

December 12, 2013

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, December 12, 2013 @ 7:00 PM in the Town Hall with Robert Helterbran presiding.

Members present: Robert Helterbran, Matt Smith, James McDonnell, Judy Hoffer, Robert Bell, Tom Freeman, Sam St. Clair.

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 Sam St. Clair and seconded by James McDonnell to approve the minutes. The minutes carried 6-1 with Matt Smith opposing.

#### **BILLS PAYABLE**

A motion was made by Tom Freeman and seconded by Robert Bell to approve the Bills Payable as presented. All were in favor.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A motion was made by Tom Freeman and seconded by Sam St. Clair to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. All of Council was in favor.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

N/A

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**A letter was received from the LV Library thanking Council for the \$1,000 allocation to the Library.**

**Letter was received from the LYBSA requesting to hang 4' x 6' sponsor banners at the ball fields along the first and third baseline fences, one on each score board/press box and if needed, the fence area to the left of concession stand.**

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Tom Freeman to approve the banners for LYBSA. The motion carried unanimously.

**A resignation letter was received from Pat Scanlon from the Zoning Hearing Board effective January 5, 2014 due to being elected onto Council 2014.**

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to accept the resignation from Pat Scanlon on the Zoning Hearing Board. All of Council was in favor.

**A letter was received from Relay for Life in care of the American Cancer Society requesting to hang banners on the lampposts around the Diamond for approximately 6 weeks from the month of April until the event, May 16, 2013.**

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to defer the request from Relay for Life to a later date until further information is received. The motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PARKS & RECREATION**

Parks & Recreation chair Judy Hoffer wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy and Safe New Year.

### **TOWN HALL**

Chairman Sam St. Clair reported that TMR is still working on Town Hall Roof repair when weather permits.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Tom Freeman Public Works Chairman reported that Public Works is ready for winter maintenance program. Leaf pick up program went well.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY / SHADE TREE**

Personnel Chairman James McDonnell reported meeting with Robert Bell, Chief John Berger, Mayor “Butch” Bellas met earlier this month in response to Chief Berger’s request to consider the hiring of two part-time police officers. A scan was done of graduates from the academy and Berger came up with one gentleman who far exceeded expectations. It was requested to interview this particular gentleman and discuss his merits. His name is Kenneth J. Burke and he resides in Greensburg. Burke signed a waiver to “ride” with Chief Berger and get familiar with the Borough and the layout of the streets.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Robert Bell to hire Kenneth J. Burke as a part-time police officer. All of Council was in favor.

Chief Berger stated that there will be a 1 year probation period.

### **FINANCE**

Chairman Robert Bell reported that he presented a Budget in November. There will be no tax increase.

A motion was made by Robert Bell and seconded by James McDonnell to approve Budget 2014. The motion carried unanimously.

Robert Bell thanked both Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry and Bookkeeper Jan Shaw for a fantastic job in helping with the budget.

Robert Bell added that the Town Hall Fund is doing pretty good. The Parks & Recreation Fund is also doing well with approximately \$128,000.

### **PERSONNEL / PLANNING COMMISSION**

A discussion was held on the proposed zoning ordinance amendments as presented from the Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Sam St. Clair and seconded by Tom Freeman to table this topic until the January 2014 regular meeting. All were in favor.

McDonnell further reported that the YMCA project update will be presented at the Planning Commission meeting in January 2014.

**NEW BUSINESS**

N/A

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Louise Dean voiced her confusion on Kim Shaffer's resignation and Solicitor Dan Hewitt's letters.

**COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from DEPARTMENTS and OFFICERS****SECRETARY-TREASURER / PUBLIC WORKS**

Paul Fry acknowledged Councilmen Robert Bell and Tom Freeman and thanked them for their work serving on Ligonier Borough Council and wished all a Merry Christmas.

Solicitor Welty also acknowledged both Robert Bell and Tom Freeman service on Council as well as a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Solicitor Welty added that he has received more notices on the Hemlock Square appeal. Solicitor Welty stated that it is highly unlikely that the Borough would have to be participants at a court hearing on the appeal.

Engineer Ben Faas reported that the GIS map has been posted on the Ligonier Borough website for public use. Faas wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Police Chief John Berger thanked Council and Mayor for giving him another part-time officer to alleviate some schedule problems. Berger thanked the LV Endowment for recent grant to update tasers. The new tasers should be in next week.

Berger thanked Robert Bell and Tom Freeman for everything they've done while serving on Council.

Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas thanked Council for giving to the LV Library.

Mayor Bellas also thanked Robert Bell and Tom Freeman for their service on Council.

Bellas reminded all to shovel their sidewalks.

Tom Freeman thanked the Borough Employees; Public Works and police officers and Paul Fry and members of Council, Engineer Ben Faas, and Solicitor Welty for all the work they do.

Robert Bell recollected briefly of his time serving on Council. Bell thanked all members of Council.

President Robert Helterbran thanked both Robert Bell and Tom Freeman for their service given to the Borough.

Robert Helterbran closed by stating that everything said at the meeting tonight as well as public comment will be taken under consideration. Helterbran stated that he would like to get more information from Councilman McDonnell's opening comments as well and research further to see what directions the Borough should take if any. Helterbran wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Tom Freeman and seconded by Robert Bell to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned @ 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Paul A Fry  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Office Manager

