

March 12, 2015

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, March 12, 2015 @ 7:00 PM in the Town Hall with Robert Helterbran presiding.

Members Present: Robert Helterbran, James McDonnell, Margaret Garland, Judy Hoffer, Matt Smith, & Mike Bieterman. Absent was Pat Scanlon.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineer Ben Faas, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, and Ligonier Hose Co. #1 representative Damian Hart.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Margaret Garland to approve the minutes of the special and regular meetings of February 12, 2015 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mike Bieterman to approve the Bills Payable as presented before Council. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried 6-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman James McDonnell presented council with a proposal from GEA George Ely Associates, Inc. from Carlisle PA for (12) twelve 36" tall square steel decorative bollards totaling \$3,540 to be placed strategically around the Diamond.

President Robert Helterbran supported this idea and brought up the fact that the Diamond area is in need of repair and feels council should authorize Ben Faas of EADS to draw up specs in regards to reducing the sharpness of the curbs in the four quadrants of Diamond as well as redoing brickwork around the Bandstand.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to authorize EADS Engineer Ben Faas to proceed with specs for the Bandstand as well as to move forward with purchase of bollards for the Diamond area. All were in favor.

Boy Scout Drew Neiderhiser was present at the meeting and gave a follow-up on the batting cages installed at Donaldson Memorial Ball field which Neiderhiser initiated as his Eagle Scout project in memory of little league Coach Kevin Coleman. Neiderhiser shared a picture collage of the project with Council.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from Brian Panichelle, owner/property owner of BP Insurance Inc. at 123 W. Loyalhanna Street asking Council to consider placing 1 hour parking signs on the 3 on- street parking spaces in front of 123 W Loyalhanna Street. Panichelle agrees to pay the cost to acquire the signs and installation fees.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by James McDonnell to do a 90 day trial for one 1 hour parking sign placed at 123 West Loyalhanna Street in front of Brian Penichelle's insurance business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

N/A

TOWN HALL

Town Hall Chair Judy Hoffer reported that several rooms have been painted at the Town Hall.

PUBLIC WORKS

Margaret Garland, Public Works Chair reported that the Public Works crew has been busy with street sweeping and pothole patching.

PUBLIC SAFETY / SHADE TREE

Chairman Matt Smith reported that the three loading zones discussed at previous meeting were marked today around the Diamond making them visible. The parking attendant, Toni Ulery has been advised as well.

Shade Tree: Waiting on funding information for Ligonier Project more towards the end of month and then will get started on planning the plantings for fall as well as taking a tree inventory. Smith noted that he is planning on scheduling a tree tender's class for anyone interested. Please let Matt Smith know.

FINANCE

Chairman of Finance, Mike Bieterman, reported that Neil Van Horn of Guyasuta Associates would like to meet with the Finance Committee to discuss the Town Hall Fund.

Councilman James McDonnell read an article from the Borough News magazine regarding tax exempt properties. McDonnell feels that this is very important for the Borough to know about.

PERSONNEL / PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was reported that the Valley School proposed parking lot behind the old Comtec building @ 114 S. Market Street is to be discussed soon by the Planning Committee. They wish to pave the gravel parking area.

Councilman Matt Smith reported that Ronald Ross, new hire for the Streets crew seems to be working out well.

NEW BUSINESS

Hemlock Square Condominium Property tax appeal:

Solicitor George Welty explained that 4 property owners are seeking a property tax appeal.

1. Gerald / Muriel Wilders
2. John Wallace
3. Scott / Cindy Smith
4. Carl / Vivian Perian

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Margaret Garland to accept the joint stipulation that has been agreed on by the county and the school district for the above appeals. The motion carried unanimously with one abstention from Matt Smith due to conflict of interest.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Attorney Scott Mears announced his intentions to run for Court of Common Pleas.

Richard Flickinger asked the status of the YMCA project and if the Borough has taken any action.

EADS Engineer Ben Faas responded that all permits are in order.

Councilman James McDonnell asked if this was all for the building part /structure only and not property to the north of the building which is pending litigation with Ms. Wassermann.

McDonnell asked how we can buy into something that could be problematic depending outcome of litigation.

Engineer Ben Faas answered upon discussion with Attorney Dan Hewitt, the YMCA is proceeding at their own risk and that the Borough is not at risk.

COMMENDATIONS and COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Public Works director Paul Fry informed council that it has been discussed that PennDot is going to pave Rte. 711 from the Ambulance garage to Rte. 56 in Seward PA in April or May.

Fry asked if PennDot if funding was available to have streets in the borough milled and paved as well. He was told PennDot would look into it. Fry hopes to meet with PennDot within the next month to further discuss the matter and have the road around the Diamond improved.

It was noted that the last time PennDot overlaid the Diamond was 1998 and it was not milled at that time.

Fry hoped that the work would be conducted in the evenings or weekend.

Damian Hart Ligonier Hose Co. #1 representative spoke about a new 3-year program in the early planning stages at Vo-Tech for Fire Police EMS for High School students.

Police John Berger spoke of the need for a police committee meeting possibly next week.

President Helterbran stated that the next monthly Ligonier Borough Council meeting will be held Thursday, April 9th, 2016 @ 7:00 PM.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Matt Smith to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned @ 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry
Secretary-Treasurer
Office Manager