

MINUTES
LANGHORNE MANOR BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 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 October 8, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. Daylight Savings Time by Nick Pizzola.

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

PERSONS ABSENT –

- 2. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Mayor Robert Byrne
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** –

Council President asked if there were any questions, concerns, corrections, or comments on the minutes of September 10, 2024 and September 24, 2024.

Council President called for a motion to approve the minutes of September 10, 2024 and September 24, 2024. Ms. Oessenich made the motion as called for. Mr. Niwinski seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

- 4. RESIDENT COMMENT** – The Council recognized Dawn Seader, 600 S. Bellevue Avenue. Ms. Seader presented an update on the planned “Run for Ovarian Cancer” sponsored by the Barbara T. Foundation which will be held on November 9th and begins 7:30 at Neshaminy Shore Picnic Park in Hulmeville. We are looking for volunteers to be along the route and registration. There is sponsorship and run information available at the door. If anyone has any questions they can call Ms. Seader.

Ms. Seader also thanked Alicia Gasparovic for her service to the community and noted that their often differing opinions bore a positive influence on the council's deliberations.

Debbie Macchia, 402 Station Avenue, thanked Alicia Gasparovic for her contributions to the community and especially to the Stormwater Management Committee.

Jim Keba, 604 Hill Avenue, thanked Alicia Gasparovic for her service to Langhorne Manor Borough.

Steve Runk, 404 Station Avenue, thanked Alicia Gasparovic for her service to Langhorne Manor Borough. She fought hard for the residents.

Ken Eicher, 404 Station Avenue, thanked Alicia Gasparovic for her service and the impact she has made on many peoples' lives.

Nick Pizzola, thanked Alicia for her service. He commended her hard work, her tenacity and thoroughness. Mr. Pizzola further stated that we cannot accept her resignation today. We have 45 days to accept her resignation and will do so at a later meeting, so we have time to advertise for a replacement.

Cheryl Oessenich thanked Alicia for her service.

Bob McBeth thanked Alicia for her service.

5. REVIEW OF CANDIDATES QUALIFICATIONS FOR OPEN COUNCIL POSITION DUE TO GRACE'S RESIGNATION. Council President introduced the 3 candidates for the open council seat and asked each of the candidates to explain their interest in the open council seat.

- a.* Daniel Nicastro, 403 Station Avenue. A 4-year resident of Langhorne Manor Borough, Mr. Nicastro expressed his interest in the opening for a new council member. Mr. Nicastro has an interest in politics and serving the community. Mr. Nicastro feels his background in education research and writing proposals will benefit the community.

- b. Teresa Weiser – 206 W. Prospect Ave. Ms. Weiser “loves thankless jobs and making things better.” A 5-year resident who has been an active volunteer in the Shade Tree commission, Neshaminy School District, the Langhorne Athletic Association and Middletown Township and occasional participant with the Langhorne Manor Borough Stormwater commission. Ms. Weiser has a background in engineering and has been with GE for 20 years and feels she is ready to make a firmer commitment to volunteering.

- c. Philip K. Gillies, 303 W. Prospect Avenue. A 32-year resident with 25 years’ experience in the banking industry. Mr. Gillies is versed in Federal and State Compliance Laws. He would like to be part of bringing the community into the future. He feels there are a lot of changes in the future that we need to be “on-top of”. Mr. Gillies has experience as he has served before.

Council President called for questions from the council.

Ms. Gasparovic asked Mr. Gillies what he had in mind when he said that a lot of regulations are coming our way? And, to Dan and Teresa, Ms. Gasparovic said that she saw their newness to the community as beneficial and not presently represented on Council.

In response to Ms. Gasparovic’s question, Mr. Gillies stated that diversity issues will be more prevalent, and we are not paying attention to them now. Also, as a residential community with some institutional zoning we are not equipped to deal with. When questioned further, Mr. Gillies cited the ordinances as being antiquated.

Mr. Niwinski asked how many hours a month the candidates devote to volunteering? Mr. Gillies stated that he works with counseling Veterans and helping them with their finances and bringing them into the current century. Mr. Nicastro stated that recently, he has not devoted much time to volunteer work because he has two small children. But, in the past he worked with Habitat for Humanity and currently is involved with Voter Registration. Ms. Weiser stated that she has done “pop-up volunteering”, being available as needed but not making any commitment to steady volunteering. She stated, “..this will require a commitment cthat I’m willing to make.”

Mr. Jennings asked what issues the candidates would be interested in pursuing as a council member. Mr. Gillies stated he was interested in safety and security having been a victim of theft. He is also interested in budget management.

Ms. Weiser would like to look at our ordinances and work on bringing them up to date.

Mr. Nicastro is interested in Stormwater Issues and wants to make sure the Borough is heard and picking up where Ms. Gasparovic left off.

Ms. Oessenich asked how the candidates would handle conflict. Mr. Gillies, said he avoids conflict and is not interested in politics, he feels we are all neighbors and we need to address issues as they are best for the community and avoid the conflict.

Ms. Weiser has spent many years in adversarial relationships within her work. She said you need to listen and find common ground toward the solution.

Mr. Nicastro believes it is more important to be more assertive than rude. You need to listen to concerns and accept that there are differences in opinion and be able to communicate effectively.

6. COUNCIL VOTE ON CANDIDATES AND SWEARING IN OF NEW CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL. Council President called for nominations.

Ms. Gasparovic made a motion to nominate Ms. Weiser because of her past involvement with the community. Council President asked if there was a second. No second.

Ms. Oessenich nominated Mr. Gillies. Mr. Jennings seconded the Nomination. Council President called for a vote. Mr. Pizzola, Mr. Niwinski, Ms. Oessenich, Mr. Jennings and Mr. McBeth voted Yea. Ms. Gasparovic abstained.

Mr. Jennings thanked both Ms. Weiser and Mr. Nicastro for their interest. He hoped they would not be discouraged, reminding them there is another seat on council to replace Ms. Gasparovic, inviting them to try again and stated that running for the position is an interesting process.

Mr. Niwinski also expressed his encouragement to Mr. Nicastro and Ms. Weiser.

Mayor Robert Byrne swore in Philip Gillies to the position of Councilmember.

Ms. Oessenich left the council meeting.

7. RESIGNATION FROM COUNCIL OF ALICIA GASPAROVIC AS OF 10/1/24. Council President stated that Ms. Gasparovic's resignation from Council

would not be accepted at this meeting. She is required to give 30 days notice and therefore her resignation will not be considered at this time.

8. RVE REPORT REGARDING FINAL MS4 REPORT AND LMB PRP PLAN.

Council President introduced Dominic Cundari from RVE. The DEP annual report was submitted the end of September. We updated the production plans for the borough and publicly advertised. He is here to address any related questions. Highland & Station Trench tests were not ideal. It will require amended soils and will need to be slightly deeper.

Council President asked, “Are these tests considered engineering?” Ms. Gasparovic advised that they are and therefore can only be reimbursed under certain grants.

Council President asked what happens if we do nothing to comply with the DEP requirements and are we the only community doing this? Mr. Cundari advised that several surrounding municipalities are meeting their DEP requirements including Middletown. The MS4 is a federally enforced permit, subject to fines for not meeting requirements and grants would not be available.

Ms. Gasparovic asked what the next steps are and if Dominic is the contact. Council President stated that until all council members are seated next month, assignments will be reshuffled, and we don’t know who will be on Stormwater. In the meantime, questions should be directed to the council president. Mr. Cundari advised that RVE will schedule the surveys and proceed with advertising and creating the timeline. Ms. Gasparovic commented, an important piece of the timeline is keeping residents informed and Jim Niwinski has been a part of preparing that letter and the Borough Secretary making sure it is promptly mailed.

Mr. Niwinski suggested accelerating the clogged drain issues, questioning impact to the stormwater requirements. Council President asked if Mr. Niwinski would like to take lead on that question? Mr. Cundari suggested it would have some impact and could qualify for grant funding. Mr. Niwinski will investigate and report at next council meeting.

Mr. Keba, Stormwater Management Committee member, asked about the impact of changes to the trench proposal to meeting MS4 requirements. Mr. Cundari

advised it may have a slight impact to the numbers but digging a deeper trench is with the intention of meeting the same or similar requirements.

Mr. McBeth asked if this program is mandated forever or is there an end? Who else besides RVE can look at this and say, here is another way to meet this mandate?

Mr. Keba advised that we had requirements to meet for both the Millcreek and Neshaminy watersheds. We have met our requirement for Millcreek and still need to address Neshaminy. Neshaminy is cited for the next two, five-year cycles.

Ms. Gasparovic suggested we consider a collaboration with Middletown Township in the wooded area behind Hulmeville Avenue, which is within the Langhorne Manor Borough but owned by Middletown Township. When we first looked at this, Middletown was not ready to address Stormwater projects.

Questions were asked about the impact of construction in surrounding areas including Route 1 plans with PennDOT and Warehouse construction in Middletown. Mr. Cundari said there are requirements imposed on all new construction to mediate stormwater run-off. He would not know if the specific projects mentioned impact Langhorne Manor Borough or not.

9. APPROVAL TO RELEASE GRUPP ESCROW –

Council President advised that a milestone in the construction of 104 Gillam Avenue has been reached and the release of \$16,000 escrow is appropriate.

10. POLICE REPORT- Chief Kenney reported 146 total hours for September

Assist Other Police – 6

Fraud – 1

Liquor Laws – 1

Medical Emergency – 1

Suspicious Person – 1

All Other Complaints – 2

Car Washed – 0

Total Gasoline – 32 gal.
Total Mileage – 202
Traffic Citations – 1
Non-Traffic Citations - 1
Total Citations – 2
Traffic Stops - 1
Criminal Arrest - 0
Total Complaints – 12

Chief Kenney reported that the second Audit since he has worked for Langhorne Manor Borough was conducted and considered Correct & Proper. There were recommendations for more manpower and equipment. The review was “Up to Code” with the Township and Boroughs. We will receive a certification from the State.

11. INSPECTORS REPORT

There were 2 Permits issued in September, 1 U&O Inspection and one resident inquiry regarding the requirements for renting their home.

12.MOTION TO REDUCE LIABILITY REQUIREMENT FOR TRASH HAULERS TO 1 MILLION FROM 2 MILLION

Mr. Niwinski explained the issue surrounding the liability requirement for trash haulers for the borough. Discussion ensued.

Council President called for a motion to approve the motion to reduce liability requirements for Trash Haulers to \$1M per occurrence and \$2M in the aggregate. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Ms. Gasparovic seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried

13.COUNCIL REPORTS

Jim Niwinski – Mr. Niwinski reported that the PECO rebate credit was received.

Alicia Gasparovic - Ms. Gasparovic reported on the unfinished projects to be redistributed to other council members upon her resignation. Mr. Pizzola asked questions regarding grant obligations and Ms. Gasparovic explained what requirements are still to be met.

Cheryl Oessenich – Reported that the Community Yard Sale was scheduled for October 16th, banners and signs were set up at locations throughout the Borough. There will be some signs on the porch if you want to place a sign on your yard, first come, first served. There is information on our website regarding a free electronic waste collection.

Nicholas Pizzola -

Cairn University will present their plan to Council for the property at 108 Gillam Avenue at the next council meeting and a Zoning Hearing is scheduled for October 29th.

Grants submitted to BCRDA- Mr. Pizzola had submitted 4 grants to BCRDA for the Penn del Emergency Services, Road Repairs, Monitoring Software and a new Police Car.

Status of road repair bid if repairs are advertised on Penn Bid we would get more bids.

Bob McBeth – announced the date for the Zoning Hearing Board meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2024.

A team of us met on how we will deal with the ongoing computer needs since Grace has resigned.

Sam Jennings - Advised he will not be in attendance at the October 22, 2024 meeting as he will be traveling for work.

14. MAYOR’S REPORT – No Report.

15. BOROUGH MANAGERS REPORT – No Report

16. SOLICITOR’S REPORT – No Report

17.CORRESPONDENCE – No Correspondence

18. APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT- Council President asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the General Unpaid Bills Report for October.

Council President called for a motion to approve the General Unpaid Bills Report for October. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Mr. McBeth seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Sewer Unpaid Bills Report for October.

Council President called for a motion to approve the Sewer Unpaid Bills Report for October. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Mr. McBeth seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Highway Aid Unpaid Bills Report for October.

Council President called for a motion to approve the Highway Aid Unpaid Bills Report for October. Mr. Niwinski made the motion. Mr. Jennings seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

19.APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT Council President asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the General Fund report for September.

Council President called for a motion to approve the General Fund report for September. Mr. Niwinski made the motion. Mr. Jennings seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Sewer Fund Report for September.

Council President called for a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Report for September. Mr. Niwinski made the motion. Mr. McBeth seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Highway Aid Fund Report for September.

Council President called for a motion to approve the Highway Aid Fund Report for September. Mr. Niwinski made the motion. Mr. McBeth seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

20.COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

Grace Judge thanked Alicia Gasparovic for her service.

Jim Keba advised there is a stormwater meeting October 15, there seem to be a lot of questions to be addressed. We need someone on Council to Chair the meeting. The meeting will be cancelled.

21.NEXT MEETING October 22, 2024

22.ADJOURNMENT - Council President called 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