

Langhorne Borough Work Session
January 30, 2025

A Langhorne Borough Work Session was held at Council Chambers on Thursday, January 30, 2025. President Culleton called the session to order at 7:05 p.m. and invited those in attendance to pledge allegiance to the Flag.

IN ATTENDANCE: President Culleton; Vice President Kathleen Horwatt; Councilpersons Scott Haldeman, Anthony Marfia, Bob Cumming, and Adam Zielinski; Solicitor Barbara Kirk; Interim Manager Mary Zimmerman; Clerk Gabe Tenaglia

Solicitor Kirk left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

ABSENT: Councilperson Tim Harris

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council entered into Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss legal and personnel matters.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Zielinski, Council voted 6-0 to come out of Executive Session at 7:43 p.m.

MOTION: On motion of Vice President Horwatt, seconded by Councilperson Zielinski, Council voted 6-0 to approve Resolution 2025-01 accepting the deed of easement for 62 Country Club Lane.

MUNICIPAL RDA GRANT CONTRACTS: Councilperson Marfia asked what the paving and sidewalk project entails. President Culleton explained that Mr. DiPersio recommended that the Borough use liquid fuels funds for the street paving because it cannot be used for the sidewalks. Then the leftover RDA grant funds can be used for the sidewalks.

WAIVING OF SOLID WASTE FEES FOR 144 & 146 WEST RICHARDSON AVENUE: President Culleton proposed waiving the fees for 144 & 146 West Richardson Avenue, the properties devastated by the fire in November last year, until the properties are reinhabited. Councilperson Marfia expressed concern about setting a precedent of waiving trash fees for residents. After further discussion, Council agreed to waive the fees and amend the motion to specify "due to fire damage." President Culleton asked Interim Manager Zimmerman to make sure that notice is given to the families.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Marfia, seconded by Vice President Horwatt, Council voted 6-0 to approve waiving solid waste fees for 144 West Richardson Avenue and 146 West Richardson Avenue due to fire damage, until the properties are reinhabited.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION: Councilperson Cumming asked if the Borough should have pre-meetings with other municipalities regarding developments in PennDOT's RC3 Project. President Culleton said that this could be discussed at the Council Meeting on February 12th.

EAC UPDATE: A member of the Environmental Advisory Committee brought to the committee's attention that their yard waste was put into the regular trash this week. According to Leck Waste Services, their contract with the Borough states that they do not collect yard waste separately in

December, January, February, and March. Vice President Horwatt said that she reviewed their contract and it states that yard waste is collected year-round. She recommended that the solicitor review the Borough's contract with Leck, which ends this year. After further discussion, Solicitor Kirk said that this can be on the agenda for February. Vice President Horwatt also informed Council that the EAC must have a sediment reduction plan ready by the end of next year. The two options that EAC supports for sediment reduction are redoing the storm drain that goes along the road of the Langhorne Swim Club, or redoing part of the Methodist Church basin. EAC has \$53,000 coming from recycling funds from 2022 and a similar amount for 2023. Vice President Horwatt recommended that CKS be hired to proceed with the design and get approval from the Department of Environmental Protection. She said this should be an agenda item for February. There will also be a continuation of the January 27th EAC meeting on Monday, February 3rd in order to review the proposed changes to the Stormwater Ordinance. The two new members of the EAC will be appointed by Council on February 12th. Vice President Horwatt also brought up the issue of invasive species, particularly bamboo, in the basin. A community service worker started cutting the bamboo, and two students from the Neshaminy School District applied to do community service. They can cut and remove the bamboo and then someone can chip it and cart it away.

UPDATE OF PLANS FOR RICHARDSON AVENUE FIRE FIRST RESPONDERS: President Culleton said that the Middletown fire department and Bucks County Firefighters Association are planning on holding a ceremony to award Medals of Valor and Courage to eight people involved in the rescue. It will take place at the Middletown Supervisor's Meeting on February 18th. Fire Chief Frank Farry recommended that the Borough have a separate event, likely at the American Legion. He proposed that the Borough pass a set of resolutions giving unit citations to the fire and rescue companies that responded. The affected families could attend as well. President Culleton said that they are waiting to get more details from Chief Farry, and Council can pass the unit citation resolutions at their February 12th meeting.

SNOW REMOVAL: Councilperson Haldeman said that when PennDOT plowed the roads after the recent snowfall, they plowed snow onto the sidewalks on East and West Maple Avenue, forcing home and business owners to re-shovel. After further discussion, Vice President Horwatt said the Borough should reach out to the PennDOT administrator for Bucks County. Interim Manager Zimmerman said she could pose a question to the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs to get guidance from other municipalities. Councilperson Haldeman also proposed having a backup for snow removal, as suggested by Consultant Paul Leonard. He suggested approaching KE Seifert about being the Borough's backup for LS Land Construction.

2025 PRIORITIES:

Councilperson Haldeman:

- Shorter Council meetings

Vice President Horwatt:

- Plan for Langhorne Borough's 150th Anniversary in 2026
- Transportation and transportation studies

Councilperson Marfia:

- Upgrade the Bellevue and Flowers Avenue intersection
- Verify that everyone working in the Borough has a business license and pays the municipal service tax; make sure self-employed people pay earned income tax

- Finish cleaning Revolutionary War site, establish a committee for that purpose
- Implement curb & sidewalk requirements
- Have building inspector enforce existing Borough ordinances

Councilperson Cumming:

- Find new fire, safety, and building inspectors
- Get a new contract for the street lights, find another maintenance company
- Wants to join traffic safety commission and HARB

Councilperson Zielinski:

- Take care of work at Mayors' Playground
- Pursue grant for replacing damaged toy car
- Organize a health & wellness fair at the playground

Interim Manager Zimmerman:

- Modernize the office (meetings with other managers, codification, onboarding for new employees)
- Safety improvements for sidewalks and curbs
- Improve office work space and storage

President Culleton:

- Enact and implement fire safety ordinances
- Address traffic safety and congestion issues
- Complete codification process, find or recreate missing ordinances
- Support office staff
- Work with PC and BCPC to revise the Zoning Ordinance
- Pursue grants for MS4 Stormwater Mitigation
- Ensure that Council functions as a model of good government
- Establish succession plan for potential staff transitions and new Councilmember onboarding

COUNCIL DISCUSSION: Council discussed the possibility of having to recreate and pass new ordinances to replace missing ones for the codification project. President Culleton said that General Code has gotten through the first phase of codification but has been stalled because of the missing ordinances. Clerk Tenaglia said he emailed General Code at the beginning of the year and was told that they would be in touch with the Borough later in the year regarding how to proceed with the next phase. Vice President Horwatt also brought up that the meeting minutes need to be in a bound book.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Vice President Horwatt, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted 6-0 to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zimmerman, Interim Borough Manager / Secretary

Next Work Session: February 27, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.