

March 14, 2019

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, March 14, 2019 @ 7:00 PM in the Town Hall.

Members Present: James McDonnell, Mariah Fisher, Judy Hoffer, and Terry Murphy. Absent was Jim St. Clair, Matt Smith and Jeff Craig.

Others Present: Secretary –Treasurer Jan Shaw, Streets Supervisor Ron Ross, Mayor Ormond “Butch” Bellas, Engineers Ben Faas & Greg Elliott, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, & Zoning Officer Rick Schwab. Absent was Fire Chief Steve Barron and Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Knepper.

Due to the fact that both the President and Vice President of Council were absent Solicitor Welty advised that remaining Council must vote on a chairman to oversee the meeting.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Terry Murphy electing Councilman James McDonnell to run the meeting. All were in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the minutes of last month’s meeting. The motion carried with all in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the Bills Payable as presented. All were in favor.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Consent Calendar as also presented. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

CORRESPONDENCE

An email was received from Westmoreland Cultural Trust asking Ligonier Borough to participate in the County Art and Beautification outreach project “Wings Across Westmoreland.” Artist Patrick Mahoney would create a moveable 8 x 4 foot pair of wings depicting iconic scenes and images from the participating communities to be installed along an alley or section of the street close to a local landmark.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to have a representative from Westmoreland Cultural Trust come to next month’s Council Meeting for more information. All of Council was in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chairman James McDonnell reported that the Rotary Club of Ligonier along with Don Kramer, resident and tennis enthusiast are trying to spearhead a new outdoor recreation center in Ligonier Borough at the existing tennis / basketball courts. It would be known as the Friendship Park Recreation Center. McDonnell reported that before the project moves forward a geotechnical investigation must be conducted with Council’s approval. The investigation, at approximately \$10,000 is to determine water/ soil situation underground and requires approximately 10 bore holes 6” in diameter. This is done to determine if the project would be

economically feasible to continue. McDonnell feels the project would be a benefit to the Borough. It was reported that the cost for the 2-day study and project would be absorbed through the 501C-3 of Ligonier Borough Rotary through grants and fundraising.

Don Kramer and EADS engineer Greg Elliott spoke on behalf of the project and answered any questions. Both Don Kramer and Greg Elliott expressed that first the testing must be done. Elliot explained that the testing will only take two days and should be minimally disruptive to any ongoing sports and activities.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to grant permission for the geotechnical testing. All of Council was in favor.

TOWN HALL

Chair Judy Hoffer reported that the committee has not yet heard anything from Tuscano-Maher Roofing for repairs. It was reported that the Town Hall Committee is working on a wish list for things needing done in the Town Hall. The list will be prioritized.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Terry Murphy reported that Public Works has comprised an updated curbside brush rules and regulations outlining materials that the public works department can and cannot pick up from residences. The crew will now be collecting brush and yard bags on Mondays as opposed to Fridays, weather permitting. Logs should be no wider than 6 inches in diameter and no longer than 6 feet. Leaves, hedge trimmings, garden waste, and other loose compostable material should be gathered in paper lawn and leaf bags. Public works will not pick up non-recyclable materials including grass clippings, sod, potting soil and dirt. Residents should contact their refuse hauler regarding trash, garbage or tires.

The full notice will be posted on the Borough's website.

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the brush pick up rules & regulations. All of Council was in favor.

Councilman Murphy also reported that the Municipal Parking lot is in need of some improvements as approved at a prior meeting. It is planned to add six additional parking spaces by removing the islands from the lot and creating a bigger exit onto West Church Street.

Street Supervisor, Ron Ross asked permission to proceed to receive quotes for labor and materials for a retaining wall for the Municipal Lot.

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Mariah Fisher to grant Street Supervisor Ron Ross permission to receive quotes for the Municipal Parking Lot project. The motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chair Mariah Fisher reported the need for additional "No Parking" signs along the fence line at Wellar Field during baseball / softball seasons. While cars are permitted to park on Bouquet Street, they also park farther along the fence, creating a crowded and unsafe environment.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Judy Hoffer to place additional "No Parking" signs along the fence line at Wellar Field of Bouquet Street for the duration of Baseball /Softball seasons. The motion carried unanimously.

Mariah Fisher also reported that the work is now done on both fire trucks as reported previously. Both are up and running.

FINANCE

N/A

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

In the absence of Councilman Matt Smith, Councilwoman Mariah Fisher reported that the Joint Comprehensive Steering Committee is asking for volunteers interested in helping to please get in touch. The plan is currently posted on both the Township and Borough's websites as well as a copy to view in each the Borough and Township offices.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Solicitor George Welty reported that the Parking Enforcement Agreement with Comity Land LLC and the Borough is ready for signature.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Terry Murphy to authorize Borough officers to approve and sign the agreement with Comity Land LLC after Jeremy Springer signs. All of Council was in favor.

Solicitor Welty also asked Council to authorize EADS to proceed with drafting an ordinance for small wireless service facilities in Ligonier Borough at a projected cost of \$3,000.

The planning commission in February discussed ideas on how to regulate the placement and aesthetics of these devices within the scope of new federal laws promoting the expansion of 5G digital cellular technology.

Eight of these devices have already been installed on existing and new poles throughout the Borough.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Terry Murphy to authorize the funding to enable EADS to proceed with drafting an ordinance. All of Council was in favor.

Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported that the street sweeper is back out and running again. A few trees have been removed in the Municipal lot.

EADS engineer Greg Elliot reported that there are still some punch list items remaining for Darr Construction regarding the Diamond Project. The Borough is withholding \$17,000 from the contractor until the work is complete. Elliott expressed concern on significant rusting on the powder-coated handrail around the bandstand and will work with Darr Construction on a resolution.

Elliott also noted that EADS will explore an audio program for the new Lincoln Highway historical exhibit at Diamond Park funded by the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor.

EADS Engineer Ben Faas commented that the GIS software program for the Borough I pads requires a license update.

Chief John Berger reported that the first two months of consolidation have gone very well. The department has been busy with over 903 incidents, 37 arrests. It was reported that parking tickets have also increased.

Chief Berger reported that the canine vehicle will receive a new wrap to read Ligonier Valley Police. Chief Berger thinks the other vehicles will be done next month and is hoping to reveal the name of the generous donor for the wraps at next month's meeting. Chief Berger stated that both Jan Shaw and Ron Ross are great to work with although Paul Fry is missed.

Mayor Bellas commended Ron Ross on his idea for the Municipal Lot and added that Jan Shaw is doing a good job as Secretary-Treasurer.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer