

March 14, 2013

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, March 14, 2013 @ 7:00 PM in the Ligonier Town Hall with Robert Helterbran presiding.

Members present: Robert Helterbran, Kim Shaffer, James McDonnell, Robert Bell, Tom Freeman and Sam St. Clair. Absent was Judy Hoffer.

Others present: Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, Ligonier Hose Co. #1 Representative Chris Stouffer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Tom Freeman to approve the minutes of February 12, 2013 as presented. All were in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Robert Bell and seconded by Kim Shaffer to approve the Bills Payable as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Kim Shaffer and seconded by Tom Freeman to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. All were in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

CORRESPONDANCE

A request was received from Ligonier Valley Volunteer Hose Co. #1 for approval to block off North Fairfield Street at the intersection of West Bank Alley and West Church Street on June 8, 2013 from 7 AM to 5PM to benefit their annual auction.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Kim Shaffer to approve the request. All were in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

In Judy Hoffer's absence, James McDonnell gave an update on the cameras for the Diamond in regards to the damage by trucks running up over.

A Proposal was received from Rampart Security to replace the Borough's 4 existing cameras @ \$3,872.04

Secretary –Treasurer Paul Fry stated that we have an existing DVR recorder right now and we have another 4 cameras outside the building. Fry explained that it would still record those 4 cameras but the new HD cameras will not record. Two different DVR recorders will be in the Borough office. The new 4-channel recorder is \$616.00. Fry stated an option to consider would be an upgrade to an 8 channel DVD recorder for the HD cameras at an additional \$1,014.

A motion was made by Tom Freeman and seconded by Kim Shaffer to purchase 4 cameras and 8 channel recorder. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN HALL

N/A

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Tom Freeman reported that the public works is wrapping up the winter maintenance program and preparing to start the spring program.

A request was received from In-Sync Rehab owners David and Andrea McLeary for two parking spots for their business moving into town at 111 East Church Street for the purpose of providing Physical Therapy services. Adequate and appropriate parking is not available in the public lots at this address. Hours of operation would be Monday-Thursday 7:30 – 5PM and Friday 7:30 -2PM. The cost of such would be paid directly to Ligonier Borough as per the agreed upon rate.

A motion was made by Sam St. Clair and seconded by Tom Freeman to approve the request. The motion did not carry 4-3 . Mayor Bellas broke the tie vote opposing the motion.

PUBLIC SAFETY / SHADE TREE

N/A

FINANCE

N/A

PERSONNEL / PLANNING COMMISSION

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

Municipal Cooperation agreement with Westmoreland County:

Solicitor Welty explained that in order to sign the agreement and ordinance must be enacted. The ordinance has been properly advertised.

Ordinance No. 555:

An Ordinance approving a municipal cooperation agreement between the Borough of Ligonier and the County of Westmoreland for Governmental Services.

Solicitor Welty explained that the county Weights and Measures Department can perform the parking meter inspections for the Borough upon entering into the agreement.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Tom Freeman to accept and approve the ordinance. All were in favor.

Municipal Cooperation Agreement with Westmoreland County:

A motion was made by Robert Bell and seconded by James McDonnell to approve the agreement with Westmoreland County. All were in favor.

Fort Days Ordinance:

An ordinance amending and restating the Fort Ligonier Days Ordinance. A discussion ensued resulting to continue the meeting.

A motion was made by Kim Shaffer and seconded by Robert Bell to continue the meeting Monday, March 19, 2013 at 7:00PM. The motion carried unanimously.

VERIZON CELL PHONE TOWER:

NTP Wireless site acquisition expert Chris Barton (subcontractor for Verizon Wireless) was present to fill council in on some possible sites that Verizon engineers indicated would be an excellent spot to erect a cellular tower in Ligonier Borough.

Mr. Barton indicated to President Helterbran and Public Works Director Paul Fry that the site located behind the police station would be the best site to obtain the desired additional coverage for the Borough. Two other locations looked at were the Public Works Building on Bunger and the other was the playground area by Friendship Park.

A letter of intent was provided by Mr. Barton for Ligonier Borough to pursue and proceed into a negotiations proposal for possibly a long term contract. Recommended by them was a \$1,000 per month payment for a 50ft by 50 ft. foot print of ground.

The Borough provided a Letter of Intent of \$2,200 per month with a foot print of 20ft by 40ft.

Mr. Barton took the Letter of Intent to Verizon and is present to follow up with any questions or concerns.

Mr. Barton apologized that before contacting the Borough he had not looked at the Zoning Code. The Borough Zoning Code is very restrictive and would require some zoning changes to even allow the tower by the Police Station. Due to the Zoning Code Mr. Barton stated that it appeared that the Public Works Building would be the only viable option in terms of zonability. He stated it looks like a pretty firm cap on the height of the tower. It looks like the proposal would be for a 65ft. mono pole tower at the Public Works Building.

Councilman McDonnell questioned whether the Verizon tower would impact the Comcast cables, televisions etc. Mr. Barton informed that there would be no interference.

Tom Freeman questioned Solicitor Welty what it would take to change the zoning code in regards to the Police Station location for the tower.

Solicitor Welty explained that an amendment to the zoning ordinance would be needed. A discussion ensued and council decided they would have a special meeting to receive public input on the issue of cell phone tower.

A motion was made by Sam St. Clair and seconded by Tom Freeman to pursue the subject with interest to sign letter of intent. All were in favor.

President Helterbran recognized two boy scouts in the audience. The boys were in attendance for a merit badge to attend a town meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cheryl Tennant was present and read a letter from the National Day of Prayer Committee thanking the Borough for support for the annual National Day of Prayer May 2nd, 2013.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Public Works Director Paul Fry thanked everyone for their thoughts and concerns regarding the cell phone tower.

Fry noted also that the majority of community is now receiving the new supply of water from Johnstown. The pressure should be escalated a little to get the water out to Laughlintown. He noted that he has received very little complaints.

Paul Fry also commented on the pre-fab bridge recently delivered for the walking trail down at Black Bridge below Weller Field.

Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator, Chris Stouffer was present and reported that he will be doing a Disaster Siren Test on March 25th, 2013 @ 7:00 PM. The test will be a continuous siren for three minutes. The press will be notified.

Engineer Ben Faas reported receiving lots of flood zone inquiries this month.

Police Chief thanked Council for the cameras.

Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas also thanked Council for the cameras. Mayor Bellas also suggested contacting Manfred Sanders regarding putting a camera at his location.

President Robert Helterbran thanked everyone for coming. Helterbran reminded everyone of the continuation meeting Tuesday, March 19, 2013 @ 7:00 PM.

This concludes the meeting of March 14, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry
Secretary-Treasurer
Office Manager