anti-discrimination Ordinance. Solicitor Kirk prepared the Ordinance based on Yardly Borough's Ordinance, with the addition of protection of breastfeeding mothers and eliminating any reference to conversion therapy or emotional support animals at this time. Federal law protects the use of service animals. Councilperson Haldeman wanted clarification on Section 4B: Unlawful Practices. Solicitor Kirk explained that it would be unlawful to retaliate against any individual for supporting the Ordinance that opposes a forbidden practice. Councilperson Culleton asked if any other members of Council would like to be involved with setting up the Human Relation Committee. Councilperson Farry volunteered.

Motion: On motion of Councilperson Culleton seconded by Councilperson Farry, Council voted unanimously to approve advertisement of Ordinance 2023-04 Establishing the Langhorne Borough Human Relations Commission and Prohibiting Discrimination in Housing, Employment, Public Accommodations and Access to Educational Institutions.

Motion: On motion of Councilperson Mason seconded by Councilperson Culleton, Council voted unanimously to approve moving forward with General Code to provide codification to the Borough.

Motion: On motion of Councilperson Farry seconded by Councilperson Horwatt, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2023-12, Authorizing the Borough Manager to submit a grant application to the Redevelopment Authority of Bucks County for the purchase of Lucas 3 CPR/Chest Compression System for use by Pennel-Middletown Emergency Squad.

Discussion: Jay Ferraro, Board Member of the Barbara T. Ferraro Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation, a Langhorne based, registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with a mission to advance the prevention, detection, and cure of Ovarian Cancer by targeting all donations to groundbreaking research solely for Ovarian Cancer, asked Langhorne Borough Council to support naming September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness month. President Murdock suggested that Langhorne Borough and the Barbara T. Ferraro Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation could do a more formal recognition or event in the future to help raise awareness.

Motion: On motion of Councilperson Horwatt seconded by Councilperson Marfia, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2023-13, officially recognizing September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness month.

Motion: On motion of Councilperson Marfia seconded by Councilperson Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2023-14, to join Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (Known as PLGIT) and establishing an effective date.

Manager's Report:

- Next Zoning Hearing Board meeting is scheduled for Sept. 28th, same day as Council Work Session
 - Council agreed to cancel the Work Session
- Meeting with Rich O'Brian from Keystone Municipal to discuss a Comprehensive Sidewalk Program on Wed (9/20) at 2 pm
 - Walk the entire community
 - Mark all bad sidewalks
 - Issue notices to residents
 - He stressed that it is important that the Council is behind the plan because residents may be upset.
- The African-American Museum of Bucks Co will be submitting a Juneteenth event application for June 22, 2024 (June 23 rain date)
- Comcast Internet/phones will require new equipment, which will be bought with ARPA funds
 - Cybersecurity insurance?
- Sewage and fresh water pipes at the Farm are now insured
- Borough bought a projector and screen
- Update on the Ford Fusion
 - Needs to be cleaned
 - New title needs to be applied for

Solicitor's Report: Nothing new to report.

Environmental Advisory Committee: The Council did not meet. However, the MS4 report is mostly completed with a few minor adjustments that need to be made, and it will be submitted on time.

Fire Company: No Report.

HARB: Motion: No Report.

Heritage Farm/L.O.S.I.: Chair Pat Carr gave updates on events at the farm and reported that the new Caretakers, who moved in on August 1, 2023, have been working out great.

Planning Commission: No report

Recreation Board: Councilperson Horwatt mentioned how well the Pet Fair went.

Shade Tree Commission: No Report

Communications Team: No Report

Motion: On motion of Councilperson Mason, seconded by Councilperson Culleton, Council voted unanimously to approve Langhorne Business Association Olde Harvest Day Festival on Oct 28th.

Council Discussion:

- Council President Murdock explained that the Borough Clerk created a new event application form for events that do not need Council approval as a way to keep track of large events happening throughout the Borough.

Public Comment

- Councilperson Scott Haldeman, 135 W. Maple Ave, asked if everyone noticed the new brick work along Maple Ave and Bellevue Ave around the Richardson House. He wanted to thank Joe Cimino for donating the work at no cost to the Borough. Councilperson Horwatt explained that the Borough should invest in polymeric sand to keep the weeds from growing between the bricks.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion: On motion of Councilperson Farry, seconded by Councilperson Culleton, Council voted 5 - 0 to approve the Treasurer's Report. Councilpersons Marfia and Haldeman abstained.

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

Adjournment: With no other business, on motion of Councilperson Vice President Mason, seconded by Councilperson Marfia, Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Bradshaw, Borough Secretary

Next Council Meeting: October 11, 2023