

December 13, 2018

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, December 13, 2018 @ 7:00 PM in the Town Hall with Sam St. Clair presiding.

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

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineers Greg Elliott & Ben Faas, Solicitor George Welty, Fire Chief Steve Barron, and Zoning Officer Rick Schwab. Absent was Police Chief John Berger and Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Knepper.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the minutes of November 8, 2018 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried 6-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LV Police Department Ordinance:

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Matt Smith to adopt Ordinance #571 Ligonier Valley Police Department. The ordinance establishes the Ligonier Valley Police Department, a consolidation of the two law enforcement entities serving Ligonier Borough and Ligonier Township and abolishing Ligonier Borough's existing police department. The motion carried unanimously.

LV Police Department Charter Agreement 1st Amendment:

The Amendment allows for an additional member to the Police Commission, who will also be a Ligonier Township resident.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the 1st Amendment to the LVPD Charter Agreement. The motion carried with all in favor.

Resolution 2018-3:

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Matt Smith to approve Resolution 2018-3 Conveyance of Police Equipment, vehicles, supplies and materials. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from the LV Chamber requesting to have 2 meters bagged in front of the LV Library for Hanson's Original Kettle Korn for Ice Fest Friday January 25, from 5pm until Sunday the 27th at 5pm. Also to bag the first 4 meters on east Main Street along the side of Town Hall for the entertainers to load & unload their equipment Saturday from 9am-4pm and Sunday 9am-3pm. And lastly, to bag the first 4 meters on North Fairfield Street beside the YMCA from 8am-4pm Saturday and Sunday for Misty Haven Carriage to park their horse trailer and truck. Use of Auditorium will also be needed per Paul Fry.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by James McDonnell to approve the request from the LV Chamber of Commerce. All of Council was in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

N/A

TOWN HALL

Chair Judy Hoffer reported that the Town Hall roof repairs have been made by TMR Roofing. The rest of the roof project needed will not be done until 2019.

It was further reported that new computer wire was installed for the new boiler software by Rampart Security.

Hoffer finished by adding that the electrical safety concerns are being addressed in the auditorium.

Hoffer wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Terry Murphy reported that leaf pick up will terminate this week. Public Works has been getting ready to salt and plow the streets when needed. The backhoe problem has been repaired.

Murphy reported that the 1979 Chevy Dump Truck was sold by auction at \$4,700.

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by James McDonnell for the proceeds of the sale of the 1979 Chevy Dump Truck to be placed into the Capital Improvement Funds to be used for future equipment purchases. The motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jeff Craig thanked Fire Chief Steve Barron for the list of new officers for Ligonier Hose Co. #1 for 2019 and agreeing to stay on as Chief:

Chief – *Steve Barron*

1st Asst. Chief - *Robert Barron*

2nd Asst. Chief – *Andrew Knupp*

1st Lieutenant - *Pete Pacienza*

2nd Lieutenant - *Mason Daugherty*

Chief Engineer - *Matt Ferry*

Asst. Chief Engineer - *Paul Gunter*

President - *Pete Pacienza*

Vice President - *Phil Fleming*

Secretary - *Ginny Fitzner*

Treasurer - *Peter Fitzner*

Trustee - *Ralph Bennett*

Jeff Craig spoke about the new report out about the crisis of volunteer membership falling in the state.

Jeff stated that Ligonier Borough Fire Department has a good group of volunteers / leadership & sponsorship and remains strong despite the crisis.

An update was given on the status of the LV Police Department. The 5th member was elected by the Police Commission but Councilman Craig stated they will not announce whom until after all candidates have been notified. It was noted that an alternate member will also join the commission early next year. Borough police Chief John Berger will serve as chief of the Ligonier Valley Police Department, which will report to the Ligonier Valley Police Commission; a five-member group consisting of two borough elected officials, two township elected officials and one Ligonier Township resident.

The Borough's police station on North Fairfield Street will serve as police chief headquarters while the township's station at the municipal complex on Route 711 North will house officers and vehicles. Minor renovations will be made to the borough building in the New Year.

Councilman Jeff Craig reported that the police commission has met with donors interested in funding not only temporary facilities but permanent facilities as well.

It was reported that a new badge and patch design featuring the Diamond was approved today. The uniforms however, will not be re-patched, and the police cruisers will not be rewrapped by the January 1, 2019 date. Councilman Craig added that the police commission is also applying for grants to cover consolidation costs like these and combining the borough and township pension funds.

FINANCE

Chairman James McDonnell thanked all departments for staying within the guidelines for budget 2018.

McDonnell stated that a copy of the advertised, proposed 2019 budget presented to Council last month has been in the Borough office for anyone wishing to view.

Councilman Jeff Craig had several questions pertaining to the proposed budget.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the 2019 budget with no tax increase. The motion carried 5-1 with Jeff Craig opposing.

Tax Ordinance 2019:

A motion was made James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to approve Tax Ordinance 2019 set at 24.5 mills as presented. The motion carried unanimously with all in favor.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Matt Smith called for a brief executive session for personnel @ 7:41 pm and returned @ 7:44 pm.

Matt Smith stated that he had two appointments to fill; one on the Planning Commission by Dave Wasemann with his untimely passing and one for the Joint Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Jeff Craig to appoint Peter Fitzner to serve the remainder of the late Rev. Dave Wasemann's term on the Planning Commission ending December 31, 2019. All of Council was in favor

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by James McDonnell to appoint Mariah Fisher to serve as the Council Representative to the Joint Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee and reconfigure delegates Matt Smith to serve as the Planning Commission Council Representative and place Planning Commission member Jack Fry to joint comprehensive plan committee member. The motion carried with all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Subdivision - Economic Growth Connection:

Revised subdivision plan at the former National Guard armory site for a housing development. It was noted that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the re-subdivision in November.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the revised subdivision plan for Economic Growth Connection. The motion carried unanimously.

Parking Enforcement Agreement w/ Comity Land, LLC:

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the Parking Enforcement Agreement with Comity Land, LLC. All of Council was in favor.

Proposed Street Opening Ordinance:

The ordinance will regulate and enforce repairs of Borough streets opened by utility companies.

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Jeff Craig to advertise for action at the January 2019 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Flickinger wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry wished all a Merry Christmas. Fry reported that leaf collection at curb side will end Friday December 14, 2018. Public Works will still pick up bagged leaves at curb side if they are place in bio-degradable paper bags.

Solicitor George Welty also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Fire Chief Steve Barron thanked Council for their support. Barron reported Ligonier Volunteer Hose Co. #1 will have 11 members with Firefighter 1 Certifications within the next three months and 9 members with Firefighter 2 Certifications a few months later. Barron praised the high level of camaraderie within the fire department.

Engineer Greg Elliott reported that Darr Construction is working on about 10 punch list items left from the Diamond Park Renovation Project. It is hoped that the Borough will reach its goal of having funds left after the project to sustain future upkeep of the Diamond.

Zoning Officer Rick Schwab wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Bellas also wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Mayor Bellas also reported that he has 3 couples wishing to be married on the new Diamond between now and the end of the year.

President Sam St. Clair echoed Mayor Bellas in wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Terry Murphy to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned @ 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry
Secretary-Treasurer
Office Manager