

**February 12, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 7pm in the Town Hall with President Jordan Frei presiding.

**Members Present:** Jordan Frei, Carol Barton, Judy Hoffer, Jim Norris, Nancy Pleskovitch, Paul Verostko, and JR Council Member Emma Betz.

**Member Present via Zoom:** John Poznick

**Others Present:** Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Mayor Tom Freeman, Engineer Jason Mash, Solicitor Mark Sorice, Sergeant Jim Friscarella, & Fire Chief Matt Ferry.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Carol Barton and seconded by Nancy Pleskovitch to approve the minutes of January's organizational meeting and January's regular meeting as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.*

#### **BILLS PAYABLE**

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

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

*A motion was made by Nancy Pleskovitch and seconded by Carol Barton to approve the Consent Calendar provided. All of Council was in favor.*

*A motion was made by President Frei to open the agenda to include the consideration of entering into law services for the purposes of special representation in regards to the Ligonier Country Market. Motion was seconded by Councilman Norris and all approved.*

*A motion was then made by President Frei to enter into contract, as needed, with Avolio Law Services at \$150 per hour for any legal services rendered having to do with the Ligonier Country Market. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Pleskovitch and all approved.*

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kimberly Clark from 260 Angela Lane has a concern about moving the Country Market into the Borough. She stated she is concerned for the brick and mortar businesses that support the community 365 days per year. In addition, she does not feel there is adequate parking for this type of an event.

Colin McChesney owner of MCR Nursery and vendor at the Ligonier Country Market stated he is concerned by the parking issues. He said his business is not what his father experienced 30 years ago when he started at the market. If the market comes to the Borough, he will not come back.

Angel Tunstall owner of Paws on Main stated she is "wishy washy" about the Market being in town. She sees the different opportunities the Chamber offers the brick and mortar stores through events like Antiques on the Diamond, increasing foot traffic through town. She said the Market also brings the foot traffic into town. If the Market comes into town, she can see it being a wonderful opportunity for the stores. She does however have an issue with the parking and general safety.

Dawn Szalay, owner of Song of Sixpence is disappointed that the Market is leaving the Watershed grounds. She said the businesses will not survive without the Ligonier Country Market and that foot traffic is needed.

Linda O'Sullivan from McColly Street thanked the council for opening the agenda to add separate legal counsel for anything related to the Country Market. She said it was important that things were above board. She feels the Market needs to be saved but the Council should not vote on anything tonight without more information.

Jeff Stahl from North Avenue is concerned about the safety and who will pay for the services needed for those safety measures.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council left for Executive Session at 7:17 pm and returned at 7:35 pm.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*A motion was made by Carol Barton to appoint John Dickson to the Planning Committee and seconded by Jordan Frei. All of Council was in favor.*

*A motion made by Carol Barton to appoint Gary Riffle to the Stormwater Authority and seconded by Jim Norris. All of Council was in favor.*

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Virginia Piermattie emailed to suggest moving the Holiday November Market to Mellon Park.

Dean Banko emailed to propose changing his annual 5K from January to June 21, coinciding with the Summer Solstice. He would like to use the bathroom and possibly a pavilion at the playground. If Council would be open to this, he would start planning.

*Jordan Frei recommended checking with the little league baseball teams for any conflicts and further approval is pending the Township approval of the trail.*

Amy Beitel of the Chamber sent a letter requesting the approval to pursue preliminary planning and research of a signage project that would place corner signage at key intersections indicating which businesses are located on each block.

*A motion was made by Jim Norris to let the Chamber explore the possibility of signage and seconded by Judy Hoffer. All of Council was in favor.*

Amy Beitel of the Chamber sent a letter requesting permission to co-host the second annual Made in Ligonier Market with the Ligonier Country Market. She is also seeking permission to bag the meters around the Diamond and the first two blocks of East and West Main Streets from 9am – 2 pm and to use the Bandstand for a small acoustical band.

*A motion was made by Judy Hoffer to approve the Chamber's request to co-host the Made in Ligonier Market and bag the meters with the stipulation of Council receiving the floor plan of vendors. It was seconded by Carol Barton. All of Council was in favor.*

Amy Beitel of the Chamber sent a letter requesting permission to host a new community event titled Diamond in the Rough on July 11<sup>th</sup> in Ligonier and to bag the meters around the Diamond and two blocks east and west.

*A motion was made by Carol Barton to approve Diamond in the Rough and seconded by Nancy Pleskovitch. All of Council was in favor.*

The Ligonier Country Market wrote a letter requesting rental of office space in Town Hall.

*A motion was made by Jim Norris to approve the Town Hall rental and seconded by Paul Verostko. All Council was in favor.*

The Ligonier Country Market wrote a letter expressing their interest in bringing the Ligonier Country Market to downtown Ligonier as a community-focused event.

*Judy Hoffer questioned sub sales on Saturdays and how the electric would be done for the vendors. Answered per the Country Market – Sub sales would not be affected as the Market would not be on the Diamond. It would start a block off of East and West Main Street.*

*Judy Hoffer mentioned the ordinance pertaining to Mobile Vendors would need to be clarified and the need to get farmers and fresh vegetables and fruit, not alcohol.*

*Jim Norris questioned the traffic issues. Answered per the Country Market – barriers will be placed by their own crew and vendors would be staged strategically.*

*Nancy Pleskovitch commented that Council needed to hear from all stakeholders in the community, including brick and mortar businesses and residents living in the borough.*

*Jordan Frei stressed the importance of protecting the brick and mortar businesses, residents of the borough, and all interested parties including but not limited to business plans, public safety, traffic, and parking. He would like a committee to be formed with Mayor, Tom Freeman, Vice-President, Carol Barton, and Public Works Chair, Jim Norris.*

*Carol Barton asked whether the Country Market was looking at any other sites for the Country Market. Per the Country Market other sites are being explored.*

Carla Arnone, resident, wrote a letter voicing opposition to the Country Market being moved into town. She cited Public Safety and Traffic Infrastructure, the pattern of non-compliance from the Market with their current lease, quality of life for the residents, and organizational red flags.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PARKS & RECREATION**

Nothing

### **TOWN HALL**

Judy Hoffer said the Public Works crew has done a fantastic job on the floor in the Community Room.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Jim Norris commended the Public Works Department on the job done during the recent State of Emergency in the borough. The Public Works Department continues working on maintenance of equipment, dumpster days, and the upcoming seal coating.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Paul Verostko thanked the police department, fire department, and Public Works Department during the recent State of Emergency. He also mentioned there will be an Emergency Management Meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup> and an Emergency Management training on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **FINANCE**

John Poznick reported the investment account with Guyasuta is up 3% this month.

## **PLANNING / PERSONNEL**

Carol Barton had a meeting with Bob Regola; she is asking each Council member to come up with a wish list of 3 things they would like to have. This will aide Mr. Regola in the grant search process. She would like the list by February 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **SHADE TREE**

Jordan Frei, Council Representative. Ron Ross has starting creating a list of trees needing taken down.

## **STORMWATER AUTHORITY**

Carol Barton reported the next step will be to educate the property owners in the borough on the Stormwater Authority. She also mentioned the borough website has detailed information on the project.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Dumpster Days will be Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 8-3 and Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 8-noon at \$5.00 per car and \$10 per truck.

Carol Barton speaking on behalf of the Stormwater Authority asked the Borough to share the liability insurance with the Stormwater Authority. She also requested a loan from the borough to start the billing operating system for \$20,000. No action was taken pending a definitive loan amount.

Ligonier Borough has not had an appraisal since 2014; this is an appraisal of all the assets of Ligonier Borough. Industrial Appraisal is recommending we have a new appraisal done. Jan and John Poznick are looking into this. This was highly recommended by the insurance company.

Ligonier Prays is requesting the use of the Bandstand and sound system on March 21, 2026 for America 250 prayer gathering.

*A motion was made by Jim Norris to allow Ligonier Prays to use the sound system. It was seconded by Jordan Frei. All council was in favor.*

The Ligonier Valley Endowment would like to do a pass through grant through the borough for the Ligonier 250 celebration utilizing the money, approximately \$10,000-\$12,000, for a monument recognizing the old Ligonier cemetery.

*A motion was made by Jordan Frei to approve the pass through grant. It was seconded by Judy Hoffer. All of Council was in favor.*

PA 250 is requesting permission to utilize the Diamond and surrounding 1 block on July 18<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 pm/noon until the conclusion of the fireworks for the celebration of the United States' Semi-quincentennial Anniversary. Additionally the committee is requesting approval for a temporary traffic detour for the purposes of a 20 minute parade (time to be determined).

*A motion was made by Jordan Frei to approve PA 250 request and seconded by Paul Verostko. All of council was in favor.*

### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jason Fry, 206 East Church St, vendor of Ligonier Country Market stressed the importance of the market to businesses as well as residents from an economic standpoint. However, he asked the mayor to broker an agreement between the Watershed and the Market.

Linda O'Sullivan spoke to how much she liked the dialogue that went on at tonight's meeting. She feels we need the Country Market but does not see how it can happen in the borough by May.

Kim Clark stated as a resident of the borough she believes this is not a fight for the Council but rather a disagreement between two private entities.

Colin McChesney spoke to the handicapped people and how they would navigate a market in town.

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

Fire Chief Matt Ferry said there were 24 incidents and 644.2 man hours this past month. They also implemented some new equipment.

Jason Mash, engineer, reported Hazel Alley is still ongoing. MAWC did complete the waterline relocation.

Sgt Friscarella reported on behalf of Chief Matronics – the police are on 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

Mayor Tom Freeman welcomed Paul Knupp, Township Supervisor and Christy Boyd, President of the Ligonier Valley School Board. He also congratulated Junior Borough Member Emma on committing to W & J College.

President Jordan Frei thanked the Mayor and Public Works for their work on the Emergency Declaration.

President Jordan Frei noted that the next meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council will be held Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

*A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Carol Barton to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw  
Secretary-Treasurer

