

April 14, 2022

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 7pm in the Town Hall with President Matt Smith presiding.

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

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 & Zoning /Code Enforcement Officer Karl Horman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **motion** was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the minutes of March 10, 2022 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A **motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve the Bills Payable as presented also. The motion carried with all in favor.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A **motion** was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steven Solo of 209 Franklin Street was present and thanked Council for the resolved problem of the illegal Airbnb. Solo further spoke of property damage due to off street parking. The possibility of a No Outlet – No Parking Sign was discussed to be placed at this location.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LV Chamber requested to complete the paperwork to close the first block of East Main Street July 16 from 11am-4pm for Summer in Ligonier. The Chamber asked permission for children to use sidewalk chalk to decorate the closed street as well as to use the Town Hall Courtyard as a play area.

A **motion** was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve. All of Council was in favor.

Ordinance amending the Ligonier Borough Zoning Ordinance:

A **motion** was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Jordan Frei to authorize Solicitor Welty to advertise. All of Council was in favor.

Larry Shew of Ligonier Township Recreation Board was present to discuss the tabled topic from a previous meeting; the Walking Trail Extension. It previously was determined that the Borough has never accepted Kastner Street, and therefore cannot give permission. The property is owned by a Mrs. Bush and West Penn Power Company. Shew explained that the Recreation Board has been granted permission by West Penn Power to put a trail along the street to the end of Kastner Street. Additionally Shew has a letter from a private community at this location saying they have no objections. Shew further stated that there is no wetlands where they want to put the trail as stated at a prior meeting.

Jane Heiple of 424 Kastner Street was also present and stated that there is a piece of property along the proposed extension belonging to Mrs. Bush and Jeff Irwin of Highland Developers who are both adamantly opposed to granting permission for the trail to cross that piece of

property to connect to Kastner Street. Secondly, as far as wetlands go there is a big swamp there to connect that trail to. Heiple stated Kastner is a very narrow street and people parking along it will inhibit emergency vehicles to access any homes along the street. Heiple further stated public health is also an issue as to how to drain the swamp. Heiple has pictures of an area where Mr. Shew wants to bring the trail through with 2 feet of water. Impacting private property is yet another issue when individuals cannot enter the trail because of the wetlands they will then enter on Mrs. Bush's property and Highland Developers. Heiple respectfully asks Council to deny the request.

A motion was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Mariah Fisher to table the topic until full permission is received. All of Council was in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from Gregory W Smith questioning if a plaque could be placed in Lot A for the former **Dickinson School**.

Council discussed the option for Mr. Smith to pursue his idea.

Letter received from Ligonier Hose Co. #1 requesting that Fairfield Street be closed from Church Street to Bank Alley from 1pm-10pm for their **Night at the Races** event planned for May 14, 2022. A barricade will be put up to contain the event to the fire hall bays and the street in front of the fire station. Wrist bands and ID check will be issued to paying supporters. Also requested is for open container ordinance to be lifted for the event.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Mariah Fisher to lift the open container ordinance for the event to be held in the contained area described with participants wearing wrist bands. The motion carried unanimously.

Letter received from the LV Chamber requesting permission to partner with the Borough to offer a Parking Discount & participate in **National Pay it Forward Day** on April 28, 2022 by selling \$5 meter bags to use from April 28-April 30, 2022 and then return them.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the request from the LV Chamber. The motion carried with all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chair Mariah Fisher reported the committee has received 4 proposals for Friendship Park Phase II however the committee has not had enough time to go over them thoroughly. Parks & Recreation committee hopes to have a proposal to suggest to Council for next month's meeting.

Mariah reported working with Police Chief John Berger and the fire companies for National Night Out scheduled for Tuesday, August 2nd from 5:30pm-8:30pm. It is requested to use Lot A again for the event as well as to close down Bank Alley from Market to Fairfield Street and Church Street from Market to Fairfield Street. It is hoped to have Lot A closed by 2pm Tuesday.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jordan Frei to close Bank Alley from Market to Fairfield Street and Church Street from Market to Fairfield Street Tuesday August 2, 2022 for National Night Out event to be held in Lot A. The motion carried unanimously with all in favor.

TOWN HALL

Nothing

PUBLIC WORKS

Robert Barron reported that approximately April 18, 2022 a detour will begin on West Main Street needed for gas line replacement work.

Barron also reported that People Gas will soon be repairing the streets previously dug up for the work completed.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jordan Frei reported the committee has been working with Solicitor Welty on the Fire Service Agreement and a revised copy is to be sent to the Ligonier Hose Co. #1.

FINANCE

Nothing

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

Clarification of Town Hall rule pertaining to the serving of alcoholic beverages.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Robert Barron to **not permit** the serving of **alcoholic beverages** in the Town Hall until the Town Hall committee reviews and checks the insurance policy. All of Council was in favor.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Secretary-Treasurer

Nothing

Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported that public works will be bagging the meters on the North side of West Main during the detour for the gas line replacement project. The detour is expected to be approximately 2 weeks.

Dumpster Days for Ligonier Borough residents will be Friday, April 29th from 7am-3pm and Saturday, April 30th from 8am-12 noon at the Borough garage.

Code Enforcement Officer Karl Horman stated that chapter 65 of the code states that trash bags must be in a container at night. Per Horman, this rule will be enforced after a recent incident with raccoons.

Mayor Bellas introduced Patty Smith, coordinator for Abate of PA (Motorcycle Safety). A proclamation was presented to Smith for the month of May concerning motorcycle safety.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jordan Frei to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm

Respectfully submitted

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer