

MINUTES
LANGHORNE MANOR BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING OF AUGUST 13, 2024

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – the Meeting of Langhorne Manor Borough Council was called to order in the Langhorne Manor Borough Hall, 618 Hulmeville Avenue, Langhorne, Pennsylvania on August 13, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. Daylight Savings Time by Nick Pizzola.

PERSONS PRESENT – Nick Pizzola – President, Cheryl Oessenich – Vice-President, Councilpersons: James Niwinski, Alicia Gasparovic, Grace Judge and Bob McBeth, Mayor Robert Byrne, Solicitor: Thomas J. Profy, IV., Borough Manager: Peter Gray, Secretary-Treasurer: Bonnie McGoldrick.

PERSONS ABSENT – Council member: Sam Jennings and Police Chief John Kenney

- 2. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Mayor Bob Byrne.
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Council President asked if there were any questions, concerns, corrections, or comments on the minutes of July 9, 2024.

Council President called for a motion to approve the minutes of July 9, 2024. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Ms. Oessenich seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

- 4. RESIDENT COMMENTS** –

Michele Brownlee, 374 W. Gillam Ave. asked that the Langhorne Manor Borough Council support the Langhorne Borough position against the new Route 1 highway plans proposed by PennDOT and specifically the ideas presented in the “Safe Report”. Another resident, Name and address unclear, voiced the same concern and opinion. The residents feel that their opinions are valid and have not been considered or represented.

Donna Wheeler, 308 Gillam Avenue, asked what safeguards are being considered to protect Gillam Avenue from becoming a through road when the access roads are eliminated.

Mr. Pizzola, Council President said the Council had decided, over a year ago, not to oppose the current plans. He assured the residents that he has been involved in these PennDOT plans for 7 years and Gillam Avenue will not become a thoroughfare. There are things that can be done to protect “the Manor” and specifically Gillam Avenue. Some possibilities include one-way only traffic and speed bumps.

Ms. Gasparovic stated, more than a year ago, the Langhorne Manor Borough Council tried very hard to disseminate information about the road plans, including the availability of multiple meetings with PennDOT and that residents were encouraged to participate in those meetings. Residents are still encouraged to contact PennDOT directly if they have questions or concerns. The Langhorne Manor Council did not ignore the concerns of the residents, rather

Mr. Pizzola, Ms. Gasparovic and Mr. Niwinski all agreed and reiterated that the current access roads are not safe and alternative plans will not re-route traffic to Gillam Avenue.

A third unidentified resident asked if sidewalks would be eventually required. Council President assured her that sidewalks are not going to be required.

Mr. Pizzola closed the subject stating that the council of Langhorne Manor is responsible for this community, we can't always please everyone in the community, but we are aware of your concerns and take those concerns seriously.

5. **RVE PROPOSAL FOR LMB SECOND INFILTRATION TRENCH AND NEED FOR CHILD SAFETY GATES FOR STORM WATER DRAINS –**
 - A. **Infiltration Trenches** - Dominic Cundari presented the “Additional BMP Location” proposal for the second Infiltration Trench, on behalf of RVE. 505 Station Avenue and 120 W. Highland are the two proposed locations.

Combined, these two trenches will provide 3,657 lbs./year of sediment reduction which exceeds our remaining requirement of 3,578 lbs./year. The potential cost estimate is \$288,739.50. The final cost will be dependent on the final design.

Discussion and questions were posed by members of the council. Council President called for a motion to approve the RVE Proposal. Ms. Gasparovic made the motion. Ms. Judge seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

B. Child Safety Gates – There has been an ongoing discussion regarding the safety of multiple culverts within the borough. Council previously asked RVE to assess the conditions and make recommendations. Ms. Gasparovic and Dominic Cundari visited five intersections. Pipes range in size from 12” to 16” and are made of steel, clay & HDPE, some openings are not visible.

RVE recommends using rat guards which were also used in the MS4 Stormwater project. These will require regular maintenance that should be considered in the final decision.

6. POLICE REPORT – No report presented.

Mayor Byrne advised that we have identified two Police Officers for hire. There are certifications required before they can start. They will be required to work weekends and nights. Council asked questions that Mayor Byrne did not have the answers to. Council President called for a motion to approve hiring two new police officers. Mr. McBeth made the motion. Ms. Judge seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

7. INSPECTORS REPORT – there is no report this month. It was sent back to be corrected.

8. REPORTS-

8.1 Jim Niwinski – Mr. Niwinski is following up on the PECO refund and he has been reviewing the oil rates presented by the consortium. A decision will be made

after he receives quotes from Harris, our current fuel provider but that will not happen until the end of September.

8.2 Alicia Gasparovic - Ms. Gasparovic asked Mr. McBeth to confirm whether the stenographer for the Zoning Hearing Board maintains her own Workers Comp Insurance. We are required to provide this information to our Workers Comp insurance provider in order to lower our annual premium.

Ms. Gasparovic asked that the Council consider another backup person to manage the borough website. Ms. Abbott was asked what the job entailed. She said the volume “peaks and valleys” and a candidate would require “patience”.

Ms. Gasparovic readdressed the availability of one recorded meeting being available to residents at least until the next meeting is recorded and replaces it. Council agreed to discuss this further during a council work session,

The condition of existing swales throughout the Manor is a concern as residents have altered/removed them and created flooding problems throughout. The Stormwater Commission discussed this in their July meeting and are preparing a resident letter to address specific cases as identified.

Ms. Gasparovic stated that there are 2 openings on the Stormwater Commission and two openings on the Planning Commission and asked that this be noted on the Web site.

Ms. Gasparovic stated that Harvey Spencer should be advised that he is now cleared to do whatever he feels is best in regard to maintenance of the Comly Avenue Basin, limiting the use of pesticides as much as possible.

The County Watershed Advisory Committee is updating the Neshaminy Watershed Advisory Ordinance for the whole county, and we will be asked to sign on to it. When they finalize their ordinance, we will have six months to adopt it and there will be a little bit of money for us to spend on review.

8.3 Cheryl Oessenich – Ms. Oessenich asked Ms. McGoldrick for a follow up report on the pool/fence requirement for the pool located at 400 Hulmeville Avenue. Ms. McGoldrick stated, since this is an above ground pool the current ordinance requires a fence around the top of the pool and a ladder that can be raised and secured to inhibit access when not in use. The pool in question was permitted and installed with those safety elements in place. A letter was sent to the resident reminding them of the safety regulations.

Ms. Oessenich asked if the Recycle Grant was received. Ms. McGoldrick will confirm when they were received and the amount. Following the meeting, Ms. McGoldrick confirmed that \$2511.22 was received on 8/2/24.

The Trash and Recycling contract is up for renewal in 2025, and we need to advertise for new bids this fall. Ms. Oessenich asked Mr. Gray to assist with the bid. Mr. Pizzola said we should expect a large increase in this cost as reported in other boroughs and townships. We may need to request resident input to increase cost and taxes or lessen services.

8.4 Nick Pizzola

Status of Bids for Road Repairs – There were no bids received for the road repairs. Mr. Pizzola contacted 12 Asphalt Companies and sent bid packages to 6 of them. The Bid will need to be re-advertised in September.

Mr. Pizzola called for a motion to approve re-advertising the road repairs. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Mr. McBeth seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Mr. Pizzola asked the council think about projects they would like to initiate in the Manor. New Grant money will need to be applied for by September 30.

Cairn Purchase of 108 W. Gillam Residence – The property at 108 W. Gillam Avenue was purchased by Cairn University and approved for residential zoning only. To use the house for any other purpose they will need to apply to the Zoning Board for relief. There are students living there already and they are utilizing parking at the Langhorne Presbyterian Church parking lot. They would also like to hold meetings with the residents to explain their intentions.

8.5 Grace Judge – With regard to the website proposal put forth by Alica, I think we need to look at a different model for managing it going forward. Managing uploading documents should be maintained in the borough office or should be done by a paid employee, due to security and confidentiality issues.

8.6 Bob McBeth – No Report. Ms. Gasparovic asked Mr. McBeth if Tom Panzer had reviewed and/or commented on the document “What to expect at a Zoning Hearing Board meeting.” Mr. McBeth will follow up with Mr. Panzer.

8.7 Sam Jennings – No report.

9. MAYORS REPORT – No Report

10. BOROUGH MANAGERS REPORT- The Council should consider adopting the Uniform Construction Code.

11.SOLICITOR’S REPORT – No report.

12.CORRESPONDENCE – The Penndel Borough Heritage Society is planning celebration on September 6, 2024 from 7-9:00p.m. and on September 7, 2024 from 12 noon to 5:00p.m.

13.APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT – Council President asked for a motion to approve the General Unpaid bills for August. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Ms. Gasparovic seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President asked for a motion to approve the Sewer Unpaid bills for August. Ms. Judge made the motion as called for. Mr. Niwinski seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

14. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT - Council President asked for a motion to approve the General fund Report for June. Ms. Judge made the motion. Ms. Gasparovic seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President asked for a motion to approve the Sewer fund Report for June. Ms. Judge made the motion. Mr. Niwinski seconded. There were no objections. The motion Carried.

Council President asked for a motion to approve the Highway Aid Fund Report for June. Mr. Niwinski made the motion. Ms. Gasparovic seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President asked for a motion to approve the General fund Report for July. Ms. Judge made the motion. Mr. Niwinski seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President asked for a motion to approve the Sewer fund Report for July. Ms. Oessenich made the motion. Mr. Niwinski seconded. There were no objections. The motion Carried.

Council President asked for a motion to approve the Highway Aid Fund Report for July. Mr. Niwinski made the motion. Ms. Oessenich seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

15.COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS AND VISITORS –

Melissa Hertenberger, 316 Hill Ave asked Council to address VRBO & Airbnb's rentals in the borough. She advised that State Police were called to a property on Gillam & Station because the owners were being threatened by short term renters. The property owner is renting 4 rooms and a bungalow.

Ms. Hertenberger asked if the home owned by Cairn will still pay taxes.

Ms. Hertenberger commented on the upcoming Trash Contract and wondered if we could consider joining with Langhorne Borough to secure a better contract.

Caroline ?, 322??, the house next to that is being rented out. The owner is not living in it and is only renting it out.

Christina Bach, Station Avenue, the hole at 608 Station Ave, at the bus stop is dangerous. Could the Council please take a look at that and consider some repair.

Ms. Transue, Hill Ave, asked if sidewalks will eventually be required. Council President said there were no plans for sidewalks.

16.NEXT MEETING – September 10, 2024

17.ADJOURNMENT - Council President call for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Mr. McBeth seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Bonnie McGoldrick

Secretary/Treasurer