

September 12, 2019

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, September 12, 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, and Terry Murphy. Absent was Jeff Craig.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Minutes as presented for the August 8, 2019 meeting. The motion carried with all in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the Bill Payable. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the consent calendar presented. All were in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Conservation Partnership Agreement:

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the 5 year agreement. All of Council was in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

Application for use of Diamond and Bandstand received from the American Legion for November 11, 2019 Veteran's Day Service at 11:00 AM. Also requested is use of the PA system and for LVPD to block off the Diamond.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the request and to activate the fire police as well. The motion carried with all in favor.

Letter received from the LV Chamber of Commerce requesting permission to use the lampposts in front of the shops around the Diamond and, if needed, on the North and South Market Streets, East and West Main Streets, and the Town Hall Courtyard for their annual Scarecrow Contest which will be displayed from October 16 – November 4, 2019.

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the request from the Chamber. The motion carried unanimously.

Request received from Cari Frei of Ligonier Country Market to close Church Street November 30, 2019 from 6:30 AM-8:30 AM except for vendors to unload in front of the YMCA, & close portion of Bank Alley from the corner of 711 to the back of the Masonic Building from 7:00 AM – 8:30 AM during their annual Ligonier Country Christmas Market.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by James McDonnell to approve the request from Ligonier Country Market. All were in favor.

A written request was received from Chief Steve Barron of the Ligonier Hose Co. #1 planning to hold a fundraiser Sunday, October 27, 2019 and requesting that Fairfield Street between Main Street and Church Street be closed between the hours of 10AM – 9PM.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the request for Ligonier Hose Co. #1 Sunday, October 27, 2019.

LVPD

Suspend Ordinance #135-33 - for sidewalk sales to be permitted during Fort Days 2019:

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve to Suspend Ordinance #135-33 for Fort Days 2019. All of Council was in favor.

Temporary Traffic Restrictions & Other Designations for Fort Days 2019 – In accordance with Section 145-3 No Parking / Tow Away zones are requested in various locations during Fort Days.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the temporary Traffic Restrictions & Other Designations for Fort Days 2019. All of Council was in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chairman James McDonnell reported a busy week for the Parks & Recreation. Diamond Park was awarded as being 1 of 3 best public spaces to visit in PA by the Westmoreland County Department of Planning & Development. A small ceremony took place on Diamond Park with several dignitaries present along with 30-40 others.

McDonnell reported Darr is still working on the punch list items for the Diamond Park Project and hopefully they will be completed by Fort Ligonier Days.

Negotiations are underway to complete the gutters and downspouts on the Bandstand.

Tree Replacement on Diamond:

McDonnell reported the two sugar maple trees which need to be replaced on the Diamond were 9 calipers. The Parks & Recreation Committee, along with Diamond Park Project Engineer Greg Elliot, Bartlett Tree Service, and principle benefactors of the project are all in line with replacing with such.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to proceed with replacing with two 9 caliper trees (one red maple and one oak) as opposed to replacing with smaller caliper trees. The motion carried 5-1 with Mariah Fisher opposing.

TOWN HALL

Town Hall Chair, Judy Hoffer reported we are receiving bids for having the Town Hall windows cleaned.

We have been in contact with another security company and are awaiting a bid to review the security system already in place at Town Hall.

A new commercial sweeper has been purchased and is in operation at Town Hall.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Terry Murphy reported that Street Supervisor Ron Ross has passed his test for spraying insecticides.

Public Works crew has been replacing several storm drains.

Crosswalk lines around the Diamond will be painted.

LED bulbs have been placed in Lot A along with an upgraded electrical panel.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In the absence of Public Safety Chair Jeff Craig, Matt Smith reported that the LV School District has received a grant in the approximate amount of \$195,000 to fund the position of School Resource Officer.

Fort Days Public Safety:

Through a series of meetings between both public safety officials and Fort Days Committee it is clear that there is no coordinated public safety effort among all agencies. There are issues that need to be addressed. A committee is needed to be as organized as soon as possible in the event that a coordinated response is required.

The committee will be comprised of representatives from Ligonier Volunteer Hose Co. #1, Ligonier Valley Police Department, Ligonier Borough Public Works, Mutual Aid, Ligonier Borough & Township Emergency Management Coordinators and Westmoreland County Public Safety.

Code Enforcement:

Matt Smith suggested that something needs done about the Shaker building being wide open on the bottom.

Councilwoman Judy Hoffer cautioned everyone to please make eye contact while crossing the streets.

FINANCE

Council Chair Mariah Fisher reported that there will be a budget meeting October 2, 2019.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Matt Smith reported that the Planning Commission will be looking at the draft ordinance for Small Cell Towers at their next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution for Junior Council Person Program:

Mariah Fisher has volunteered to serve as mentor.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the Resolution for a Junior Council Person. All of Council was in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Flickinger of 422 Summit Ave. questioned when the next Planning Commission meeting would be and was told September 24, 2019. Flickinger stated that he will make plans to attend to inquire about Air B&Bs.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported that we now have 104 subscribers to Savvy Citizen. It was also reported that there is an issue with the Repeater for our radios. The repeater must either be repaired or replaced. The Repeater is a 2002 year model and replacement parts are hard to find. The display no longer shows and the power supply is bad. It was reported that it will cost \$1,135 to replace or a new Repeater with power supply included would be approximately \$2,500-3,000.

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Matt Smith to replace the Repeater with a new one. All of Council was in favor.

Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported that tar and chipping in the Borough has been cancelled for this year due to time constraints with the September 15th deadline for liquid fuels monies.

Ross added that Fort Ligonier Days Committee would like to put their banners up on the lampposts tomorrow or Monday and noted that the Borough's hanging baskets are still thriving. Ross asked Council's thoughts.

Council decided to ask Fort Days Committee to place the banners with the baskets still hanging.

Fire Chief Steve Barron thanked Council for the consideration for the upcoming fundraiser October 27, 2019.

Engineer Greg Elliot reported that Mark Lazzari will attend the next planning meeting. The bandstand handrail still needs some work. Elliott asked if a week or two after Fort Ligonier Days was good for planting the trees on Diamond Park.

Mariah expressed the need to have them planted before Light Up Night.

Zoning Officer Rick Schwab reported that the Zoning Hearing Appeal requested by Richard Hudock will be October 16, 2019 @ 7PM. Schwab invited Council to attend.

The status of the Shaker building was discussed as well as numerous yards with high grass. Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw will notify Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Knepper.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A **motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to adjourn the meeting into executive session with no action to be taken. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer