

**Langhorne Borough Council Meeting Minutes**  
**September 8, 2021**

A meeting of the Langhorne Borough Council was held on Wednesday, September 8, 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 were: President Kari Thomas, Vice President Scott Haldeman, Councilwomen Kathleen Horwatt and Kristen Farry, Councilmen Anthony Marfia, Paul Murdock and Rich Mason, Mayor Joseph Taylor, Manager/Secretary Christine Schoell, Police Chief John Godzieba, Solicitor Catherine Anne Porter and Treasurer Ellyn Schoen.

**Announcements & Presentations:** President Thomas reminded Council that someone would have to handle the Borough's website and social media updates after her term ended in December. President Thomas announced that the Langhorne Council for the Arts would hold a Chalk Walk and Porch Fest on September 25<sup>th</sup> (rain date on the 26<sup>th</sup>); that the Bucks County Folk Song Society would host an event at the Heritage Farm on the 26<sup>th</sup>; and, that there would be a document shredding event on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at State Representative Frank Farry's office.

**Public Comment:** Paul Schneider of 233 N. Bellevue Ave. asked about soil disturbance and tree removal at 146 N. Bellevue Ave. President Thomas stated that only a HARB application had been submitted, that no other applications were submitted and no permits issued, and that the HARB application was for the construction of a garage in the rear of the property. Manager Schoell advised that the HARB application had been withdrawn and that new plans for the garage, with new materials, would be submitted. Jean Rounsaville of 231 N. Bellevue Ave. was concerned that blacktop installed with the garage would create water drainage issues and that soil disturbances might impact the adjacent cemetery. Solicitor Porter advised that an abandoned cemetery was not protected from development.

Jean Rounsaville asked if the water bubbling up on N. Bellevue Ave. was being investigated. Manager Schoell reported that she had contacted Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority about the issue. President Thomas suggested placing a cone in front of the pipe.

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Taylor praised the traffic signal upgrades in the Borough.

**Chief's Report:** Chief Godzieba reported that no issues arose at the Cultural Day or the Pet Fair, that several people were pulled over for completely running the 4-way stop sign intersection at S. Bellevue and Richardson Avenues during traffic enforcement watches, that there would be continued enforcement at that intersection, and that residents could go the Ready Bucks PA page to sign up for alerts for emergencies such as tornadoes.

Chief Godzieba also reported that the Dodge Durango should be at the Fred Beans dealership next week, that he would like to re-apply for RDA grants for body cameras and a police car camera as the prior grants were not funded and that an RDA grant to replace firearms for the Borough officers be submitted. In addition to these requests, Councilwoman Horwatt requested submitting a grant application for a solar powered speed display.

**Manager's Report:** Manager Schoell stated that she would like to submit an RDA grant application for a composite garage door, which would be better maintenance and higher security than a wooden door, which would be a substitute if the cost of the composite door was too high.

Manager Schoell reported that John Genovesi provided the calculations and maps needed get an estimate to repair the storm drain at Hulmeville Ave. and W. Richardson Ave. and suggested applying for an RDA grant to cover the costs.

**Motion:** On motion of Councilman Marfia seconded by Councilwoman Horwatt, Council voted unanimously to approve submitting RDA Grant applications for body cameras, car cameras and firearms for the Borough Police Department, a composite garage door and repair of the storm drain on Hulmeville Ave. and W. Richardson Ave.

Manager Schoell received a request from a representative of the Grundy Library to host a Touch a Truck program at the Library on October 16<sup>th</sup>; a request for Recreational Facilities, for a banner and for a road closure from the LBBA to hold the Annual Olde Langhorne Harvest Day on October 30<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.; a request for Recreational Facilities and for a banner from the Jesse Soby American Legion Post for the Annual Veterans Day 5K Run/1 Mile Walk on November 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; and, a Request for Recreational Facilities from the Hulmeville Soccer Club for their annual renewal of the usage of the Mayors Playground for the 2021-2022 season, along with a check in the amount of \$700.

Manager Schoell clarified that the second payment for the American Rescue Plan Act would come in July of 2022, that all funds must be used no later than December of 2024, and that any unused funds at that point must be paid back by 2026.

Manager Schoell reminded Council that the PennDOT meeting was scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at State Representative Frank Farry's office.

**Motion:** On motion of Councilman Murdock seconded by Vice President Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to approve the three Requests for Recreational Facilities for the Annual Olde Langhorne Harvest Day, the Annual Veterans Day 5K Run/1 Mile Walk, and the Hulmeville Soccer Club's usage of the Mayors Playground.

President Thomas and Manager Schoell suggested that the Planning Commission and Council meet prior to the PennDOT meeting to discuss their concerns and that Pennoni be contacted regarding the issue of increased traffic from the proposed clover leaf interchange. Councilwoman Horwatt stated that she would like to see signs posted that prohibit trucks from using the interchange. Councilman Mason stated that PennDOT would likely be able to provide necessary equipment to the Borough such as signs and signals, but that it would be more difficult to address other more serious issues such as traffic flow and drainage. Brian Smiley stated that he was particularly concerned about the increase in cut-through traffic on Flowers Ave. and suggested that the residents should also be heard regarding this interchange. President Thomas assured that she had already tried to inform people through Facebook and e-mails about it. Solicitor Porter brought up the possibility of certain properties, such as the Exxon, being purchased for the land to be used as a turning lane, which may serve to help alleviate some of the traffic. President Thomas suggested having that aforementioned meeting to make sure that everyone is on the same page on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Manager Schoell received an invoice for \$76,977.83 from K.E. Seifert for the emergency storm drain repairs at 301 E. Maple Ave. President Thomas suggested paying half from Liquid Fuels funds and half from the ARPA funds.

**Motion:** On motion of Councilwoman Horwatt seconded by Vice President Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to pay the invoice for \$76,977.83, using \$60,000 from the Liquid Fuels funds and \$17,000 from the ARPA funds.

Manager Schoell asked about applying for an RDA Grant to replace the roof at Borough Hall, with an estimated cost of \$78,700, plus \$12,500 if gutters and downspouts were included.

**Motion:** On motion of Councilman Murdock seconded by Vice President Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to apply for an RDA Grant for new slate roof, gutters and downspouts for the Borough Hall.

Vice President Haldeman asked if there was an advantage to making payments from different funds. Treasurer Schoen explained that Liquid Fuels funds could only be used for limited and specific items and should be used unless there was a road project in the future.

Councilwoman Farry and Vice President Haldeman agreed to serve on the Budget Committee again. Manager Schoell asked if the EAC and Recreation Board would meet next year on the same schedule. Councilwoman Horwatt asked to move the quarterly meetings to different dates that would not coincide with holidays. Manager Schoell reported that there were two more scheduled work sessions and that snow removal and mowing bids would be considered in October or November.

**Engineer's Report:** None.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

**Motion:** On motion of Councilwoman Farry seconded by Councilwoman Horwatt, Council voted unanimously to approve the August 11, 2021 Minutes; as revised by the Solicitor.

**Approval of the Treasurer's Report:**

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

**Payment of the Bills:**

**Motion:** On motion of Vice President Haldeman seconded by Councilman Marfia, Council voted unanimously to approve the payment of the bills.

**EAC:** Councilman Mason reported that the EAC did not meet. He asked President Thomas about the status of installing an EV charging station in the parking lot at the Will Travel building. President Thomas stated that her mother suggested installing the station at the back of the parking lot to not affect tenants, while President Thomas preferred it close to the building.

**HARB:** HARB recommends approval of the following applications.

1. Gregg Mervine            202 W. Maple Ave.  
Approval of paint colors for repainting the house as per samples submitted. The body of the house will remain white. Trim, porch columns, stairs and porch floor will be Oceanside blue. Marigold and burgundy will be used for detailing.
2. Christine Schoell       114 E. Maple Ave.  
For the Borough, approval of replacement of garage doors (now one wood slider door and one wood lift door) with two wood lift doors of the same design. The color will be sandstone. The top and trim will be painted to match.
3. Kirt Niedrist            305 N. Bellevue Ave.  
Replace existing kitchen casement windows on the south side of the house with Pella Lifestyle wood casement windows. The window configuration will remain the same. The windows are not visible from the street.
4. Darrell Swartz           146 N. Bellevue Ave.  
Mr. Swartz attended the meeting. The Board explained why the building design previously approved was no longer appropriate now that the proposed building was clearly visible from the street. Mr. Swartz was willing to revise his plans reducing the size of the building and using different materials in order to address the Board's concerns so the application was tabled.

Councilman Murdock asked what the Item #4 revised plans would entail. Councilman Marfia explained that the initial approval stemmed from the fact that the garage would be located at the back of the building and not be visible from the street. Mr. Swartz stated that some of the trees that were taken down were either dead or in poor condition.

**Motion:** On motion of Councilman Murdock seconded by Councilwoman Horwatt, Council voted unanimously to approve HARB Applications 1, 2, and 3.

Vice President Haldeman asked about the status of the addition at 128 W. Maple Ave. Manager Schoell stated that the building addition's size must be reduced to comply with the 800 square foot limit of accessory buildings on properties in the Borough.

**Farm/LOSI:** Carol Zetterberg reported that the Flea Market would be held on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and that there were some changes planned for the October 9<sup>th</sup> Catawissa Rededication Event. Due to the limitations of space on the trails, the event would be held a much smaller scale that was not open to the general public, but limited to inviting members of LOSI, members of Council and the donors for Catawissa. A children's art table was planned and she encouraged the adults who will attend to also bring their children.

**Planning Commission:** While there was no report, the Planning Commission did meet to discuss the PennDOT interchange.

**Shade Tree Commission:** None.

**Recreation Board:** Councilwoman Horwatt reported that the Recreation Board meeting was postponed until October, that vehicles brought onto the fields at the Mayors Playground during the last two events caused serious damage to the soccer fields. The Rotary Club fixed the damages to the field soon afterward. Councilwoman Horwatt thanked Manager Schoell and Chief Godzieba for their oversight of the repairs and suggested that the Borough take escrows to cover similar problems in the future. Councilwoman Horwatt reported that the Lucille Messina Memorial Tree in the Mayors Playground died due to receiving too much water.

**Public Comment:** Carol Zetterberg reported that there had been significant storm damage at Catawissa and that the trails were worse than they had ever been. While the main trail was originally curved to ensure that the grade was low enough to make it handicap accessible, as the curves went through some places subject to wash out, she suggested straighten out the trails. Manager Schoell reported that AES would help out with Catawissa moving forward that she had reached out to them, and that they had kept in contact with Pat Carr regarding this issue.

**Solicitor's Report:** Solicitor Porter suggested that the pricing for police during special events should be more consistent and that there be clearer distinctions between the rates. President Thomas suggested having all non-profits pay the same rates for police coverage. Solicitor Porter asked if there should be a distinction between a nonprofit fundraising for themselves and one putting on a community event. Treasurer Schoen felt it would be simpler to keep them classified as either profit or nonprofit and then bill them accordingly. President Thomas suggested waiving fees this year because the ARPA funds could be used to cover the events. Chief Godzieba felt that paying the officers double time for working special events was reasonable since most of the Borough police officers were part-time and had other jobs. Council decided that the officers who worked the previous two major events were underpaid and should be compensated.

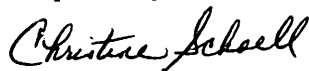
Solicitor Porter reported that the small wireless facilities ordinance had been advertised for consideration, but suggested tabling it so Council could better review it.

**Motion:** On motion of Councilwoman Horwatt seconded by Councilman Murdock, Council voted unanimously to table consideration of the ordinance until the next Council meeting.

President Thomas stated that she spoke with First National Bank regarding the No Parking Signs there. She stated that they do not care whether they are there or not. There were no objections in Council regarding the removal of the signs.

**Adjournment:** With no other business, on motion of Councilman Murdock seconded by Vice President Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the September 2021 Council meeting at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine Schoell  
Borough Secretary