

MINUTES
LANGHORNE MANOR BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 12, 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 November 12, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time by Nick Pizzola.

PERSONS PRESENT – Nick Pizzola – President, Cheryl Oessenich – Vice-President, Councilpersons: James Niwinski, Bob McBeth, Sam Jennings and Phil Gillies, Mayor Robert Byrne, Solicitor: Thomas J. Profy, IV., Police Chief: Jack Kenney, Borough Manager: Peter Gray, Secretary-Treasurer: Bonnie McGoldrick.

PERSONS ABSENT –

2. **THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Mayor Byrne

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR October 8, 2024 -**

Council President asked if there were any questions, concerns or comments about the minutes for October 8, 2024. Council president called for a motion to approve the minutes of October 8, 2024. Ms. Oessenich made the motion as called for. Mr. Niwinski seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

The minutes for October 22, 2024 were not complete.

4. **RESIDENT COMMENTS** –

- a. **Jay Ferraro, 402 Hill Avenue.** On behalf of myself, my family and the Barbara T Foundation, Mr. Ferraro expressed his thanks to the council and every member of the community and the police force who volunteered to help with the first annual 5K “Run for the Cure”
- b. **Teresa Weiser, 206 w. Prospect Avenue.** After attending the Zoning Hearing Board meeting for the Gillam Avenue property, Ms. Weiser presented a summary to the council, stated her concerns and expressed her

disappointment that LMB had not been represented by an attorney in the hearing because the council had voted to remain neutral.

5. REVIEW OF CANDIDATES QUALIFICATIONS FOR OPEN COUNCIL POSITION DUE TO ALICIA GASPAROVIC'S RESIGNATION.

- a. **Daniel Nicastro-Resume attached and on LMB Website.** Council President introduced Daniel and asked him to tell everyone about himself and his interest in the council position. Mr. Niwinski asked Daniel about voluntary activities and what issues he would like to be involved in. Mr. Pizzola asked if Daniel had any experience in grant writing and a primary responsibility for this position will be grant writing. Mr. Jennings thanked Daniel for his interest.

- b. **Devin Marie Keating Resume attached and on LMB Website.** Council President introduced Devin and asked her to present her experience, qualifications and reasons for her interest. Ms. Oessenich asked how extensive Devin's grant writing experience is and if work travel would be an issue. Mr. Jennings asked what specific issues Devin would want to address. Mr. Niwinski asked what prompted her desire to serve.

- c. **Jada Rawlinson-Carter Resume attached and on LMB Website.** Council President introduced Jada and asked her to present her experience and qualifications. Mr. Pizzola asked when Jada moved to Langhorne Manor Borough. Ms. Oessenich expressed her opinion that Jada's excitement is welcome and would serve the community well in one of our many voluntary positions. Mr. Jennings asked Jada what her primary interests were and thanked her for her interest especially as a new resident. Mr. Niwinski expressed his satisfaction in the turnout at this evening's meeting.

Mr. Pizzola stated that since Covid, our community has lacked community participation and encourage the attendees to consider the many volunteer positions available.

6. COUNCIL VOTE ON CANDIDATES AND SWEARING IN OF NEW CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL

Council President called for a motion to nominate one of the candidates to the open council position. Mr. Niwinski made a motion to nominate Devin Marie Keating. Mr. Gillies seconded the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

Council President called for a motion to close the nominations. Mr. Gillies made the motion as called for. Mr. Niwinski seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President called for a vote on the motion to appoint Devin Marie Keating to the Langhorne Manor Borough Council. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

Council President called for a motion from the council members.

Devin Marie Keating was sworn into office by Mayor Robert Byrne.

7. APPROVAL TO RELEASE GRUPP ESCROW AS AUTHORIZED BY CARROLL ENGINEERING

Council President advised that Carroll Engineering had authorized the release of \$11,907.50, the balance of the New Construction Escrow account, to KTG Contracting, LLC.

- 8. TRASH HAULER BIDS** - Borough Manager, Peter Gray advised that three contractors presented bids, all three included 10% bid bonds. Mr. Gray presented the figures as detailed in the attached minutes from the meeting held earlier today. Questions were addressed. Mr. Alessandro Giacobbe, from White Tail Disposal clarified that the Bulk Trash Price included 2 bulk pick-ups per year, and they currently service Northampton Twp.

Council President called for a motion to appoint Whitetail Disposal. Mr. Niwinski made the motion to approve Whitetail Disposal subject to Solicitor approval, Borough Manager approval and Insurance review by the council. Ms. Oessenich seconded the motion. Council President asked if there were any questions or

concerns. There was no further discussion. Council President called for a vote. The vote was unanimous in favor of Whitetail Disposal. The motion passed.

9. **POLICE REPORT** – Chief Kenney reported a major theft in the borough between the 8th and the 9th of November. A resident’s work truck was broken into and tools totaling \$13,000 were stolen . An investigation is in progress.

Chief Kenney asked that residents report anything suspicious.

10.INSPECTOR’S REPORT No report

11. COUNCIL REPORTS

a. Jim Niwinski

OIL PRICE CONTRACT. The consortium price has essentially doubled from prior years. Mr. Niwinski recommended we accept the fixed price of \$3.299/gal. from Harris Fuel.

Council President called for a motion to accept the fixed price contract with Harris Fuel. Mr. Gillies made the motion as called for. Ms. Oessenich seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Storm Drains. Mr. Niwinski investigated a price for cleaning the 32 storm drains from Spencer Landscaping. Prices range from \$300 to \$500 and should be discussed further at our next work session.

b. Cheryl Oessenich – No Report

c. Nicholas Pizzola

STATUS OF ROAD REPAIRS – road repairs have been completed. The estimated price was \$70,000. The final price was approximately \$63,000.

DRAFT BUDGET – Mr. Pizzola presented information to the council and residents regarding the proposed real estate millage tax increase

from 7mils to 13 mils. Mr. Pizzola explained in detail the millage rate, assessment and additional details of the final tax bill. With the proposed increase, Langhorne Manor Borough will still be lower than neighboring boroughs including Langhorne Borough at 14 mils, Middletown Twp at 19 mils and Pennel Borough is 24 mils and Lower Southampton is 14.08 mils, stating that we are not “out of line” with this increase. We will be instituting the EIT (earned income tax) in 2026 and this will be helpful. We have a duty to our community to keep our costs under control, but everything has gone up in price including, stormwater engineering expenses, increases for waste, road repairs, we added a borough manager 3 years ago, the police hours will be increasing, and secretarial expenses have increased.

Mr. Gillies commented that it is remarkable that we have not had to increase the mils in so many years.

Mr. Pizzola stated that the police chief and the other members of council have done a great job in securing grants and other funding to pay for police cars, the stormwater improvements, repairs to borough hall

- d. **Bob McBeth** – Mr. McBeth advised the council, the Zoning Hearing Board meeting held on 10/29/2024 had adjourned and would review and present their decision on 12/4/2024.
- e. **Sam Jennings** – Mr. Jennings asked if the Zoning Document for resident information had ever been posted. Council President asked Mr. Jennings to send the document to him.
- f. **Phil Gillies – No report**

12.DRAFT BUDGET addressed under council reports

13.MAYOR’S REPORT – No report

14.BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT – No report

15.SOLICITOR’S REPORT – No report

16.CORRESPONDENCE – No Correspondence

17.APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT

a. MOTION TO APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT

General Bills: Mr. Niwinski made the motion to approve payment of the general bills for November 2024. Mr. Gillies seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Sewer Bills: Mr. Niwinski made a motion to approve payment of the sewer bills for November 2024. Mr. Gillies seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Highway Aid Bills: Mr. Niwinski made a motion to approve payment of the Highway aid bills for November 2024. Mr. Jennings seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

18. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT

a. MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURER’S REPORT

General Report: Mr. Niwinski made a Motion to approve the general report for October 2024. Mr. Jennings seconded the motion. There were no objections the motion carried.

Sewer Report: Mr. Niwinski made a Motion to approve the sewer report for October 2024. Mr. Gillies seconded the motion. There were no objections the motion carried.

Highway Report: Mr. Niwinski made a Motion to approve the Highway Aid report for October 2024. Mr. Gillies seconded the motion. There were no objections the motion carried.

19.COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

Sarah Conen, 400 Station Avenue. Council referred to “the new house” in the budget. What is the New House? Mr. Niwinski advised that referred to the house purchased by Cairn University and explained that in lieu of taxes they voluntarily make a donation to the Borough. Ms. Conen asked, “If we’re standing neutral, how is that being benefited into the budget?” Council

President explained these are two separate issues. Our neutral stand is on the zoning application, the donation is voluntary and not related to the zoning issue and it is not in our budget yet.

Steven Krywonos, 204 W. Park Avenue The refuse budget is going from \$130 to \$160 so there will be an additional cost per house. Council President explained the cost was included in the general fund.

Teresa Weiser, Prospect Ave – asked if we can show her how the grant money over the last 3 years was spent. Council President said he will not go back and itemize detail for 3 prior years.

20.NEXT MEETING November 26, 2024

21.ADJOURNMENT - Council President called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Mr. McBeth seconded. There were objections. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie McGoldrick

Secretary/Treasurer.