

July 11, 2019

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, July 11, 2019 @ 7:00 PM in the Town Hall with James St. Clair presiding.

Members Present: James St. Clair, Matt Smith, James McDonnell, Mariah Fisher, Judy Hoffer, Jeff Craig and Terry Murphy.

Other's Present: Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineer Ben Faas, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, and Zoning Officer Rick Schwab. Absent was Fire Chief Steve Barron and Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Knepper.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by James McDonnell to approve the minutes of June 13, 2019 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Bills Payable as also presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Jeff Craig to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

CORRESPONDENCE

Banner request received from LV Rx Pharmacy to place an 8x10 vinyl banner on side of building facing Route 30 from August 30 through December 31, 2019.

The request was denied due to the large size.

Letter received from Scott Haines on behalf of Fort Ligonier Days requesting permission for signage to be posted in the borough for Fort Ligonier Days. Approval is requested for directional and location signs to be placed around the Diamond, East & West Main Street, and North & South Market and throughout the borough as needed. It is also requested to hang event banners on the Diamond and on East & West Main Street lampposts. The banners will be up approximately one month prior to the festival.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve. All of Council was in favor.

Letter received from LV Chamber of Commerce requesting permission to bag the meters on the Diamond and the first two blocks of East and West Main Streets for the Chamber's Antiques on the Diamond August 24, 2019. It is requested to bag the meters the night before.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the above request. All of Council was in favor.

Letter received from the LV Chamber of Commerce requesting permission to use the area on each side of the Town Hall steps for tents/tables to be manned by 4 different organizations (Fort Ligonier, Compass Inn, Heart & Soul Parrot Rescue, and LV Chamber) July 19 & 20th, 2019

during Summer in Ligonier event. The tent/tables will be used to provide educational information about each participating organization.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the request from LV Chamber of Commerce. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chairman James McDonnell reported that the previously approved request from the LV Chamber to hold a fruit / vegetable vendor country market about the Diamond one night a week once a month is not going to happen this year. The LV Chamber will try again for next year.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to transfer decorations to the LV Chamber of Commerce from the Borough for their use for Christmas decorating; 50 lamppost bows, 60 sets of LED lights with green cords, 30 sets of LED lights with white cords, 33 feet of Monroe Garland with LED lights, front gate nativity display, repair of new/old sleigh, & other misc. items. All of Council was in favor.

It was noted that there is another dead tree on the southeast corner of the Diamond. Both of the dead trees were Sugar Maple. The first dead tree may be replaced with a Red Maple. It was mentioned that the soil may need upgraded.

A meeting was held with Darr Construction regarding punch list items remaining on the Diamond. They are to be concluded by August 2.
We are still waiting to hear back regarding the repair of the rusted bandstand handrail.

A discussion was held on what size of trees to purchase to replace the two dead ones. Sam St. Clair reported speaking with someone knowledgeable on trees and it was suggested to plant smaller trees.

McDonnell answered that the main concern and focus of the entire community was the removal of the trees for the Diamond project. McDonnell feels in order to keep with the continuity and what the Diamond offers and what it means to the community and residents of the valley, he would want to stick with bigger trees.

St Clair suggested the matter be researched. Jeff Craig agreed with the need for more research and analysis of the soil as this is the second tree that has died. It was decided to not re-sod the spot where the second tree will be removed.

McDonnell reported that there has been no word on the tennis court project.

TOWN HALL

Chair Judy Hoffer reported that the new French drains installed in the back of Town Hall seem to be working as there hasn't been any more water in the kitchen.

Town Hall committee is also looking in to security possibilities for the Town Hall.

PUBLIC WORKS

Terry Murphy, chairman of the Public Works committee wished to acknowledge the Public Works crew; Bob McCauslin, Jeff Rhodes, & Ron Ross for their efforts in assisting at the scene of the recent fatal accident in town.

Sam St. Clair also commended the public works crew.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jeff Craig reported that Police Chief John Berger will be moved to Town Hall providing on site security to the Town Hall.

The Public Safety Committee is also looking into making the Town Hall a secure location during emergencies. There is a large number of children in the YMCA during the day. There has been times when the YMCA has had to evacuate the building and it was suggested to bring the children to the Town Hall Community Room during any emergency. However, there is no generator in the Town Hall. A generator is something that should be looked into for the Town Hall.

Briggs Nye was present at the Council meeting and proposed a temporary safety precaution to help signal drivers when people cross the road. Safety flags are placed in holders that are secured on existing sign poles. As pedestrians cross they carry a safety flag and place it in another holder on the other side of the street when they have safely crossed.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to accept the proposal from Briggs Nye. All of Council was in favor.

National Night Out:

Mariah Fisher reported that she has been working on the National Night Out event. A press release has been issued. Flyers are being distributed around town regarding the event. It will be 5:30 – 8:30 PM August 6th in Lot A.

Mariah also thanked all first responders in regards to the recent accident.

FINANCE

Finance Chair, Mariah Fisher stated that the committee will soon be reviewing contracts and looking at the budget within the next month or two.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Matt Smith reported that the Joint Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee had a presentation from the Protin Group to discuss project management ideas and ways to get the group moving in a good direction.

The Planning Commission met last month and talked about Air BnB's and rentals to get ideas for recommendation to council.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Hudock of 214 North Walnut Street was present and questioned the non-conforming use certificate issued to 211 North Walnut Street (zoned R1 Single Family Residential) directly across from the Hudock's. The property is formally known as McDowell's Dry Cleaning. Hudock is concerned with the recent certificate which alters the residential zoning use of said property. Hudock believes the non-conforming use zoning is not in the best interests of the surrounding property owners (zoned village residential) and residents and presented Council with a list of questions and concerns.

James Paharik of 210 N Walnut also was present with the same concern.

Solicitor Welty suggested Council look into the matter with Zoning Officer Rick Schwab and get back to Richard Hudock.

Marsha Hudock of 214 N Walnut spoke of the need for speed / safety monitoring on Walnut and Main Street to deter and slow down traffic. Hudock expressed her desire to have monitoring there before school starts as this is when the increase of traffic occurs.

Chief Berger stated that he would put in a call to Penn Dot.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Ron Ross, Street Supervisor questioned Council on the favorability of putting a stop sign at Bell Street & Washington making it a 4-way intersection on a trial basis.
Council to think on this and discuss at next meeting.

Ron Ross reported that 5 spots have been gained in Lot A by changing the lines. Ron added that we will have another spot as soon as the retaining wall is complete and new lines put on there.

Engineer Ben Faas reported having a revised draft ordinance for wireless to present to the Planning Commission.

Matt Smith noted this and will contact the Planning Commission members to set up a meeting.

Chief John Berger commended the efforts of the Public Works crew, Fire Department and EMS in regards to the tragic accident.

Mayor Bellas urged all to make eye contact to drivers before crossing and also to not jay walk. Mayor Bellas commented on a property on Linn Alley that is in need of trimming their bushes because of obstruction of view for drivers. Code enforcement officer is to send a letter.

President Sam St. Clair made note that Borough Council will not get involved in neighbor disputes. St. Clair thanked everyone for coming.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Matt Smith to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer