

November 14, 2019

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall with James St. Clair presiding.

Members Present: James St. Clair, Matt Smith, James McDonnell, Mariah Fisher, Judy Hoffer, Terry Murphy and Junior Council member Izabella Wentzell. Absent was Jeff Craig.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineer Ben Faas, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, and Zoning Officer Rick Schwab. Absent was Fire Chief Steve Barron and Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Knepper.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the minutes of October 7, 2019 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Terry Murphy 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

Mini Cell Tower Ordinance:

The ordinance will regulate the location and design standards for networks of miniature wireless antennas in Ligonier Borough within state and federal laws that promote the expansion of next generation 5G cellular data service. The ordinance will enable some local control over these devices especially if they are installed within public rights-of-way. The ordinance bans such equipment from Diamond Park.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to authorize Solicitor George Welty to advertise the ordinance. The motion carried with all in favor.

4-Way Stop Sign @ Bell & Washington Street:

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Matt Smith to retain the four-way stop signs at the intersection of Bell and Washington Streets. All of Council was in favor.

Solicitor Welty noted that Council would need to amend the Borough's traffic ordinance to make the change permanent.

Resolution # 2019-04:

A resolution of Ligonier Borough to apply for a \$275,000 small water and sewer grant through the PA department of Community and economic development to replace a storm sewer on Hazel Alley.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to approve Resolution 2019-04. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from LV Chamber of Commerce asking LV Police Department to detour traffic for Santa's arrival Friday, November 29, 2019 @ 6:30pm as well as to bag meters on the

northeast quadrant of the Diamond by Town Hall & the first four meters on Fairfield Street beside the YMCA for Misty Haven Carriages.

LV Chamber also is requesting that two meters be bagged in front of the Library 9am-5pm Sunday, December 8th during Town-Wide Open House for the kettle corn vendor and the first four meters on Fairfield Street beside the YMCA 10am – 5pm for Misty Haven Carriages.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the request from LV Chamber. All were in favor.

Letter received from the Salvation Army requesting permission to set up a Red Kettle on Light Up Night November 29, 2019. All proceeds from the drive will stay in the Valley and will benefit many with food, clothing, and utility help, along with donations of toys and food for Christmas.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the above request and they may set up in front of the LV Library. All of Council was in favor.

Letter received from the LV Chamber asking Council to consider extending free parking on the 4 Saturdays that fall between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the request for free Parking on the four Saturdays between November 30 and December 21, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

FORT LIGONIER DAYS:

A letter and petition was received from Allegory Gallery owners William Jones and Andrew Thornton asking the borough to consider changing its sidewalk tent regulations after a Fort Ligonier Days committee member asked their shop to remove a tent during Fort Ligonier Days.

Chief Berger explained the intent of the ordinance was for safety reasons.

Council decided to resume participation on the Fort Ligonier Days Advisory Committee it established in December of 2016. The committee comprised of two LV Chamber of Commerce Members, two Fort Ligonier Days Committee members and one Council member. Previous Council member was Chick Cicconi who is no longer serving on Ligonier Borough Council. Mariah Fisher volunteered to be appointed to the advisory committee.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Terry Murphy to appoint Mariah Fisher to serve on the Fort Ligonier Days Advisory Committee. All of Council was in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chairman James McDonnell reported that two trees have been planted on the Diamond to replace the two that died.

McDonnell advised that the final check to Darr Construction will be held until the last remaining punch list items have been completed.

Digital Audio Installation on exhibits for Diamond Park:

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to proceed with the installation of two digital audio exhibits at the corner of east Main and Town Hall and on the south side of the Diamond at a cost of \$1,350.00. The motion carried with all in favor.

McDonnell closed his report by informing all that Friendship Park restrooms have been closed for the winter.

TOWN HALL

Judy Hoffer, Town Hall Chair reported that the Town Hall is busy researching a new phone system for the building, as well as looking at a new computer and security system for the Borough Office.

Town Hall is also looking to repair the heating / air conditioning for the 2nd floor.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Terry Murphy commented that Public Works is still waiting for word on the State Grant for equipment.

PUBLIC SAFETY

N/A

FINANCE

Mariah Fisher, Finance Chair reported that the Borough is projecting a balanced budget with no tax increase for 2020. The property tax will remain at 24.5 mills. A copy of the draft budget will be posted on the Ligonier Borough website and will also be available at the Town Hall office for public review.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Judy Hoffer to advertise the proposed budget for action at next month's meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT

A complaint was made regarding the condition of a pool and junk at a residence on Delaware Street.

A discussion ensued with the need to see a report monthly from our Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Knepper.

RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported that Westmoreland Cultural Trust will unveil its previously approved "Wings Across Westmoreland" installation at Town Hall during Ice Fest on Saturday, January 26, 2020. Details will be announced.

Shaw also reported that the Diamond is being decorated by two LVMS School Teachers, Adam Storey, and Ryan Podlucky and students.

Volunteers are welcome and needed to decorate the Diamond for the holidays from noon to 3pm Saturday, November 16 and 9am to noon Saturday, November 23, 2019.

Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported that leaf pick up continues and reminded all to keep their leaves on the curb and off the streets.

Ron Ross also reported that 8 shade trees have been planted in the Borough.

Engineer Ben Faas reported that he has heard that the Contractor at Shaker Commons will address the concerns on the building for winter.

Police Chief John Berger added a reminder to the public to contact the police by calling 911 if they see any incidents happening in their neighborhood because their calls have led the police with good outcomes.

Mayor "Butch" Bellas commented that it was observed during Veteran's Day Celebration that the US flag was overlapping the Prisoner of War Flag. The Prisoner of War flag will need to be lowered slightly.

Mayor Bellas commented that individuals placed their chairs on the roadways during Fort Ligonier Days. Bellas reminded all that you cannot block the roadway.

Student Council Izabella Wentzell commented that the LVHS Honor Society / Sophomore Class will have 5 or 6 volunteers available for both the Saturdays for Diamond Decorating.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to adjourn into executive session for personnel with no action to be taken at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer