

LANGHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION

September 6, 2022

A work session of Langhorne Borough Council was held in person in Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 6, 2022. President Paul Murdock called the session to order at 7:30 p.m. and invited those present to pledge allegiance to the Flag.

Present: President Murdock; Vice President Mason; Councilpersons Kathleen Horwatt, Nancy Culleton, Anthony Marfia, Scott Haldeman, and Kristen Farry; Treasurer Ellyn Schoen; Manager Paul Leonard; Clerk Mary Zimmerman.

Presentation and Discussion: Earned Income Tax. John Pinkerton of Keystone Collections Group presented an overview of the Earned Income Tax as it would apply to Langhorne Borough if Council chose to enact it. Langhorne Borough is one of only two municipalities in Bucks County that does not have an EIT. Keystone estimates that between 400 and 500 of the Borough's approximately 1600 residents already pay an EIT to the municipality where they work; with a Langhorne Borough EIT, it would be paid to the Borough and not be double taxed. Nonresidents working in the Borough would pay the tax to Langhorne Borough if they did not already pay it in their home municipality.

Keystone estimated that a 1% tax could bring a maximum of \$473K into the Borough in 2023, and a .5% tax could bring in as much as \$236K. Municipalities are allowed to tax residents and non-residents at either .5% or 1% (the maximum allowed by law) of earned income. Should it enact its own EIT Neshaminy School District, which does not currently have the tax, would be allowed to take .5% and leave the Borough the other .5%. No school district in the county has enacted an EIT since 2012. Any ordinance authorizing the tax should be passed no later than October 2022 for collection procedures to be put in place for the 2023 tax year. The Borough would only get 75% of the tax in the first calendar year, as the fourth quarterly payment would not come in until January 2024.

Presentation and Discussion: RC3 Project. Joe Fiocco of SAFE Engineering gave an update on his work and a timeline of his interaction with PennDOT, beginning with SAFE's July 21 letter to JMT comparing predicted crashes with the "no build" scenario, PennDOT's current plan, and SAFE's proposal for roundabouts in place of signalized intersections. PennDOT's engineers have requested more and more data from SAFE. Mr. Fiocco advised against the Borough paying SAFE to answer these requests, as it would drain the Borough's resources and PennDOT already has the data. At President Murdock's request, he sent a letter to JMT/PennDOT stating that he would do no more work until he received a response to his July 21 letter. Mr. Fiocco believed that the Borough passing a follow-up resolution opposing PennDOT's plan based on SAFE Engineering's analysis might be counterproductive.

President Murdock reported that he had received an email from PennDOT stating that the public meetings to explain the RC3 project to Langhorne Borough, Langhorne Manor, and Middletown Township residents would all be virtual, despite the three municipalities' request that they be hybrid.

Borough Manager Candidate: President Murdock introduced Steve Bradshaw, a candidate for the Borough Manager position. Mr. Bradshaw briefly explained his background and his interest in the position.

Borough Hall Roofing: Manager Leonard reported that there was about \$100K in the budget for re-roofing Borough Hall. He asked the Solicitor to review a bid for \$98K from DaVinci, a CoStars vendor. DaVinci estimated that roofing with real, rather than synthetic, slate would cost an additional \$50K. Councilperson Horwatt suggested seeking an additional bid from the contractor who re-roofed the Williamson Library. If the project was put out to bid outside of CoStars, at least three bids must be obtained.

Miscellaneous: Councilperson Horwatt reported that incorporation data for Langhorne Borough must be located so it can be corrected in the SAMS system. The correction is necessary so we can receive the ARPA grant.

The work session adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Culleton, Councilperson/Interim Secretary