

**April 12, 2018**

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

**Members Present:** Sam 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 Greg Elliott, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, and Zoning Officer Rick Schwab. Absent was Fire Chief Steve Barron.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion** was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the minutes of March 8, 2018 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

#### **BILLS PAYABLE**

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

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

N/A

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter received from Aaron Slezak, District Governor of Westmoreland County District 14E Lions Club wishing to re-establish the Lion's Club in Ligonier.

A letter was received from Angela Merendino of Red Brick Yoga asking to have Yoga classes in St. Clair Park on Monday evenings from 7-8 pm and Hatha Yoga Flow Saturday morning from 9-10 am beginning June 11 through August 18, 2018 (Alternating 2 of each class per month throughout). Donations will be asked for the class but not necessary to participate.

**A motion** was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to approve barring no charge to participate. All of Council was in favor.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **PARKS & RECREATION**

Mariah Fisher, Parks & Recreation Chair gave an update on the Diamond Project. Phase II began last week with implementation of the traffic signals at North and South Market Streets. Mariah reminded all to pay attention to the lights. Pedestrians reminded to use the pedestrian cross signals which have been put in place. The construction is still on schedule despite the weather. The gas company should be finishing up within the next few days.

##### **TOWN HALL**

Judy Hoffer, Chairperson for Town Hall reported that a crane will be coming in Monday, April 16, 2018 to remove the old AC unit and to install the new unit in Town Hall. The following week the chiller for Town Hall will be hooked up.

It was reported that the committee is waiting for a price for several windows needing replaced in Town Hall. Hoffer reported that a contractor was to come in last year and repair the Town Hall roof but winter weather set in and it has yet to be completed. The job is still on the table but unsure when it can be repaired with current Diamond construction going on.

Hoffer reported that the Borough office copy machine is in bad shape and in need of replacement. The office staff met with several businesses and received a few quotes regarding the purchase of a new one.

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Terry Murphy to permit the office to proceed to purchase the new Sharp copy machine at Costars Pricing. All of Council was in favor.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Chairman Terry Murphy, Chairman of the Public Works Committee reported meeting with the LV Chamber regarding parking areas in which the Chamber could pay for and therefore have free parking days for the businesses during construction period. Waiting to hear back from the Chamber.

Murphy commended the Public Works crew on their work this winter and reminded all to please use the paper bags available at Agway for leaves and yard waste.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

N/A

## **FINANCE**

Chairman James McDonnell reminded each committee to work within their budget.

It was noted that the Town Hall fund is holding its own.

## **PLANNING / PERSONNEL**

Chairman Matt Smith reported that the Joint Comprehensive Plan is ongoing. EADS did a good job explaining how the Joint Comprehensive plans differ from what municipal ordinances do. It was noted that the next meeting will be May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for review of any changes made with a public hearing sometime in July.

Smith concluded his report by stating that the Personnel Committee is looking into updating the employee handbook.

Smith reported that the Planning Commission is likely to hear two subdivision requests at the next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Hemlock Square Tax Appeals:**

Solicitor George Welty explained that he has received two petitions from the Westmoreland County Board of Assessment Appeals. One is from Muriel V Wilders Tax Map #16-01-15-0-218 and the other from Guy and Mary Lou Valicenti Tax Map #16-01-15-0-220; both from the Hemlock Square Condominiums.

Solicitor Welty added that both property owners have appealed their assessments and Westmoreland County has agreed to reduce the assessments. Applicants are asking that Council approve.

**A motion** was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to accept the reduction and authorize Solicitor George Welty to act upon. The motion carried unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Scott Haines, interim Executive Director of LV Chamber of Commerce residing at 239 Washington Street addressed Council about a concern of the merchants for the need of visitor welcoming signage at all four streets around the Diamond during construction. It is requested for two signs on each side of the street one block from the Diamond. Sign verbiage will be; all sidewalks, businesses, and restaurants are open during Diamond Park Renaissance. Also requested was signage for parking education with strategic placement around the inner and outer areas of the Diamond. All signage will be tastefully done and branded with Diamond Park Renaissance logo and to remain in place during the project. The signs will be paid for by the LV Chamber of Commerce.

**A motion** was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the request from the LV Chamber of Commerce. All of Council was in favor.

George Conte, Owner of Conte Design in the Borough spoke about the dirt and dust and asked that the dust be watered down from time to time. Conte also inquired about the possibility of free parking on Saturdays during the Construction.

Councilman Jeff Craig replied that after a meeting with the LV Chamber, the Chamber was to look into the possibility of making a proposal to the Borough to subsidize a portion of revenue lost from meters in order to offer free parking on Saturdays throughout the summer.

Scott Haines, interim executive director of the LV Chamber of Commerce will look into the status on this matter.

Richard Flickinger commented to council that in 2013 he submitted a request from the Planning Commission about some things that should be changed to our ordinance and asked what is taking so long. Solicitor Welty stated that the requests were reviewed. Council did make some changes and Flickinger's requests may not have been included with these changes. Welty added that Richard Flickinger may submit the requests again.

**COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS**

Secretary-Treasurer Public Works Director Paul Fry announced that the annual Dumpster Day will be held this coming Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 8 am to 12 noon at Ligonier Township complex benefiting Ligonier Township, Ligonier Borough, and Laurel Mountain Borough. Fry reported that the street sweeper will be run to help pick up a lot of dirt from the construction.

EADS Engineer Greg Elliott gave an update on the Diamond Project. The contractor is currently ahead of schedule. They are however beginning to uncover some unforeseen circumstances i.e.; buried utilities. The first job conference was held yesterday and will be held bi-weekly. Two change orders were presented for signature. The first change order is for adding a sump pump pit to the bandstand extension. The other is to delete Fort Days Inc. electrical work which is a reduction of \$21,500.

Payment request was submitted in the amount of \$190,520.10.

**A motion** was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Mariah Fisher to authorize 1<sup>st</sup> payment application request in the amount of \$190,520.10. The motion carried with all in favor.

Police Chief John Berger reported that officer Alex Barber is off his 6 month probation affective April 16, 2018.

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Jeff Craig to remove Officer Alexander Barber off of probationary status. All of Council was in favor.

Chief Berger reported that after a recent LVMS fundraiser event for Hoops for Hopes the police received a donation and he would like to purchase an iPad Tablet for the police department.

**A motion** was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve of the purchase of an iPad Tablet for the police department with the donation received from LVMS Hoops for Hope fundraiser. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Bellas thanked Council for removing Officer Barber from probation.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**A motion** was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Jeff Craig to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Office Manager