

February 8, 2018

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall with Jim St. Clair presiding.

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

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineer Ben Faas, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, Fire Chief Steve Barron, Zoning Officer Rick Schwab.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the minutes as presented from January 11, 2018. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

CORRESPONDENCE

Application for Use of Mellon Park was received from Midnight Izzy's Pet Supply for a doggie Easter Egg Hunt March 24, 2018 from 11-1 pm.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the Doggie Easter Egg hunt at Mellon Park. The motion carried with all in favor.

A thank you was received from LV Chamber member Cindy Purnell for Council's participation and support in the recent Ice Fest.

An executive session was called for Personnel @7:04 pm and Council returned at 7:35 pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chair, Mariah Fisher reported that the ground breaking ceremony for the Diamond Project went well and that the trees are now down on the Diamond. Mariah noted being a little sad seeing the Diamond so bare but knows it will be a really nice area and park for the community when it is finished. It was reported that the work hours for the Diamond project will be from 7am-3:30pm Monday through Friday. Weekend hours only if inclement weather puts the project behind schedule. Weekly updates on the Diamond Park Renaissance will be posted to a website at medium.com/@diamondrenaissance15658 that is also linked to the LV Chamber of Commerce and Ligonier Borough websites along with a Facebook page that has been created. Fisher thanked Public Works Director Paul Fry and police for opening Friendship Park on nice days this winter.

TOWN HALL

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC WORKS

Terry Murphy chairman of Public Works reported on signing invoices for plow repairs as the Public Works crew has been busy plowing recently. The crew was also busy with the recent tree removal on the Diamond.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jeff Craig reported that he recently sat down with Fire Chief Steve Barron and President Terry Barr. Fire apparatus will need to be addressed soon as the equipment is aging as well as the building and updates that are soon needed there.

Jeff Craig added that membership is an issue and an effort will be made to increase membership.

Jeff Craig commented that he along with Emergency Management Coordinator Gene Stouffer met with Chris Tantlinger and Marybeth Eslary of Westmoreland County Emergency Management to review at a strategic level the individuals currently in place in regards to emergency situations such as the recent bomb scare at our schools several weeks ago. Craig congratulated Chief Berger and police department as well as Fire Chief Steve Barron and fire department for their flawless work.

FINANCE

Chairman James McDonnell reported that the market is down. McDonnell added that the budget is hard pressed until April as is the case every year. It was reported that tax money will be showing up in April.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Matt Smith reported that he attended his first meeting of the Joint Comprehensive Plan and saw a draft of the presentation. The plan is still being finalized.

Smith also reported on a recent Planning Commission meeting in regards to troubled properties within the Borough. The Planning Commission needs to enforce some codes on the books a little better.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by James McDonnell to hire Shawn Knepper as Code Enforcement Officer on an as needed basis. Knepper will be paid \$19.26 an hour. The motion carried with all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ben Pardus of West Church Street was present at the meeting to ask Council to consider amending the Ligonier Borough Code of Ordinances Chapter 73 article 2 pertaining to animal noise (barking dogs). Pardus suggested Council redefine a nuisance animal as one that affects the welfare of "multiple persons not including those who live in the same residence." Pardus feels this language would require more than one individual to file a noise complaint.

Pardus also proposed a time frame for animal noise such as the noise shall last no less than 15 continual minutes or intermittent for one hour.

Pardus launched an online petition which generated 30 signatures. It was not disclosed how many were from the Borough.

Marge Jenke also of West Church Street presented a second petition with approximately 60 signatures in support of an ordinance update.

Borough resident Shirley Kowatch voiced her concerns in support of an ordinance update.

Solicitor Welty suggested the matter should go to the Public Safety Committee to meet with Police Chief John Berger and Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas to review the ordinance and bring a recommendation to Council at its March 8 meeting.

Richard Flickinger asked the new Council members their goals as a Council member.

Mariah Fisher stated that she is excited to be here and excited to be involved with the Parks & Recreation Committee. Fisher is also excited to try to attract a younger generation to the town. Ligonier is a great place to raise a family.

Jeff Craig's interest is in public safety and the issues facing the fire department. Police consolidation is another interest.

Jim St. Clair is happy to be back involved with Ligonier Borough and has the community's best interest.

Matt Smith is excited to be a part of the Planning Commission as well as involved with the Joint Comprehensive Plan.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry noted that it has been a hard cold winter and that we may soon need more salt. Fry thanked his great employees.

Paul Fry commented on a new clock in Council Chambers which was a gift from PA State Association of Boroughs.

Engineer Ben Faas introduced himself to the new Council members

Zoning Officer Rick Schwab thanked Council for the hire of the new Code Enforcement Officer.

Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas reminded all to please shovel their sidewalks and keep them clear of snow and ice.

Mayor Bellas also thanked Council for the hire of a new Code Enforcement Officer.

President St. Clair feels this will be an exciting year for Ligonier with the Diamond Project. St. Clair thanked everyone for coming.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Terry Murphy to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry
Secretary-Treasurer
Office Manager