

August 8, 2024

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 7pm in the Town Hall with President Matt Smith presiding.

Members Present: Matt Smith, Judy Hoffer, Carol Barton, Jordan Frei, Brad Chartier, & John Poznick. Absent was Mariah Fisher.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineer Jason Mash, Solicitor Mark Sorice, Police Chief Mike Matrunic, & Fire Chief Corey Blystone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Brad Chartier to approve the minutes as presented for the July 11, 2024 meeting. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Carol Barton to approve the Bills Payable. The motion carried with all in favor.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Brad Chartier and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the Consent Calendar presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Flickinger of 422 Summit Avenue stated that it is inconvenient to go to Carrolltown to get a permit to redo a roof. Flickinger asked to discuss this matter after the meeting.

Dawn Metz of 107 S Dice Alley was present and also representing **Sandy Podlucky**. Dawn Metz discussed Adam Gardner's new venue coming to the Thistle Down with concerns of parking / noise/ as well as safety & aesthetics of the tent structure described.

Solicitor Mark Sorice stated that if an individual does not have a permit and a permit is required obviously the Borough has the authority to cite him and bring it before the district justice. He will have to comply with the law.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update of clock at Heritage Methodist Church:

Solicitor Mark Sorice reported that a meeting was held with the representatives of the church last Monday for input and perspective. Money was raised and the clock was purchased but there is no written document of ownership. Under PA law it is considered an attached fixture and the church has complete control and authority over the clock and the incidents of ownership. In trying to work cooperatively with the church, suggestions were made for the future to continue to assist Heritage in a non-liability or non-financial way.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Matt Smith called for a brief executive session.

Appointment of Part-Time Custodian:

Councilman John Poznick reported receiving approximately 44 resumes for potential candidates for the part-time custodial position. Selective candidates were reached out to with 3 interviewed for the position. Two individuals were chosen as finalists based on their experience and references.

A motion was made by John Poznick and seconded by Jordan Frei on behalf of the personnel committee's recommendation to hire Deborah Grguric for the part-time custodial position. All of Council was in favor.

New Council member:

Councilman John Poznick reported that the personnel committee has received two letters of interest for the vacant council position. Nancy Pleskovich and Karen Lynn. The letters of interest were shared with all of Council prior to the meeting. Poznick opened the nomination up for discussion.

Councilman John Poznick noted that each candidate was interviewed by the personnel committee and both have a strong background in government; involvement in the community, and either person would be a viable candidate and an asset to Council.

*A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Carol Barton to accept **Karen Lynn** as **Ligonier Borough's new Council member**. All of Council was in favor.*

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from the **Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art** asking permission to host a **"Quick Draw" event on and around the Diamond Wednesday, September 25, 2024**. The event will last 2 hours, with artists setting up within the Diamond region to paint/draw. After two hours their work would be judged with awards given on the Bandstand.

A discussion took place with concerns of paint left on the Diamond and the need for drop cloths to be used as well as more detail needed as to location around Diamond area.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Carol Barton to approve with conditions and above concerns met. The motion carried with all in favor.

Letter received from **Stephany Frede of The Black Bunny** asking to **install a mini split AC/heat pump** on the side of their building which faces the courtyard space of Town Hall.

Solicitor Mark Sorice advised that there should be a resolution or letter from council or solicitor granting the Black Bunny permission but that in any event that the unit is not functioning or that the building is ever being sold permission would have to be re-applied.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Carol Barton to approve of the unit being installed on the ground with a screen around matching that of the surrounding benches. The motion includes the above advice from Solicitor Sorice. All of Council was in favor.

Email received from **Laura Manion** asking approval to apply to **Community Foundation of Westmoreland County's Wish Book** listing for support of the Friendship Park Sports Complex Project.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Brad Chartier to approve Laura Manion's request. The motion was unanimously approved.

Letter received from **Byers-Tosh American Legion Post 267 & Fort Ligonier VFW Post 734** requesting the **use of the Diamond for their annual Veteran's Day ceremony Monday, November 11, 2024 and Memorial Day ceremony Saturday, May 24, 2025**, both promptly at 11am. Temporary traffic detours are also requested from 10:30am-12:15pm.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve Veteran's Day and Memorial Day ceremonies by Byers-Tosh American Legion Post 267 and Fort Ligonier VFW Post 734 as requested. The motion carried with all in favor.

Request received today from **Fort Ligonier requesting permission to use the Loyalhanna Street and Bus Parking Lots beginning at 5pm on Friday, September 20, 2024** for the Fort's major fundraising benefit of the year, The Cannon Ball. Fort Ligonier would pick up meter bags and return them to the Borough office after the event.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve the request. The motion carried with all of Council in favor.

An additional letter received today from **John H Goodish, Owner of Tubmill Creek Provisions** expressed his **opinion to the planned tar and chipping of St. Clair Street** and his belief that the tar and chipping process will negatively impact his business, create an unnecessary mess on property and does not adequately address the major identifiable problem present on St. Clair Street.

Street Supervisor Ron Ross responded that the Borough does not have enough money to re-surface any of the roads in the Borough. The Borough receives approximately \$50,000 a year for tar & chip, salt and road maintenance. The Borough is spending \$40,000 this year to tar and chip. Ross added that it would most likely cost \$300,000 to mill and pave. Street Supervisor Ron Ross noted that the Borough crew will return to sweep St. Clair Street after tar and chipping and will clean up the best they can.

Solicitor Mark Sorice advised Council to send a letter stating that the Borough understands their concerns but do not have a choice financially to re-surface but will clean up as best as they can after the tar & chipping.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

In the absence of Councilwoman Mariah Fisher, Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported that the Friendship Park Sports Complex Group will be at the Community Carnival Fundraising Event August 17 from 4pm to dusk and August 18 from 12 noon to dusk at the Country Market Field. The group will have T-Shirts and stickers for sale to benefit the fundraising efforts of Friendship Parks Sports Complex.

TOWN HALL

Nothing

PUBLIC WORKS

Carol Barton, Chair for Public Works reported that the Tar & Chipping in the Borough is scheduled for August 14, 2024.

Street Supervisor Ron Ross stated that the times and streets will be posted on both the Borough Website and Savvy.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jordan Frei cautioned all on the rainy forecast for tomorrow from Tropical Storm Debby. Frei added that the fire department is prepared to take action as necessary.

FINANCE

Nothing

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Nothing further to report

SHADE TREE

President Matt Smith advised that 2 individuals are needed to fill vacancies on the Shade Tree Commission as well as 1 person needed for the Planning Commission. Advertising for each will be placed on both Savvy and the Borough Website.

NEW BUSINESS

Industrial Appraisal:

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported that she has been approached by Industrial Appraisal to do an on-site inspection appraisal of Borough property; as the last one was done in 2014. The quote given was \$7,940.

Upon reaching out to the Borough insurance company agent & supervisor Shaw was told that having an appraisal was really up to the Borough and it was thought the amount was a little pricey. It was explained that as long as the property replacement cost value stay in line with the inflation (which they do; at an increase of 4% every renewal) the Borough will have sufficient coverage in the event of a claim and the insurance company does not require you to have an appraisal.

Solicitor Mark Sorice advised to continue with the adjustments for inflation and apply for a grant for an appraisal in 10-15 years as the appraisal is not budgeted for this year.

No action was taken on the matter.

National Night Out Parking Lot Closure:

As National Night Out was postponed due to inclement weather; it has been re-scheduled to Tuesday, August 20th from 5:30pm-8:30pm with Lot A closure at 2pm.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by John Poznick to re-schedule National Night Out to Tuesday, August 20, 2024 from 5:30pm-8:30pm with Lot A closure at 2pm. The motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Flickinger of 422 Summit Ave. reiterated his dislike with the inconvenience of dealing with Laurel Municipal Agency in Carrolltown for zoning permits in the Borough.

Solicitor Mark Sorice explained the necessity of the Borough going with Laurel Municipal Agency as opposed to hiring an individual thus with the need for workers compensation, unemployment compensation, and liability insurance which financially dictated what the Borough needed to do.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Mayor Bellas commented that the property on North Fairfield Street is being cleared out, but groundhogs at the other property on North Fairfield continues to be a problem.

Bellas also made note that the Borough ordinances are online for those wishing information. Bellas closed by thanking Council for appointing Karen Lynn to serve on Council.

Solicitor Mark Sorice congratulated Mayor Bellas on a wonderful resolution for former Borough Solicitor George Welty that was well written and well received.

President Matt Smith stated that the next meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council will be held Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 7pm.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by John Poznick to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer