

MINUTES
LANGHORNE MANOR BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 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 September 10, 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, Sam Jennings, Mayor Robert Byrne, Police Chief John Kenney, Solicitor: Thomas J. Profy, IV., Borough Manager: Peter Gray, Secretary-Treasurer: Bonnie McGoldrick.

PERSONS ABSENT – Councilperson, Bob McBeth

- 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 August 13, 2024.

Council President called for a motion to approve the minutes of August 13, 2024. Ms. Gasparovic made the motion as called for. Ms. Judge seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

- 4. RESIDENT COMMENT** – The Council recognized:
Teresa Weiser, 206 Prospect Ave. To Police Chief Kenney, now that school is back in session can the police observe the bus stops and make recommendations. Chief Kenny responded, we have just hired two new officers and there is already additional coverage, and even more coverage will be available.

Chris Croteau, 608 Station Avenue. Presented questions regarding agenda item #7 and asked why we were reconsidering the sidewalk issue and where the \$5000 would be used. Council President stated the reason the item is on the agenda was to address those questions.

Debbie Macia, 402 Station Avenue. Questioned why Council is reconsidering their previous decision on the sidewalks and asked that the council honor their own vote to require the sidewalks on Gillam Avenue. Council President said that he did not support the installation of sidewalks. Ms. Gasparovic disputed that statement saying that Council previously voted 7-0 in favor of the sidewalk.

Ken Eicher, 404 Station Avenue. Is in support of the sidewalk installation on Gillam Avenue and asked, "How do I become more informed on zoning decisions in the Manor." Mr. Eicher was concerned about the information released by Cairn University and their intentions to use the Gillam Avenue property as a campus. Council President advised that the property is currently not zoned for a campus, is currently being used as a residence and that Cairn University does intend to apply for a zoning change. At the time they apply to the Zoning Hearing Board, all interested parties will be notified and interested parties can attend the Zoning Hearing Board Meeting.

Mark Clayton, 401 Hill Avenue. Is in support of sidewalks. Mr. Clayton said the existing sidewalks are utilized regularly and provide safety to the residents. Council President stated that sidewalks are not required anywhere in the Manor and that most residents do not want sidewalks.

5. RESIGNATION FROM COUNCIL OF GRACE JUDGE AS OF 10/1/24.

Council President announced that Grace Judge had submitted her resignation effective Tuesday, October 1, 2024 and he read her resignation letter into the record (attached).

Council President expressed his sincere regrets that Ms. Judge has decided to resign and acknowledged her contributions to the Manor. He then called for a motion to accept the resignation of Ms. Judge effective October 1, 2024. Mr. Niwinski made that motion with regrets. Ms. Oessenich seconded with regrets. Council President asked if there were any objections. Ms. Gasparovic objected. The motion was approved with a 5 to 1 vote.

6. PENNDEL MIDDLETOWN RESCUE SQUAD BCRDA REQUEST.

Council President introduced Zach Cooperman, Interim Director of Operations, Penn-del-Middletown Emergency Squad, an organization that services Langhorne,

Penndel, Langhorne Manor and Middletown Township, providing over 6500 emergency calls per year. Zack asked Langhorne Manor Borough to apply for an RDA grant in support of the Penndel Middletown Rescue Squads need for an Oxygen Cascade System.

Council President called for a motion to apply for a Bucks County RDA Grant for the Penndel Middletown Rescue Squad. Mr. Niwinski made the motion. Ms. Gasparovic seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

7. CONSIDERATION OF MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF \$5,000 IN LIEU OF INSTALLATION OF SIDEWALK 104 AND 108 W GILLAM

Council President introduced Andrew Stoll, Attorney representing the KTG Construction. Mr. Stoll presented arguments to justify a waiver for the sidewalk requirement at 104 & 108 Gillam Avenue. And offered a \$5000 fee to be used by the council for sidewalk improvements elsewhere in Langhorne Manor Borough.

Mr. Profy, Borough Solicitor, left the meeting as his professional relationship with the Grupp family constitutes a conflict of interest.

Councilperson Alicia Gasperovic presented arguments supporting the sidewalk installation, including a timeline of decisions affecting the 108 Gillam Avenue Subdivision and a letter from Robert DiBias, Attorney representing Langhorne Manor Borough, supporting the sidewalk installation.

Councilmembers Jim Niwinski, Cheryl Oessenich and Nick Pizzola spoke in favor of waiving the sidewalk requirement.

Councilperson Grace Judge voiced concerns that the \$5000 payment could be perceived as a bribe and would set a poor example for future conflicts.

Councilperson Sam Jennings said that he was not on council when these issues were previously discussed but, he would not want sidewalks to become a requirement in Langhorne Manor Borough.

Council President called for a motion to approve the request from Mr. Stoll on behalf of KTG Contracting and allow them to proceed without installing sidewalks at 104 & 108 W. Gillam Ave and without paying \$5000. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Ms. Oessenich seconded. Ms. Gasparovic objected. Council President called for a vote. Council voted 4-2 in favor. The motion carried.

8. POLICE REPORT - Chief Kenney reported 347 hours for the months of July & August.

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Accident Reportable – 1
Assist Other Police – 7
Local Ordinance – 1
Medical Emergency – 2
Mental Subject – 1
All Other Complaints – 1

Car Washed – 0
Total Gasoline –89.2 gal.
Total Mileage – 571
Traffic Citations – 2
Non-Traffic Citations - 0
Total Citations – 2
Traffic Stops - 3
Criminal Arrest - 0
Total Complaints – 13

Chief Kenney stated that there was a report of an assault on Comly Avenue which involved 2 homeless people in the woods. It was later determined to be a false report by the female. The male was taken to St. Mary’s Medical Center for Mental Health Concerns.

Chief Kenney reported that juveniles, around midnight on Saturday, were ringing doorbells wearing ski masks and carrying fake guns. They were recording their prank for TIK TOK.

a. STATUS OF NEW HIRES – two new officers will be starting shortly.

9. PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR BCRDA FUNDING

- a. REPLACE COLLAPSED OR NON-FUNCTIONING DRAINS AND ASSOCIATED HAZARDOUS CURBS.** Council discussed using RDA funds to add, replace or upgrade broken, blocked or non-existing drains at various locations including Highland & Station, 108 Fairview, 805 Station, Station & Prospect, 305/304 Park Avenue Swail repair.
- b. ADD ADDITIONAL POLICE VEHICLE** – Consider a 3rd Police Vehicle as we will have 6 total officers soon and only 2 cars. A third vehicle provides back up when another car is down for repair.
- c. WEBSITE UPDATES** – The website needs to be modernized. Recommendations include ability to submit building permits via the website, to make payments via the website, consider ADA compliance.
- d. ONGOING ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**

10. STATUS OF BIDS FOR ROAD REPAIRS. There were 2 bids received for the road repairs. They were opened on September 10, 2024 at 1:05 p.m. by Council President and witnessed & recorded by Bonnie McGoldrick. There was one attendant, Bob Bray from Bray Brothers, Inc.

1. GoreCon, Inc. \$203,819.35
2. Bray Brothers, Inc. \$71,630.00

The Solicitor and Borough Manager will review the bids.

11. CONSIDERATION TO ADVERTISE FOR TRASH COLLECTION

SERVICES. Ms. Oessenich is working with Mr. Gray, Borough Manager. Ms. Oessenich will contact Langhorne Borough and Middletown Township to determine if their contract renews at the same time as Langhorne Manor Borough and if it would be a savings to combine the services. Our current contract with Republic Services will expire on 12/31/2024.

Council President called for a motion to advertise the bid for garbage and recycling services. Ms. Judge made the motion. Ms. Oessenich seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

The Borough Manager will send the Request for Bid to Mr. Profy for review before advertising.

12. ANONYMOUS RIGHT TO KNOW REQUESTS – Kay Weeder, Begley, Carlin & Mandio, LLC has suggested that the Council prepare a resolution to reject RFPs that are submitted anonymously. This is a practice that has become more frequent, and we are not required to respond to anonymous submissions.

13. INSPECTOR'S REPORT – There were no permit applications approved or submitted in August. There were 2 U&O Inspections.

14. REPORTS

- a. **Jim Niwinski** – Mr. Niwinski advised he is following up on the rebate check from PECO. Harvey Spencer has been advised to proceed with regular care of the Comly Ave landscaping. We should consider Air BNB issues in our next work session.
- b. **Alicia Gasparovic** – Ms. Gasparovic updated the council on our grant money.
- c. **Cheryl Oessenich** – No report
- d. **Nicholas Pizzola** – No report
- e. **Grace Judge** – Ms. Judge asked that anyone who still has an older laptop, please drop it off at the office so they can be wiped before recycling.
- f. **Bob McBeth** – No report
- g. **Sam Jennings** – Mr. Jennings will be working with the Chief and the Fire company on a plan to promote working smoke alarms and encourage residents to develop a fire escape plan.

15.MAYOR’S REPORT – No report.

16.BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT – Mr. Gray continues to work on the Ordinance changes.

17.SOLICITOR’S REPORT – No report

18.CORRESPONDENCE – No correspondence.

19.APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT– Council President asked if anyone had questions, comments or concerns about the General fund, Sewer fund or Highway Aid Fund Bills.

Council President called for a motion to approve the General Fund Bills for September. Ms. Judge made the motion as called for. Mr. Niwinski seconded. There were no objections. The motion Carried.

Council President called for a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Bills for September. Ms. Judge made the motion as called for. Mr. Niwinski seconded. There were no objections. The motion Carried.

Council President called for a motion to approve the Highway Aid Bills for September. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Ms. Judge seconded. There were no objections. The motion Carried.

20.APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT Council President asked if anyone had questions, comments or concerns about the Treasurers Report for the General fund, Sewer fund or Highway Aid Fund for the month of August.

Council President called for a motion to approve the General Fund Treasurers Report for August. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Ms. Judge seconded. There were no objections. The motion Carried.

Council President called for a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Treasurers Report for August. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Ms. Judge seconded. There were no objections. The motion Carried.

Council President called for a motion to approve the Highway Aid Fund Treasurers Report for August. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Ms. Judge seconded. There were no objections. The motion Carried.

21.COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

Dawn Seader, 600 S. Bellevue asked about the assurances with the RDA Grant. Regarding the waste management contract bid, Ms. Seader reminded the council that the insurance limits were a problem in the past and need to be monitored closely.

Ms. Seader also thanked Grace Judge for her service to the community.

Teresa Weiser, 206 Prospect Ave, asked if the council would consider an electric car for the police department. Chief Kenney commented that Electric Vehicles are not recommended for the police force.

22.NEXT MEETING September 24, 2024 will be a work session and a general meeting.

23.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

[Grace Judge Resignation Letter](#)