

**June 8, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 7:00PM in the Town Hall with James McDonnell presiding.

**Members Present:** James McDonnell, Chick Cicconi, Judy Hoffer, Matt Smith, Pat Scanlon, & Terry Murphy. Absent was Gus Breegle.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**A motion** was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the minutes of May 11, 2017 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**BILLS PAYABLE**

**A motion** was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the Bills Payable as also presented. All of Council was in favor.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A motion** was made by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried 6-0.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Right-of-Way /Easement Agreement (Fort Ligonier)**

**A motion** was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Pat Scanlon to approve the Right-of-Way Agreement at Fort Ligonier. The motion carried unanimously.

President McDonnell reported that Westmoreland Department of Public Safety has been notified that effective June 30, 2017 **Ligonier Valley Ambulance** will no longer be in service but will be taken over by Mutual Aid. McDonnell added that 911 dispatchers have been notified as well to prevent confusion.

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Chick Cicconi to authorize Secretary Paul Fry to notify the county of the change.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Diamond and Bandstand Facilities application was received from Tom Beckman requesting to play guitar and sing on Bandstand the following Thursdays; 6/29, 7/6, 7/13, 7/27, 8/3, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24, & 8/31/17 from 6-8 PM. No sign permit has been requested.

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Pat Scanlon to approve the request from Tom Beckman. All of Council was in favor.

Letter received from LV Chamber of Commerce requesting permission to use the Bandstand as well as to close and bag the meters (1-9 PM) around the Diamond and the 100 blocks of East and West Main Streets and on North and South Market Streets for The Stroll on August 11, 2017 from 5-9 PM. It is requested to close the first block of the Diamond to traffic from 4:30 – 9:30 pm with a short detour instituted by the Borough around the Diamond. If permitted, the Chambers requests to park the cars on a slant up and down East and West Main streets and North and South Market Streets as well as the Diamond.

**A motion** was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the request from the LV Chamber for the Stroll August 11, 2017. The motion carried with all in favor.

President James McDonnell called for a brief executive session for personnel at 7:09PM. Council returned from executive session at 7:25 PM with no action taken.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PARKS & RECREATION / SHADE TREE**

Chairman Matt Smith reported that the parks are good and the playground has been very busy. New mulch was placed around trees that were recently planted in the last year and a half. Smith also reported that the new fence is up on the back side of the playground.

### **TOWN HALL**

Judy Hoffer reported that the Town Hall was inspected and treated by Terminex for ants.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Paul Fry reported that line and curb painting will begin Monday. Seal coating with Ligonier Township will be sometime in July.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Chairman Pat Scanlon reported that the committee is still working on the study for consolidation for a regional police force with Ligonier Township. Scanlon called for a motion to remove officer Chrissy Fiok from probation.

**A motion** was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Terry Murphy to remove officer Chrissy Fiok from 6 month probation. All of council was in favor.

#### **Regional Police Force Study:**

**A motion** was made by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Terry Murphy to appoint Matt Smith and Pat Scanlon to serve on the preliminary budget committee on behalf of the joint police activity study. All of Council was in favor.

#### **Police Pension Study:**

**A motion** was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to have a police pension study done by Feaster Pension Consulting for possible police merger with Ligonier Township. Payment for the study will be split with the Township and payment will come out of pension funds. The motion carried unanimously.

## **FINANCE**

Chairman Terry Murphy announced the committee's decision for new parking ticket late fees. After 48 hours a late fee of \$20.00 will be added increasing from \$10.00. Another change will be for Parking between 3 & 7 AM Wed. & Fri. from a fee of \$15 to \$25.00.

**A motion** was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Chick Cicconi to adjust the fines as described above and to authorize Solicitor George Welty to advertise the ordinance amendment for the July 2017 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

## **PLANNING / PERSONNEL**

Chairman Chick Cicconi reported that the new members of the Planning Commission are working well. The Commission recently met with Ligonier Township planners and EADS Group to review a draft of the LV Joint Comprehensive Plan. The next meeting is July 12, 2017 to review EADS proposal.

Cicconi reported that the committee will soon meet at the end of June with the Laborers District's Council of the Local 1451 to begin negotiations on contract which will expire at the end of the year for the Borough employees.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

N/A

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Stablein spoke on behalf of the LV Library asking permission to place a dumpster in the alley towards the police station along the wall beginning July through the end of the year for remodeling in the Library. The dumpster will be removed during Fort Days.

**A motion** was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Chick Cicconi to approve the request. The motion carried 6-0.

Ed Yeager was present at the meeting for an update on his storm drain bid replacement. No action was taken.

Bill Clark of West Church Street expressed his concern that there is no building permit posted on the new house under construction on West Church Street. Clark also commented that the grass there exceeds 12" and questioned if a house under construction is exempt for grass ordinance.

Zoning Officer Rick Schwab will take care of the building permit issue. Chief Berger will look at the grass tomorrow.

Clark further questioned who approves curb cuts for the Borough to which he was told the engineers review curb cuts.

Lastly Clark questioned Council on the direction the new house on West Church Street faces. Mr. Clark was directed to go to the Planning Commission for answers.

Richard Flickinger defined the front of a house as the principle façade of the house.

Flickinger also pointed out a typo in recent ordinance 567 and expressed concern that it will cause confusion in the future. The ordinance states that the Planning Commission shall be comprised of 5 members appointed **from** (instead of **by**) Ligonier Borough Council.

Lastly, Mr. Flickinger commented on an application coming before the Planning Commission to place 5 tiny houses across from the municipal building in the vacant lot with the intention to be rented out on a weekly basis such as a hotel. Flickinger explained that under the zoning ordinance a little hotel would be permitted in the C1 District.

## **COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS**

Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry received a letter from the VFW asking permission to recognize and support the Hero Walk June 21, 2017 at approximately 6PM. Police escort is requested from Bell Street to the American Legion.

**A motion** was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Pat Scanlon to approve and activate the fire police. All of Council was in favor.

Fire Chief Steve Barron reported that the Emergency Action Plan is almost complete and should be ready for the July Council meeting.

Zoning Officer Rick Schwab reported attending a whole day session of zoning administration at Hempfield Township.

Engineer Ben Faas reported that the Borough has received a quote from Smithley at a price of \$36 a foot which totals \$9,688.

Engineer Greg Elliott reported seeking grants from 4 foundations for the Diamond Project. Information has been submitted to 3 of the 4 foundations. A decision is expected in a few weeks from one foundation. Engineers are continuing to work on satisfying Penn Dot and looking to solicit bids in November and award in late November early December.

Mayor Bellas thanked Council for officer Chrissy Fiok's pay increase by removal from probationary period.

President McDonnell noted that the next meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council will be held July 13, 2017 at 7PM.

McDonnell thanked Ed Yeager for his patience.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A **motion** was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Office Manager