

**Langhorne Borough Council Work Session
September 26, 2024**

A Work Session of Langhorne Borough Council was held at Council Chambers on Thursday, September 26, 2024. President Culleton called the session to order at 7:02 p.m. and invited those in attendance to pledge allegiance to the Flag.

IN ATTENDANCE: President Nancy Culleton; Vice President Kathy Horwatt; Councilpersons Bob Cumming, Adam Zielinski, Scott Haldeman, and Anthony Marfia; Solicitor Barbara Kirk; Manager Steve Bradshaw; Clerk Gabriel Tenaglia

Manager Bradshaw arrived at approximately 7:26 p.m.

ABSENT: Councilperson Tim Harris

AGENDA REVIEW: President Culleton said that the Manager Briefing will be moved to the end of the meeting because Manager Bradshaw has class on Thursday evenings and will be late. She also said that item 3, the clarification of Work Session dates, will be combined with item 6, the date for the traffic safety forum.

PUBLIC COMMENT: President Culleton said that while Work Sessions do not typically have public comment, she had been alerted of a matter a taxpayer needed to bring up regarding a de minimis action. Robert Bealer, the Sergeant-at-arms of the Sons of the American Legion Jesse Soby Post, reminded Council that he had submitted a permit application for food trucks along with a check, and that at the last meeting he was informed that the food truck permit was not needed and he had to submit an event permit instead. He said he would like for Council to consider approval of the event at this meeting. President Culleton called for a motion to amend the agenda to include the vote on the event permit.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Zielinski, Council voted 6-0 to amend the agenda to include the Sons of the American Legion event permit.

President Culleton summarized the event, which will take place on the American Legion Post grounds on October 5th, with a 10:00 a.m. setup and 9:30 p.m. cleanup.

MOTION: On motion of Vice President Horwatt, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted 6-0 to approve the Sons of the American Legion event permit.

Vice President Horwatt told Mr. Bealer that he must make sure flyers are distributed to all neighboring properties to ensure that neighbors know of the event ahead of time. Mr. Bealer said he will take care of that tomorrow. There was further discussion about the event.

MOTION: On motion of Vice President Horwatt, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted 6-0 to refund the \$200 permit fee submitted for the two food trucks that will be present at the event.

President Culleton announced that Erin Development will be submitting their revised development plan for the Heckman property sometime in October. She also announced that Solicitor Kirk has received the signed agreement from the Neshaminy School District permitting the Borough to pursue construction of

the proposed community center as part of their grant improvements for the Mayors Playground. President Culleton also informed Council that the Daughters of the American Revolution, as part of the Revolutionary War Memorial Bench dedication ceremony on October 19th, plan to honor the Borough with the DAR Excellence in Historic Preservation Award. President Culleton had said that she would attend, and she suggested that other Council members make their own decisions.

RESOLUTION 2024-29: Vice President Horwatt asked if “additional communications equipment” as stated in the Resolution includes upgrades to cameras, particularly the cameras at the Mayors Playground. Solicitor Kirk said that it is for police radios and accessories such as chargers, not cameras, but Chief Godzieba had indicated that there would be a submission for grants in 2025 as well. President Culleton asked Councilperson Zielinski what is going on with the additional surveillance cameras; he said that they are discussing the price.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Zielinski, seconded by Councilperson Marfia, Council voted 6-0 to approve Resolution 2024-29: AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING MUNICIPAL GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF BUCKS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA AND ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR THE BOROUGH’S POLICE DEPARTMENT.

PLAN “B” OPTIONS FOR MAYORS’ PLAYGROUND UPGRADES: President Culleton said that she has not heard whether the grant application for the Mayors Playground has been approved or not, but that CKS recommends coming up with a backup plan. Council discussed applying for the DCED’s Statewide Local Share Account (LSA), as recommended by CKS. The request limit for the grant is \$1 million, which is lower than the amount requested for the project for the PA COVID-19 ARPA Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Grant, which was about \$1.2 million. Councilperson Haldeman noted that the soft cost for engineering would be more than the Borough has available. President Culleton said they would have to scale down the project to cover the soft cost. She suggested that the Recreation Board work with the Engineer to figure out how to do this.

WORK SESSION DATES: President Culleton explained that Council had adjusted the dates for the October, November, and December Work Sessions because the original dates would have fallen too close to holidays. The correct dates are October 24th, November 21st, and December 19th, all of which were correctly advertised, but there was some confusion because the website calendar listed the incorrect dates. President Culleton also pointed out that November 21st is the date of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting. She noted that Rich Mason, the EAC Chair, said that they have not been able to get a quorum together for meetings and they may not be able to meet on that day anyway. President Culleton expressed reluctance to cancel the Council Work Session and asked for input. Solicitor Kirk said that to be safe, notice should be posted outside Council Chambers listing the correct meeting dates. She said a meeting could be held without a quorum, but Council could not take any actions. After further discussion, President Culleton recommended not voting to cancel the November 21st Work Session until the November Council Meeting.

TRAFFIC SAFETY FORUM: President Culleton said all they have to do to finalize the traffic safety forum is decide on a date. After some discussion, Council decided to hold the forum on Tuesday, October 15th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. President Culleton asked the office to post notice of the forum. Councilperson Zielinski recommended that there be an option to attend by Zoom.

ZONING MAP REVISIONS: President Culleton said that she has tried to distill the zoning map issues

related to the boundaries of the Historic District into a one-page explanation with the help of Solicitor Kirk and Planning Commission chair Paul Schneider. Solicitor Kirk said that it will take a while to sort out all the information because of the different maps, and it is too late to put the Zoning Map Ordinance on the agenda for approval on October 9th. She recommended letting PC work with HARB and the Bucks County Planning Commission to come up with a proposed map that resolves the boundaries of the Historic District. Then Council can table the Zoning map materials on that are on next meeting's agenda. After the proposed map is reviewed by the Borough, it can be put back on the agenda to be advertised.

There was further discussion and Councilperson Haldeman pointed out that there are too many versions of the map. Solicitor Kirk explained that the map as prepared in December 2023 is the version that was sent to the affected property owners, but one of the property owners pointed out an issue with this map. She and President Culleton also explained the discrepancies between the different maps: two from the eighties, the map made in 1995, and the 2023 map which was based off the 1995 map. Solicitor Kirk said that if the Borough returns to the 1985 version of the map, which shows the historic district under the Borough's jurisdiction (which is slightly different from the maps that show the National Historic District), an application must be submitted to Pennsylvania's State Historic and Archaeological Resource Exchange.

There was more discussion and Solicitor Kirk brought up the issue that the HARB regulations fall under the Zoning Ordinance, which complicates the appeals process. HARB appeals have to go through the Zoning Hearing Board, which is not equipped to deal with HARB issues. After further discussion, Council determined that they will not vote to advertise a new map on the October 9th Council Meeting, but instead send the project back to PC, HARB, and the Bucks County Planning Commission.

UPDATE ON PENNDOT'S RC3 PROJECT: President Culleton reported that on Friday September 13th, she, Councilperson Cumming, and Manager Bradshaw met with representatives from PennDOT and JMT Engineering, along with Senator Frank Farry, Representative Joe Hogan, their assistants, and a PennDOT legislative liaison. The topic of the Borough's current or future opposition to the project did not come up during the meeting. Regarding the Cloverleaf project, PennDOT stated that roundabouts in place of the Cloverleaf are now off the table. Their intention is to build the signalized Cloverleaf, but they are open to suggestions regarding design and mitigation. PennDOT has also made modifications of their plan and provided the Borough with an updated map.

Council took some time to discuss the map and plan, and then President Culleton presented PennDOT's comments on the timeline for the project. They said that the Environmental Study process is twelve months and may not begin until spring 2025. Currently PennDOT is in a pre-information gathering process. People who have filed for party status to the Environmental Study will be contacted when the official study period begins. PennDOT will hold a public officials meeting within a month of the start of the study, and a public hearing a few months later. After the study is completed, PennDOT will offer a 30 to 45-day period for public comment. It will take about six months from the completion of the study for the project to get final approval. Changes can be made until the final design phase.

Then President Culleton went over the mitigation suggestions the Borough submitted in 2021 to explain which ones PennDOT now says they might be able to execute. They might be able to help with the retiming of the lights within the Borough to coordinate them with the new signalized intersection, but they cannot move the signalized interchange so it is not in the Borough. According to PennDOT, maintenance is always the municipality's responsibility, though PennDOT could help with grants for when the signals need to be replaced.

President Culleton also updated Council on some other possible mitigations she, Manager Bradshaw, and Councilperson Cumming discussed with PennDOT, and reviewed the changes in communication with PennDOT going forward. Senator Farry will no longer be the go-between, though he and Representative Hogan will be kept informed and copied on correspondence. Council's communication with PennDOT should go through the Borough Manager or Council President. Council further discussed President Culleton's notes on the meeting, the updated map, and possible traffic mitigations.

CKS 2025 RATE SCHEDULE: CKS has provided the Borough with their 2025 rate schedule.

2024 FEE SCHEDULE: Clerk Tenaglia said that he was asked to amend the Borough's fee schedule, which has not been changed since 2022. He took the 2022 fee schedule and made certain changes. Then Council discussed specific items in the fee schedule. Solicitor Kirk asked if Council wanted to create a fee schedule for fire inspections. Council discussed when they might get the Ordinances through, and President Culleton suggested waiting to amend the fee schedule until the Ordinances are passed. Vice President Horwatt then asked why the liquor license fee requires an escrow; Solicitor Kirk said an escrow is recommended. Vice President Horwatt also said that lot line changes should not be \$1,000. President Culleton suggested she meet with Clerk Tenaglia to discuss further. Councilperson Zielinski said that the option to have copies of documents put on CDs should be removed from the fee schedule because the Borough no longer has that capability. President Culleton said that Council can discuss the fee schedule further at the October meeting, and if anyone has further questions, they can be forwarded to Clerk Tenaglia and Manager Bradshaw.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- The nine unused utility poles have been requested to be moved again. There is a long waitlist for that to happen; there is no confirmed timeline. Representative Hogan's office has been assisting Manager Bradshaw in this matter.

Councilperson Haldeman asked if Manager Bradshaw has looked into the hedges hanging over walkways. Manager Bradshaw said that any complaints should be sent to him. Councilperson Marfia said there is a Shade Tree Ordinance and questioned why people have to complain for the Ordinance to be enforced. Vice President Horwatt noted that the crosswalks have not been painted. Manager Bradshaw said that he had reached out to Middletown and will follow up. Vice President Horwatt also brought up the lights that are out in the Borough. After further discussion, Councilperson Zielinski offered to walk around the Borough one night and check.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Zielinski, Council voted 6-0 to adjourn and enter into Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. The Executive Session ended at approximately 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Bradshaw, Borough Manager / Secretary

Next Work Session: October 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.