

## February 13, 2020

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 7:00PM in the Town Hall with James St. Clair presiding.

**Members Present:** James St. Clair, Matt Smith, Robert Barron, Mariah Fisher, Judy Hoffer, Jeff Craig, Nate Sylvester, Izabella Wentzell – Jr. Council Member.

**Other's 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 Officer Rick Schwab. Absent was Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Knepper.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion** was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 9, 2020 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

**A motion** was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jeff Craig to approve the January 6, 2020 minutes of the Biennial Reorganization meeting as presented. All of Council was in favor.

### **BILLS PAYABLE**

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the Bills Payable as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A motion** was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried with all in favor.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Revised Resolution PA Small Water/Sewer Grant:**

**A motion** was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Jeff Craig to amend Resolution 2019-04 showing the grant amount to \$233,954.00. All of Council was in favor.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter received from the LV Chamber of Commerce requesting permission to bring a new event to the LV Community. The "Ligonier Night Market" would take place on the third Thursday of each month from June through October. The hours of the event will be from 5PM to 9PM. It is requested to bag the meters on the Diamond and the first blocks of East and West Main Streets from 3PM-10PM to allow for setup and teardown. Also requested is use of the Bandstand for live music as well as the area in front of the Town Hall steps for an information booth. Free parking in the Loyalhanna Lot and Lot A during the hours of each Night Market is asked to encourage locals and visitors to stay longer.

**A motion** was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Nate Sylvester to approve the requested from the LV Chamber of Commerce. The motion carried with all in favor.

Letter received from the LV Chamber of Commerce requesting permission to use the Diamond Park area for Soup's On event to be held Saturday, March 21, 2020 from 11AM to 2PM.

**A motion** was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Soup's On! Event Saturday, March 21, 2020 from 11AM to 2PM. All of Council was in favor.

Temporary Sign Permit Application received from Fort Ligonier to place a 3'x4' aluminum banner on the post & rail fence at Fort Ligonier's entrance through March 31, 2020 to educate the public about winter hours.

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the sign permit application to place an aluminum banner on the post & rail fence at Fort Ligonier. The motion carried unanimously.

Letter received from Cindy Purnell, Chairman of the Ligonier Ice Fest requesting Council to pay \$700 fee for the cost of a purchase of dry ice bought in effort to save the sculptures from melting as the heated sidewalks were left on due to inclement weather forecast.

A discussion ensued with Council deciding not to reimburse \$700 for the dry ice purchase the Ice Fest event incurred. The sidewalk heat was on for safety & liability reasons.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PARKS & RECREATION**

Mariah Fisher, Parks & Recreation chair reported that the gutters on the bandstand have been replaced by TMR Roofing with copper ones. The Borough was not charged extra for the copper piping. TMR also installed a new downspout to help with drainage and heat tape has been placed in the gutters and downspouts to help prevent freezing in there as well.

Final Payment Application has just been received from Darr Construction on the Diamond Park Project. Invoice will be held until next month after reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Committee, and Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw.

Ron Ross has been working on a new sign for Friendship Park to help cover the Borough and limit possible liability at Friendship Park. The old signs at Friendship Park will remain.

Public Works has also been working on installing drainage pipes at the pavilion at Friendship Park.

Results have been received from Geotech Service on the soil at the Tennis Courts. Mariah Fisher noted that Engineer Greg Elliott will give a report on the findings.

Mariah added that the Rotary Club has been working with individuals that are very passionate about renovating the tennis courts into a higher end tennis facility however word has been received that others want more opportunities for the youth in our community. Mariah presented a rough draft of an idea by herself and Street Supervisor Ron Ross for the area which would include a skate park as well as upgraded basketball courts and pickle ball courts.

Copies of a petition that has been going around town were also presented to get a skate park in Ligonier with comments from local residents.

Jr. Council member Izabella Wentzell also had on hand a survey that she sent out to the high school this week pertaining to questions as to what the high school students would like.

Fisher suggested everyone take a look at the items presented and welcomed all to address the ideas at next month's meeting.

### **TOWN HALL**

Judy Hoffer, Town Hall Chair reported that the Town Hall Committee is still looking into a new security system for the Town Hall and waiting for bids.

Since last meeting, our "Wings" from Wings Across America have been placed outside of Town Hall in the Courtyard. Hoffer noted that the Wings have an abundance of history on them and encouraged everyone to take a look.

Judy Hoffer wished to congratulate Chief Berger on his successful basketball season.

Hoffer also reported that former councilman James McDonnell fell a few weeks ago and broke his hip. He is recuperating at the Bethlen Home. Hoffer asked all to keep him in your thoughts.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Chairman Robert Barron asked Council for approval to permit Street Supervisor Ron Ross to begin looking at bids for tar and chipping some borough streets this year.

**A motion** was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to authorize Street Supervisor Ron Ross to put seal coating work out for bid. The motion carried with all in favor.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Chairman Jeff Craig reported that the Ligonier Valley Police Department has started the formal process with the Hill Group evaluating the location of the new police headquarters. The Police Commission has retained the Hill Group out of Pittsburgh. A kick off meeting was held several weeks ago. A few sites are being evaluated and it is hoped to come to a decision within the year.

Jeff Craig thanked Jr. Council Izabella Wentzell for her work on the survey for the tennis park area.

## **FINANCE**

Nate Sylvester, Finance Chair reported that January financials look good and that the 2019 Audit will be coming up soon.

## **PLANNING / PERSONNEL**

Nothing to report on Planning.

Chair Matt Smith reported that the personnel committee got together to go over the rather large stack of applications received for the mechanics position at Public Works. It is hoped to get someone approved for hire at next month's meeting.

Smith added that the committee has updated the Ligonier Borough Employee Handbook adding language regarding Comp. Time; limiting it to 20 hours per year and to be paid out at the end of the year to avoid liabilities. All employees will acknowledge and sign the change in the handbook.

**A motion** was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the amended employee handbook and have all employees acknowledge such by signature. The motion carried with all in favor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Fort Ligonier Days Committee:**

A committee was formed consisting of Councilmembers Mariah Fisher, Jeff Craig, and James St. Clair for Fort Ligonier Days.

### **Police Joint Resolution:**

Jeff Craig presented a joint resolution between Ligonier Borough and Ligonier Township authorizing the Ligonier Valley Police Commission to enter into installment loans for the purchase of a 2020 Ford F-150 and a 2020 Ford Explorer police interceptors.

**A motion** was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the Joint Resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chris Plummer of 321 E Main Street thanked all the young men and women present at the meeting for caring about the Borough and recreation in it.

Richard Flickinger of 422 Summit Ave. asked Council why they want people to park on the streets at night where it is free after 5pm as opposed to the lots that are enforced parking at night. Flickinger stated he didn't want an answer but was putting it forward for thought.

Richard Flickinger also asked Council to enter into executive session at the close of the meeting for personnel reasons.

Solicitor Welty stated that it was alright to do so.

Zach Sierocki of 303 N. Market Street was in favor of a skate park and feels it would be a great place for the kids in the borough and thanked those involved.

Scott Haines of 239 Washington Street feels that we should do everything we can to support any efforts to get kids off their technology for a while and get outside. Haines feels the skate park is a great idea. Haines added that the LV Chamber as well is in favor.

Terri Johnson of 203 N. Walnut Street spoke in favor of a skate park and feels that it would get the teenagers out of Friendship Park and give them a place for themselves while leaving Friendship Park for the small children.

#### **COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS**

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported that the Joint Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee is looking for a Borough resident to join the committee. Anyone interested is asked to send a letter to the Borough office.

Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported that Public Works put a new flag up on the Diamond. Ron thanked the American Legion for their donation of two flags.

Fire Chief Corey Blystone spoke about a project the Ligonier Valley Fire Departments and Mutual Ambulance Service are involved with in placing 118 Stop the Bleed Kits in LV School District. The project is funded by those organizations as well as a generous grant from the LV Endowment. The grant has been approved and the kits have been ordered.

Zoning Officer Rick Schwab reported that he has issued 4 permits with 2 pending so far for February.

Chief John Berger reported that the Police received Rookie of the Year award for participating in their first National Night Out. Ligonier Valley Police Department received a plaque. Berger thanked Councilwoman Mariah Fisher for all her hard work on the event. Berger added that the LV Police Department will again participate in the event this year.

Mayor Bellas thanked Mariah and Jan Shaw for their work with National Night Out. Mayor Bellas also reminded all to shovel their sidewalks after snowfall.

Jr. Council Izabella Wentzell reported that she had the opportunity to speak before the school board and got her surveys approved which were presented to council. Council will address resident's opinions on the surveys and tennis court area project at next month's meeting.

President St. Clair reported that he is impressed with the young people present this evening and thanked all for coming.

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Jeff Craig to adjourn into executive session with no action to be taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw  
Secretary-Treasurer