

Langhorne Borough Council Work Session

October 26, 2023

A work session of Langhorne Borough Council was held in person in Council Chambers on Thursday, October 26, 2023. Council Vice President Mason called the session to order at 7:01 p.m. and invited those in attendance to pledge allegiance to the Flag.

IN ATTENDANCE: Vice President Mason; Councilpersons Tony Marfia (at 7:19pm), Nancy Culleton, Kathleen Horwatt, and Scott Haldeman (via zoom); Treasurer Ellyn Schoen and Manager Steve Bradshaw.

ABSENT: Council President Paul Murdock and Councilperson Kristen Farry

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION:

UPDATE ON THE TOLL BROTHERS ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING: Next Zoning Hearing Board meeting is scheduled for November 30th at 7pm. American Legion Soby Post is reserved and the notices of advertisement have been posted at both Borough Hall and the Soby Post.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION: Councilperson Horwatt discussed having Bucks County Planning to provide copies of all material to Langhorne Borough Planning Commission. Councilperson Culleton asked when LBPC would be ready to present an Ordinance to Council for a vote. Councilperson Horwatt stated that 3 out of 4 sections have been agreed upon but are still being worked on. Council would have to vote to advertise it before it could be voted on.

UPDATE ON 2024 BUDGET: Treasurer Schoen discussed meeting with the Budget Committee and went over the proposed budget line-item by line-item. There are still personnel matters that needed to be figured out before it would be complete. Langhorne Borough Police Chief Godzieba joined the meeting to discuss his department's officers' proposed salaries and hourly overages for 2023.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION: Councilperson Haldeman suggested that any excess funds in the budget be placed into a savings account. Councilperson Culleton asked about the Police Insurance policies. Treasurer Schoen explained that the insurance premiums are paid mid-year which explains why the line-item for it does not balance out at the beginning of the year. Vice President Mason asked about a Capital Expenditures line-item. Treasurer Schoen explained that was a rainy-day savings account. Councilperson Horwatt asked about the Engineering line-item. Treasurer Schoen explained that the overage in the previous year's budget was due to unforeseen expenses and proposed expenses for the next year are not expected to be as high. Vice President Mason suggested considering funds to hire a traffic engineering firm. Councilperson Horwatt asked about Repairs & Maintenance line-item. Treasurer Schoen explained that tree work, grass cutting, and replacing of garage doors were included in that item. Councilperson Culleton asked about the Sidewalk line-item. Treasurer Schoen explained that there was discussion about implementing a sidewalk program in the coming year. Councilperson Culleton asked for the Meeting & Conferences budget to be increased.

Councilperson Horwatt asked about Public Utility Service line-item. Treasurer Schoen explained that was the utilities bill for Borough Hall. Councilperson Culleton asked about Codification. Treasurer Schoen explained that part of the total project cost has already been paid and the full amount for the new budget was not needed. Councilperson Horwatt discussed the Public Works line-item and suggested possible hiring a Public Works service. Councilperson Haldeman stated that Kenny Banks would be submitting a \$8100 invoice for street repairs. Councilperson Culleton asked about the Fire Company's Workers Comp insurance policy. Treasurer Schoen stated that the numbers in this year's budget compared to next year's budget are way off because of moving the policy from Middletown Township's policy to our own policy. Councilperson Horwatt asked about the regular insurance policy. Treasurer Schoen explained the billing cycle. Councilperson Horwatt stated that the budget for the Rec. Board would need to be increased. Councilperson Culleton asked for clarification on State Capital and Operating Grants, Contributions from Private Sources, and the Solicitor's Fees line items.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION: Discussion on the dedication of Country Club Lane. Manager Bradshaw explained that Hill Wallack has prepared a petition for all residents of Country Club Ln to sign. CKS Engineering will prepare a legal description of the roadway to include with the required documentation. Councilperson Marfia expressed that he was unhappy to accept any more streets than needed. He and Vice President Mason felt that the residents should be required to pay half of the legal and engineering fees.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION: Discussion on adopting a CKS Engineering road-maintenance program. Councilperson Haldeman said that if Kenny Banks was going to be repairing the roads, then a maintenance program was not needed. It was discussed that this could wait for a year.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION: Councilperson Horwatt expressed that she wanted to see a Fire Safety/Marshal program started, but wished to have an Ordinance in place before further discussion. Any ordinances will be developed based on Middletown Township's.

MANAGER'S BRIEFING

- Flags are at half-staff due to Lewiston, Maine tragedy
- Barricades for Harvest Day have been coordinated
- Rt 413 inlet project
 - RDA grant presentation had been made
 - LS Land Construction quote to pull the storm drain inlets is \$3000
 - Inquired with local municipalities about a Vactor Truck. Have a quote from an equipment rental company for equipment that can perform the same functions for \$726
 - How the Borough wishes to proceed should be discussed at the 11/08 Council Meeting
- Borough Office computer network is up and running
- Trees and shrubs at Flowers Ave. and Bellevue Ave. have been trimmed
- Communications/Social Media projects
 - Placed notices about leaves being placed in the streets. Borough Code Enforcement Officer is preparing a violation notice that can be sent out if needed

- Contract is being prepared to hire someone to handle all social media
 - Borough Motto-it cost \$5 a day to post a questionnaire on Facebook
- Ford Focus cleaned, the Borough office is in possession of the title, and the car is listed on Municibid
- Armor & Sons has been notified about several streetlights out around the Borough
- PECO is performing infrastructure upgrades along Pine St. and Flowers Ave
- There are 4 applicants for the open Clerk/Administrative Assistant position.
- New Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor rates for 2024 will be \$185 an hour
- Bought 2 “watch for children” signs to be placed at the intersection of Green St. and Watson Ave.

ADJOURNMENT: With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Bradshaw, Secretary

The next Work Session November 30, 2023, at 7:00pm