

October 11, 2022

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 7pm in the Town Hall with President Matt Smith presiding.

Members Present: Matt Smith, Mariah Fisher, Robert Barron, Nate Sylvester, Jordan Frei and Brad Chartier. Absent was Judy Hoffer.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineer Ben Faas, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, Fire Chief Corey Blystone, and Zoning / Code Enforcement Officer Karl Horman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **motion** was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the minutes as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A **motion** was made by Brad Chartier and seconded by Nate Sylvester to approve the Bills Payable. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A **motion** was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the Consent Calendar presented. The motion carried with all of Council in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance Amending Section 8 of Ordinance #544 Permitting Sidewalk Cafes:

Section I: Section 8. A.2. of Ordinance #544 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2) On the sidewalk in front of the principal place of business of each entity; and, on the sidewalk in front of an adjoining property only with the joinder of the adjoining property owner and adjoining business owner in the Application for Sidewalk Café Permit and only with the written approval of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

Section II:

*Section 8.E. of Ordinance #544 stating that "no alcoholic beverages may be served or allowed to be consumed upon the sidewalk café" is hereby **deleted**.*

Section III:

All other provisions of Ordinance #544 shall remain in effect and unchanged.

Section IV:

This ordinance shall become effective upon enactment.

A **motion** was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve the proposed ordinance. The motion carried unanimously.

President Matt Smith stated that open container ordinance is in full affect for Fort Ligonier Days.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from LV Chamber of Commerce asking permission to use the Community Room for Santa to greet children immediately following light up of the Diamond Friday, November 25, 2022.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve the request from LV Chamber of Commerce for Santa to greet the children on Light Up Night. The motion carried with all of Council in favor.

Email received from Carol Wolford of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 267 requesting one light to be green on Diamond to show support to all Veteran's from November 6 thru November 12, 2022.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve. The motion carried with all in favor.

Email received from Gus Breegle asking permission to use some of the "town's facilities and scenic areas" for a few shots while he and a friend produce a horror film.

Councilwoman Mariah Fisher requested more details and dates. Gus Breegle was present and stated project still in planning stages and he will provide more information at a later date but for now looking for permission to begin.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve to proceed with open lines of communication including dates, details and all other pertinent information. All of Council was in favor.

Email received from Ginny Fitzner of LVHC#1 asking permission to close Fairfield Street from Church to Main Streets, and Bank Alley one block in both directions from Fairfield Street on October 23, 2022 from 10am-7pm. Also requested is permission to permit sale and consumption of alcohol on the closed portion of Fairfield Street. The intent is to cordon off the street between the two LVHC#1 buildings to sell food and beverages during the Witches ride. LVHC#1 will have RAMP certified servers as well as the appropriate liquor license and insurance.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Brad Chartier to approve the above request from Ligonier Hose Co. #1. The motion carried unanimously to approve.

Letter received from Steve John of HCG Holdings, LLC requesting to meet with Council to present their Broadband Service and bring Fiber Optic Broadband Services to Borough residents.

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported placing a call to him and has not heard back. Shaw added that the Borough does have broadband through Verizon and Laurel Highlands. Mayor Bellas also noted that the Borough has fiber through Laurel Highlands.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chair Mariah Fisher reported that the restrooms at Friendship Park will be closing in early November. A notice will be placed on the Borough Website and Savvy Citizen when officially closed.

TOWN HALL

N/A

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Robert Barron thanked the Public Works Crew for all their work in preparation of getting town ready for Fort Ligonier Days.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Jordan Frei, Chairman of Public Safety wished everyone a safe Fort Ligonier Days.

FINANCE

Chairman Brad Chartier reported receiving the 2022 Municipal Pension payment from the state in the amount of \$46,624.06. This covers approximately 65% of pension cost for Borough employees. Also received was 2022 Fire Relief payment in the amount of \$10,243.48. We are required by law to give it to the relief association. Chartier reported further receiving final pay installment from ARPA in the amount of \$39,275.12 which will go towards the Burd Alley repair project from last year and other storm water repairs.

Chartier added that the committee is currently working on the 2023 Budget and plan to have a draft for the November Council meeting.

Chartier ended by noting that he along with Jan Shaw, Ron Ross and Butch Bellas are presently taking course modules online as part of the federal infrastructure funding to get prepared to write grants in the future for monies within the next 2-3 years.

President Matt Smith added that the police budget should stay flat this year and the Borough should see no increase.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

YMCA – SwimRun

Letter received from YMCA president Larry Stormer requesting potential closure of the intersection of Vincent and Fairfield Streets on Sunday morning, October 30, 2022 from 8am-9:30am. The YMCA is having a SwimRun Event which will encompass a 300 yard swim and 2 mile run for all ages beginning with the swim at 8am. Participants will exit the Y pool and exit the building out of back door to Wellington Alley and make a right on Fairfield. Runners will continue on Fairfield down to the football field where they will access the trail. They will then utilize the trail to a designated turn around and come back to the YMCA.

Stormer stated that the YMC A could also look into securing volunteers to get the runners through the intersection.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Nate Sylvester to approve event without street closures & provided YMCA controls traffic with volunteers and to consult police for help. The motion carried with all of Council in favor.

Electrical Vehicle Charging:

Scott Electric has contacted the Borough about the possibility of installing Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations within the Borough. Street Supervisor Ron Ross and Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw met with the representative with the possibility of using Lot B in the two spots near the electrical service. The spots would be designated Electrical Vehicle Charging Only. It would be necessary to upgrade the electrical service with a quote received of approximately \$6,000. The cost of chargers would be about \$6,000 each through costars. Scott Electric representative felt there would be a 70% rebate from DEP leaving cost to be approximately \$3,600 for the two together. An annual cell service plan is needed and would be used for payment options as there is no current internet service in Lot B. Annual cost is estimated at \$515. Rate of electricity usage is about \$.08- 10.5 cents per hour. The average cost to charge a car is about \$4-\$8 dollars an hour. An app is used to pay for the charging. The app has a map on it with all the charging stations around the area. Borough would also use the app to adjust the fees. DEP requires the application be submitted before project installation so the Borough can submit an application to see if we qualify for the rebate before proceeding. Parking revenue would not be lost with the two charging stations installed as the lot is not well used.

Solicitor Welty stated that an Ordinance would be needed if grant is obtained to proceed.

A committee was formed consisting of Council members Brad Chartier, Jordan Frei and Mariah Fisher.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Brad Chartier to apply for the grant for the Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations. The motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Stablein of Fort Ligonier Days thanked everyone involved with Fort Ligonier Days and reported that it was an extremely cooperative year with everyone working together very well; Chief Berger, Fire Chief Corey Blystone and Street Supervisor Ron Ross. Stablein expressed concern for the alcohol usage and large signs will be placed in various locations with Borough ordinance pertaining to open containers laws enforced.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported that leaf pick up will begin Thursday or Friday of next week. Everyone is reminded to not put leaves on the street. Leaf pick up will end around the first week of December.

Mayor Bellas noted that Trick or Treat in the Borough is Monday, October 31st from 6-8pm. Mayor Bellas wished everyone a safe Fort Ligonier Days and commended both Fort Ligonier Days Committee and Public Works crew for all their work with Fort Ligonier Days.

President Matt Smith reminded all that the Sidewalk Café ordinance is suspended for Fort Ligonier Days and that there is no alcohol permitted outside. Smith wished all a safe and fun Fort Ligonier Days.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Brad Chartier to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer