

September 14, 2017

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 7:00PM in the Town Hall with James McDonnell presiding.

Members Present: James McDonnell, Chick Cicconi, Judy Hoffer, Matt Smith, Pat Scanlon and Terry Murphy. Absent was Gus Breegle.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the regular and special meeting minutes of August 10, 2017 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Chick Cicconi to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried 6-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Proposed Ordinance #569

The ordinance repeals the Borough's current \$10 Occupational Privilege Tax and replaces it with \$52 (LST) Local Service Tax. The ordinance will go into effect January 1, 2018. The Borough will net \$47 of the tax while the school district would receive \$5. Exemptions include individuals whose total earned income equals less than \$12,000 annually, honorably discharged military personnel who served during any war or armed conflict and who have a service-connected disability, and member of any armed forces reserve component called to active duty.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Pat Scanlon to advertise the proposed ordinance to act upon at the next Ligonier Borough Council meeting on Monday, October 9, 2017. The motion carried with all in favor.

Metered Parking Ordinance:

Solicitor Welty reported that he will be working with Public Works Director Paul Fry and Police Chief John Berger to work out the details for the Metered Parking Ordinance to increase the metered parking rate to .25 for 30 minutes or .50 for one hour. It is hoped to advertise a proposed ordinance at next month's council meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from LV Chamber of Commerce asking permission to display pink bows on the lampposts in the Diamond area, the lampposts in front of the stores surrounding the Diamond and to add pink lights to the trees and shrubs in the Town Hall courtyard during the month of October in support of Breast Cancer Awareness month.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the above request from the LV Chamber of Commerce. All of Council was in favor.

A letter was received from Susan Grunstra of the Fort Ligonier Day Inc. requesting approval of a list of locations as temporary festival areas for Fort Ligonier Days this October 13-15, 2017 as well as approval for sales permits for several individuals and organizations:

Proposed Temporary Festival Areas

1. Pioneer Presbyterian Church yard
2. Ramada Ligonier Parking Lot
3. West Main Street & Walnut Street (LV Railroad Assoc.; Fort Allen Antique Farm Equip.)
4. Thistledown at Seger House – 221 West Main St.
5. Ligonier Valley YMCA
6. Rosalie Keslar, lot behind 331-333 W. Main St.
7. St. James Lutheran Church, 300 W Main St. – church yard

Requests for Sales Permits

1. Pioneer Presbyterian Church
2. Ramada Ligonier
3. Fort Allen Antique Farm Equipment
4. Ligonier Valley Railroad Assoc.
5. Ligonier Valley YMCA – 33 vendor spots, including Kids Korner, crafts and food vendors
6. Rosalie Keslar – 39 – 10’ x 10’ spaces
7. St. James Lutheran Church

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to approve above Proposed Temporary Festival Areas and the Requests for Sales Permits for Fort Ligonier Days 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

Justin Martinez was present at the meeting repeating his complaints that stem from a dispute between himself and Ligonier Volunteer Hose Co. #1. Martinez demanded that Council investigate the fire department’s “misconduct” and his claims of abuse and harassment from them. Martinez called on Fire Chief, Steve Barron to face him in court. Martinez stated that he no longer wished to hold a concert/performance on the Diamond as was previously approved by Council at last month’s meeting.

President James McDonnell read a prepared statement advising Martinez that the Borough Council has absolutely no authority to investigate the fire department. Ligonier Volunteer Hose Co. #1 is a separate nonprofit corporation from the Borough of Ligonier.

A letter was received from Fire Chief Steve Barron of Ligonier Volunteer Hose Co. #1 requesting the closure of Fairfield Street from Main Street to the intersection at Church Street on Saturday, October 7, 2017 from 8AM to 4PM. The closure is needed to hold a fundraiser at the fire department to benefit disaster relief in Texas.

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Chick Cicconi to approve the request from the fire department. The motion carried with all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION / SHADE TREE

N/A

TOWN HALL

Town Hall Committee Chair Judy Hoffer reported that 4 new windows have been replaced in the Town Hall in meeting rooms A & B. Repairs have been done as well on several windows on first floor. The committee has been looking into security for Town Hall and will be receiving bids.

PUBLIC WORKS

Judy Hoffer reported that approximately 530 square feet of cobble stone in Lot A are uneven and the committee has received a bid to have it repaired.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Pat Scanlon to repair the cobble stone in Lot A. The motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

N/A

FINANCE

Chairman Terry Murphy reported that Budget for 2018 is coming due. Murphy reported that health insurance coverage for the Borough employees has increased 9.9%.

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Judy Hoffer to extend UPMC Health Insurance Coverage for 2018 at \$107,455.56. The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Chick Cicconi reported that the Planning Commission will be meeting next Tuesday with the Township in regards to the Joint Comprehensive Plan.

The Committee continues to finalize the police contract for 2018.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Flickinger voiced his concerns and comments on the design of the Diamond project as well as the crosswalks.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Engineer Greg Elliott reported that PennDOT is still reviewing a highway occupancy permit for the Diamond Park Project. The permit now encompasses Peoples Natural Gas work to replace all of the gas lines in the Diamond area which will begin after Fort Ligonier Days. Elliott reported that the Borough is still on track to solicit bids for the project in November, award a contract in December and begin demolition work after the Ice Fest in January. The project will then move forward after the weather breaks in March.

Resolution 2017-3

A motion was made by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Pat Scanlon to adopt the PennDot agreement in Resolution 2017-3. The motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Terry Murphy that there will be one contractor for general construction for the Diamond Project. The motion carried unanimously.

Zoning Officer Rick Schwab questioned the code enforcement officer vacant position. Rick was told it was under discussion and a personnel issue.

Police Chief John Berger reported receiving the PennDOT permit for Fort Ligonier Days 2017. Berger reported that this is his 13th year anniversary serving the Borough.

Mayor Ormond “Butch” Bellas stated that there has been a lot of sidewalk repair ongoing within the Borough. Mayor Bellas reminded all to keep their grass cut and clean up after their dogs as well as to keep their cats in the house.

President James McDonnell thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Pat Scanlon to adjourn the meeting into executive session for personnel / litigation. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Paul A Fry
Secretary-Treasurer
Office Manager