

August 11, 2016

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Ligonier Town Hall with James McDonnell presiding.

**Members Present:** James McDonnell, Judy Hoffer, Gus Breegle, Chick Cicconi, Matt Smith, Pat Scanlon, & Terry Murphy.

**Others Present:** Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineer Greg Elliot, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, Fire Chief Steve Barron and Zoning Officer Rick Schwab. Absent was Code Enforcement Officer Rick Bell.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion** was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the Minutes as presented. All of Council was in favor.

#### **BILLS PAYABLE**

**A motion** was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the Bills Payable. The motion carried unanimously.

James McDonnell introduced **Matt Murphy, a certified arborist with Bartlett Tree Experts** who reported on the shade trees in regards to the proposed renovation of the Diamond.

Mr. Murphy reviewed the current condition of the 9 shade trees which are a significant part of the Diamond and revealed that because of impacts from previous construction projects, the life expectancy of the trees and the disruption of soil in such a compressed area, the condition of the trees would deteriorate quickly and most likely they would not survive the proposed project. Murphy feels if the trees are not removed and die during the course of the project, they would have to be removed anyway. Therefore any progress on the project would also have to be redone and could prove quite costly.

Murphy's suggestion is to replace the trees with mature saplings and fast-growing trees which would grow uniformly over the course of the next 60 years. Other trees, including some dogwoods in the park will also be impacted but there is a possibility that they could be transplanted and then replanted. They will require a lot of care prior to being moved and after they are replanted but Murphy feels the healthy ones could survive.

EADS Engineer Greg Elliot confirmed that a forester who also analyzed the trees came to a similar finding.

Work on the Diamond project is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2017.

**A motion** was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Pat Scanlon to accept Matt Murphy's verbal report and to proceed as recommended. All of Council was in favor.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the Consent Calendar as presented to Council. The motion carried with all in favor.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **Westmoreland County Food Bank Request:**

A request was received from the Westmoreland County Food Bank last month to light the Bandstand ORANGE the month of September in observance of Hunger Action Month. The Food Bank will supply the 9 Orange flood Lights.

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Gus Breegle to approve. The motion carried unanimously.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter was received from the LV Chamber of Commerce requesting permission to place pink bows on the lampposts in the Diamond area, the lampposts in front of the stores surrounding the Diamond and add pink lights to the trees and on the shrubs in the Town Hall Court Yard during the month of October to show support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

**A motion** was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the request from the LV Chamber. All were in favor.

Application received for Use of Mellon Park was received from St. Michaels of the Valley for Sunday, October 2, 2016 from 12:30 – 2 PM to hold a Pet Blessing.

**A motion** was made by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the request from St. Michaels of the Valley. The motion carried 7-0.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PARKS & RECREATION / SHADE TREE**

Chairman Matt Smith stated that the Parks & Recreation Committee supports the removal of the Diamond trees for the Diamond Project although no one wants to see the trees disappear the risk is too great with trying to save them.

Smith reported that the final tree planting is scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Friendship Park rebuild begins Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

### **TOWN HALL**

Judy Hoffer reported that Town Hall air conditioning had minor repairs recently and will need extensive updates within two years estimating to approximately \$100,000 to replace.

Town Hall windows will soon be cleaned before Fort Ligonier Days.

Hoffer noted that a bid was received from Baker Electric to add two electric outlets for Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau.

Town Hall is in the process of receiving quotes for new phones for Police, Public Works and Town Hall.

Hoffer reported that the 4 new Town Hall windows have arrived. We are waiting for them to be put in.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Chairman Gus Breegle reported that Public Works has been busy working at Friendship Park. Breegle thanked Ligonier Township for supplying manpower and equipment and assisting with the dismantle of Friendship Park.

Public Works is looking for approval for pricing a police cruiser as well as a public works truck.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY / PERSONNEL**

Chairman Pat Scanlon reported that the police station has a new copy machine.

### **FINANCE**

Chairman Terry Murphy reported that parking and vehicle fines are still ahead of last year. No word yet on health insurance costs for the upcoming year. Town Hall fund had a return of 5.1%.

Murphy reported that last year's budget was increased 1 mill to accommodate the purchase of public works flatbed truck and police cruiser.

## **WATER/SEWAGE FUND**

**A motion** was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Chick Cicconi to protect the water / sewage fund generated from the sale of the plant from use without the majority of Council's approval. The motion carried with all in favor.

## **PLANNING**

Chairman Chick Cicconi reported that he attended the first Comprehensive Planning meeting last week at the Township. Rick Truscello of EADS gave a synopsis of the plan and the work ahead that is needed to do. The next meeting regarding the Comprehensive Plan will be in October in the Town Hall.

The committee will be mailing a ten question questionnaire to all 1,470 Borough residents as did the township to all their residents.

Cicconi noted that a special meeting will be held August 22, 2016 for hearing an application on Conditional Use in the C-2 district. Cicconi added that a Conditional Use Hearing is scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 prior to the next scheduled monthly Council meeting to consider and take action on the application for conditional use filed by Mark A Markosky.

Cicconi mentioned that the committee will be discussing non-permitted temporary signs. Any non-permitted sign will be removed from telephone poles and those placed between the sidewalks and curb.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

N/A

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Richard Flickinger gave an update on the voting districts for the Borough. As the Westmoreland County Election Bureau opposed the request to consolidate the voting district, a hearing will take place on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Flickinger questioned if there will be a consideration of a new planning commission and asked why the planning meetings are changed so often.

President James McDonnell stated that he is in favor of the planning commission adding residential participation.

Pastor John Flower commented that Council is doing a fine job and indicated that if they were not doing so the room would be full.

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

President James McDonnell called for a brief executive session for litigation @ 7:45 PM.

McDonnell invited Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry and Chief John Berger to the executive session. Council returned from executive session @ 8:18 PM.

Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry thanked Council for the approval to retrieve quotes for a new Public Works truck as well as a new police cruiser.

Fire Chief Steve Barron asked permission from Council for the street closure August 27, 2016 of Bank Alley to Church Street for their annual banquet.

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Terry Murphy to close Bank Alley to Church Street Saturday, August 27, 2016 for the Fire Department's annual banquet. All of Council was in favor.

In regards to the Diamond project, Engineer Greg Elliot reported that the existing trees will be replaced with large 8-10" caliper trees for approximately \$4,000.

It was reported that EADS has applied for HOP permit with Penn Dot for the Diamond Project in compliance with the Borough's implemented stormwater ordinance.

Chief Berger reported the need to do away with the Corporal position in the Police Department and add Sergeant to chapter 23 thereby amending ordinance 392 for the September 8, 2016 meeting in order to promote Officer Ken Burke. The promotion to Sargent entitles Burke to join the County Chiefs of Police Association.

**A motion** was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to advertise and amend ordinance 392 for September 8, 2016 meeting to promote Corporal Burke to Sergeant. All of Council was in favor.

Chief Berger added that he will have his updated policy manual ready for the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chief Berger reported that at the end of 2017 the police, fire and EMS radios will no longer be able to be repaired. Chief Berger, along with Ligonier Township Police and the Loyalhanna Police have been looking into some grant money to replace the radios at no cost to taxpayers.

Mayor "Butch" Bellas thanked Council for authorizing the purchase of a new police cruiser. Bellas noted that he has been working with Rick Bell on some code enforcement complaints.

President James McDonnell briefly commented on the parking situation on Summit Avenue which was brought to Council last month. No action was taken. Council will abide by the existing ordinance.

Next monthly meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council will be Thursday, September the 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ 7PM with a Conditional Use Hearing held at 6:30 PM prior to the meeting.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**A motion** was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Office Manager