

April 9, 2020

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM via ZOOM amid the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic.

Members Present: James St. Clair, Matt Smith, Robert Barron, Mariah Fisher, Judy Hoffer, Jeff Craig, Nate Sylvester, & Izabella Wentzell- Jr. Council Member.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineer Ben Faas, Solicitor George Welty, Fire Chief Corey Blystone and Zoning Officer Rick Schwab.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Nate Sylvester to approve the minutes of March 12 and March 19, 2020 as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

BILLS PAYBLE

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Bills Payable. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Extend Declaration of Disaster Emergency date:

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Judy Hoffer to extend the Declaration of Disaster Emergency date until June 4th, 2020. All were in favor.

Parking:

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to extend free Parking in the Borough until next Borough Council Meeting May 14, 2020. All of Council was in favor.

Seal Coating Bid Proposal for Tar and Chip:

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to return the bids received and rebid at a later date due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from the LV Chamber of Commerce announcing the decision to postpone Soups On! Event as well as Wine Walk with the recent "Stay at Home until April 30" announcement by Governor Wolf. New dates will be announced at a later time.

Letter received from Joyce McIntire, President of LV Chamber of Commerce Board requesting a reprieve from the monthly rent until all Federal and State guidelines/mandates are lifted and the Chamber can get back on track with its events.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to give the Chamber until the end of the year to get caught up on rent. The motion carried with all in favor.

Email received from the LV Food Pantry requesting permission to close down the East bound lane of West Vincent Street Saturday, April 18th from 7:30 am to 10:00 am to park cars in the parking lot and then allow a few cars at a time out to pull up to the back door of Holy Trinity Catholic Church to be loaded with their food. It will be a drive in service with no one getting out of their cars.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the request. All of Council was in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARK & RECREATION

Chair Mariah Fisher reported receiving and installing a new sign designating the different areas for play at Friendship Park based on children's age and color of the surfaces at the park.

However, due to the Coronavirus, the park has been closed since March 14th and will continue to be closed for the foreseeable future. Friendship Park is the only park officially closed at this time in the Borough.

Fisher reminded all of the Stay At Home Order issued by the Governor. Stay home as much as possible and when out follow the guidelines of social distancing and remain 6 feet apart.

Fisher added that the public forum scheduled for April 1, 2020 to discuss the renovations down by the tennis courts has been postponed and will be on hold until a later date.

Mariah Fisher closed by reporting that she and Chief Berger had begun working on plans for the National Night Out for this year. However, the National Night Out organization has changed their date from August to October 6, 2020 which is the weekend before Fort Ligonier Days. It is felt in the best interest to the community to wait and host the event again in 2021.

TOWN HALL

Judy Hoffer, Chair for Town Hall committee reported that while the Town Hall is closed to the public from COVID-19 Coronavirus the opportunity has been taken to do deep cleaning.

Painting will be done also at this time. A few contractors wanted access to the Town Hall building to assess the second floor for work to be completed when Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau vacates the building at the end of the month, and the requests were denied for Town Hall employee's safety.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman of Public Works Robert Barron reported that the old high lift was recently sold for \$8,100.00.

PUBLIC SAFETY

N/A

FINANCE

Nate Sylvester reported Ligonier Borough is getting hit on revenue with no meter money and fines in March and April and maybe May as well.

In addition with many people out of work we will most likely see a loss with Earned Income Tax revenue as well.

Sylvester asked Solicitor Welty's advice for an executive session for cost containment measures in relation to personnel.

Solicitor Welty advised that this matter should be discussed in executive session.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Matt Smith reported that the committee wants to keep employees working for as long as possible, however if temporary furloughs are necessary Smith asked Solicitor Welty how this would work.

Solicitor Welty advised that this too would be taken care of during executive session.

NEW BUSINESS

Joint Storm Water Ordinance:

Engineer Ben Faas explained that the County has completed an Act 167 Watershed Management Plan. As part of that plan they have developed a stormwater ordinance which helps to implement this plan. Municipalities within the Act 167 study area are required to adopt an ordinance that complies with the Plan.

Faas further explained that both Ligonier Borough and Ligonier Township needs to update their ordinances and asked if Council is agreeable to splitting the cost at approx. \$1,000 each municipality for the cost of the work on the ordinance.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Matt Smith to work in conjunction with Ligonier Township in pursuing the Joint Storm Water Ordinance. All of Council was in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Hudock of 214 North Walnut Street questioned why Council voted at last month's meeting to hire special counsel Mark Hamilton of Tremba and Kinney to review certain Borough ordinances.

Councilman Jeff Craig answered that several months back Council established a committee to review Fort Ligonier Days. It was felt guidance was needed to review ordinances that were currently in place. Given the fact that many involved have close ties to Fort Ligonier Days it was also felt that a third party outside counsel should be hired and advise Council accordingly.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported that Dumpster Days originally scheduled for April 18, 2020 has been postponed.

Solicitor Welty wished everyone a Happy Easter and to stay safe.

Fire Chief Corey Blystone gave an update on COVID-19 procedures for Ligonier Hose Co. #1 during the pandemic. The Fire Department has reduced the number of apparatus responding to calls as well as the number of firefighters on the apparatus. Firefighters are asked to wait in their vehicles when they respond to the station for a call until directed by an officer how to proceed. Vehicles are disinfected after every call and the station is disinfected once a week. Procedures are implemented for how to handle a call involving a patient who is presumed or known to be positive with Coronavirus COVID-19.

Zoning Officer Rick Schwab said all was quiet on the zoning front.

Mayor Bellas told all to stay safe and have a Happy Easter.

President St. Clair also told all to stay safe.

St. Clair advised that he'd like to adjourn the meeting into executive session for personnel.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Jeff Craig to adjourn into executive session for personnel. All of Council was in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary-Treasurer
Janette Shaw