

July 12, 2018

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, July 12, 2018 at 7:00PM in the Town Hall with Sam St. Clair presiding.

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

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineer Greg Elliott, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, Zoning Officer Rick Schwab, Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Knepper and Emergency Management Coordinator Gene Stouffer. Absent was Fire Chief Steve Barron.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the minutes of June 14, 2018 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

CORRESPONDENCE

Request received from Kelly Hoover, Manager of Standard Bank asking permission to have WDSY (Y108) country music station do a live remote broadcast outside Standard Bank to help kick off the Chamber's Scarecrow Contest on Friday, October 19th from 12-2. They will be set up under a canopy and not blocking the sidewalk.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the request from Standard Bank. The motion carried with all of Council in favor.

A memo from Ligonier Township Terry Carcella stated that it was voted on at a recent meeting to permit any club appointed by the LV School District to maintain the aluminum can recycling program and keep the profits of the cans sold to a recycler for the benefit of the school club. The offer to the school district is pending approval by Ligonier Borough because the recycling program is a joint venture between both municipalities. The container for recycling and site will remain the same at the township municipal complex.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chair Mariah Fisher reported that Darr Construction is on schedule and happy with progress being made. The brick has been laid for the benches. The Bandstand roof has been started. The roof will be copper and will not be painted and will be a copper color for some time and it will eventually turn the same color it is now. It will be a while before it gets to this point. Darr has continued to work on the East side of the Diamond. They have found that they can

successfully work on the West side without needing to switch traffic detour just yet. They have expanded their fencing a little more into the road on the West side for more room to work. It is expected that traffic pattern will be switched within the next few weeks.

Mariah added that the Diamond Park grand opening celebration has been scheduled to occur Friday, October 5, 2018. It is expected to begin around 3pm with a short ceremony followed by music and family friendly festivities throughout the evening. More details are to come.

TOWN HALL

Chair Judy Hoffer reported that the sump pump has been connected to the outside drain. This will help eliminate basement flooding that has occurred in the past. New landscaping will be installed on the East Main Street side of the building before Fort Ligonier Days due to the boring that took place for utilities.

No news yet on the Town Hall windows.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Terry Murphy reported on repairs and upgrades needed to the Municipal Parking Lot A. Last year the Borough was made aware of the possible liability concerns in Lot A such as tripping hazards, uneven sidewalks, exposed tree roots and uneven Belgian block walkway. Some of the hazards were removed last fall and new flat pavers were installed. The Public Works committee is asking for Council's approval to continue with this improvement. The plan is to eliminate 3 islands; add two additional parking spots which should generate additional \$40 weekly. The island near bank alley would be replaced with a painted walkway to exit the lot onto the alley. Some section of sidewalk would be added and the curb would be lowered for ease of access. Bid price is \$7,920. The improvements also are to replace a few sections of sidewalk along Bank Alley that are a severe tripping hazard. This bid price is \$3,920. Once this work is completed the paver installer can proceed and the approximate cost will be \$8,000. Plans and elevations are being worked on for ADA requirements.

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by James McDonnell to approve the project for upgrades and repairs to the Municipal Parking Lot A. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Director Paul Fry will get in touch with the contractor and try to get it on the schedule to get as much of the job finished before fall.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jeff Craig provided Council with an update on the Police Consolidation. A meeting was held last Friday with Sam St. Clair, himself, John Berger, John Beaufort, Mike Matrunic, Stefanie Verna as well as a representative of Department of Community Affairs to review a number of topics relating to the budget, staffing, and the agreement needed to adopt. After review by the Department of Community Affairs a meeting will then be held in an executive session of Council in order for members to ask any and all questions and develop a view on the idea of consolidation. A similar meeting will also take place at the Township. Following these two meetings a public meeting will be held after which it will then go back to council for consideration to proceed with creating a joint police department.

Chief Berger reported that a generous donation of \$11,000 was received by the Police Department from the LV Endowment for two cameras for the police cars which were installed earlier this week. Berger stated that the policy that he is following is approved by the PA Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission and the PA Chiefs of Police Association. The cameras are activated as soon as the patrol cars light are turned on.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Terry Murphy to adopt an accredited policy for the new cameras in the police cars subject to solicitor Welty's review. The motion carried with all of Council in favor.

Jeff Craig also reported that a strategic planning committee for the Borough's fire department is evaluating current equipment, potential building upgrades and most importantly ways to increase membership.

FINANCE

Chairman James McDonnell reported that the budget still appears to be in pretty good shape. Town Hall fund is doing well and is the highest it has been in the last 11 years.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Matt Smith reported that after hearing no concerns or comments about the proposed employee handbook at last month's meeting, it is ready to be approved.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by James McDonnell to approve the proposed employee handbook and have all employees sign the acknowledgments in the back. The motion carried with all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gene Stouffer 234 East Loyalhanna Street, Emergency Management Coordinator reported on the recent borough flooding on June 20th. The Mayor had declared a disaster declaration for flooding emergency on behalf of the Borough. FEMA came out and assessed 7 residents' homes with basement damage due to the flooding. Unfortunately FEMA cannot help them out. Claims must have 1st floor damage and above. Basements do not come into consideration unless they are sleeping quarters approved by code.

While Ligonier Volunteer Hose Co. No. #1 is still in good shape, its supporters do not want staffing to reach a critical level while it awaits a State Safer Grant for countywide recruiting. Stouffer announced that the fire company is launching a membership drive in the community and displaying 25 small yard signs at residences throughout neighborhoods looking for new members. Stouffer asked permission to place two 2 by 8 foot banners to be displayed at the fire station and the Ligonier YMCA.

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Jeff Craig to approve Ligonier Hose Co. #1 request for two 2 by 8 foot banner to be displayed at the Fire Station and Ligonier YMCA. All of Council was in favor.

Richard Flickinger thanked Council and residents of the Borough for what they do. Flickinger asked if there was a meeting on the Comprehensive Plan July 19th.

James McDonnell replied that there is a meeting planned and advertised for July 19, 2018 at 7PM.

Councilman James McDonnell asked to adjourn into executive session for possible litigation after the meeting.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry reported that this may be the first full week without rainfall on the jobsite for the Diamond Project.

Fry also reported that a demolition is scheduled for the former AB Graham / Fitchko property at 200 E. Church Street Monday, July 18, 2018.

Solicitor George Welty clarified that a discussion will need to take place in a public meeting for the police consolidation but any personnel matters would have to be part of an executive session.

Engineer Greg Elliott reported that the Diamond Project is on schedule. We are waiting on pavers. The light standards will not be delivered until late August and installed at the end of August.

Greg Elliott submitted Payment Request #4 in the amount of \$326,306.02 to Darr Construction.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve Payment Request #4 in the amount of \$326,306.02. The motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief John Berger reported that due to the Rotary Grant received a while back it has enabled the purchase of shot guns, tazers, AEDs and vests for both departments.

Mayor Ormond Bellas reported receiving a phone call from a resident with a safety concern of scooters around Friendship Park. Mayor Bellas asked for scooters to be added to the signage for no wheeled devices.

Mayor Bellas asked drivers to please slow down around Town and to stop running the Stop Signs.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to adjourn to executive session for possible litigation. The motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry
Secretary-Treasurer
Office Manager