

January 2, 2024

The reorganizational meeting for Ligonier Borough Council was held Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

Members Present: Matt Smith, Mariah Fisher, Adriel Ginsburg, Judy Hoffer, Jordan Frei, Brad Chartier, & Carol Barton.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Mayor Ormond “Butch” Bellas, and Solicitor George Welty.

The Honorable Ormond “Butch” Bellas called the meeting to order with an election of Council President.

A nomination was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to appoint Matt Smith for President. All of Council was in favor.

Matt Smith will remain President for 2024.

Mayor Bellas called for election of Vice President.

A nomination was made by Brad Chartier and seconded by Jordan Frei to appoint Mariah Fisher for Vice President. The nomination carried with all in favor.

Mariah Fisher will remain Vice President.

Mayor Bellas turned the gavel over to Council President Matt Smith.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Former Councilman Robert Bell of St. Clair Street was present and stated that 40 years ago today Council appointed George Welty as solicitor for the Borough. Bell was sworn in at the same time as a Councilman. Bell congratulated Solicitor Welty.

Bill Stablein was also present and congratulated Solicitor Welty on his retirement & commended him on his dedication to the community.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS – Annual Appointments

A. Re-Enact Ordinances:

- #262 Real Estate Transfer Tax 1%
- #328 Wage Tax .5%
- #329 Per Capita Tax \$5.00
- #361 Amusement Tax 5%
- #569 LST Tax \$52.00

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jordan Frei to re-enact the above ordinances for 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Depositories for Borough

- BNY Mellon Bank
- Commercial Bank
- First National Bank
- Dollar Bank

Somerset Trust Co.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the depositories for the Borough. All of Council was in favor.

C. Financial Services:

Berkheimer Tax Administrator – Act 511 Taxes (EIT), LST Tax

PAMS – Per Capita

Guyasuta Investment Advisors – Town Hall & P&R Fund

A motion was made by Brad Chartier and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to approve the Financial Service partners above. The motion carried with all in favor.

President Matt Smith called for a brief executive session at 7:07pm and returned at 7:18pm.

D. Appointments for 2024:

Auditor – The Keenan Group

Solicitor – (interim: Solicitor George Welty)

Engineer – (EADS Engineers)

Fire Chief – (Corey Blystone)

Secretary-Treasurer (Jan Shaw)

Zoning Board Counsel – (David DeRose)

Vacancy Board Chairman – (TBD)

UCC Appeals Board Counsel – (Mark Sorice)

Delegate for State Borough’s Convention – (Jan Shaw)

Right to Know Officer – (Jan Shaw)

Chief Financial Officer (Pension Plan) – (Jan Shaw)

Delegate for Act 32 Tax Collection Committee for 2024 (Jan Shaw)

Emergency Management Coordinator – (Ron Ross & Asst. Greg Sullenberger)

Building Code Inspectors – Cambria County Building Code, Merle Musick – American

Building Inspection Services, Inc. & TKL Code

Zoning / Code Enforcement – (Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency)

A motion was made by Adriel Ginsburg and seconded by Jordan Frei to accept all above appointments. All of Council was in favor.

Bidding Threshold for 2024:

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry released the 2024 bidding thresholds for public contracts and purchases.

Beginning on January 1, 2024, the updated bidding thresholds for contracts and purchases will be as follows:

- Contracts or purchases under \$12,600 require no formal bidding or written / telephonic quotations.
- Contracts or purchases between \$12,600 and \$23,200 require three written / telephonic quotations.
- Contracts or purchases greater than \$23,200 require formal bidding as outlined in chapter 14 of the Borough Code.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Solicitor Welty congratulated Judy Hoffer, Carol Barton and Adriel Ginsburg for their election to office.

Emergency Management Coordinator Ron Ross reported that he would like to apply for an EMA grant with the Ligonier Valley Endowment to replace the radio and laptop.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Brad Chartier to enable Emergency Management Coordinator Ron Ross to seek a grant for emergency equipment. All of Council was in favor.

Mayor Bellas congratulated all newly elected Council.

President Matt Smith also congratulated Carol Barton and welcomed back Judy Hoffer and Adriel Ginsburg.

For Approval:

The regular monthly meetings of the Ligonier Borough Council will be held at 7pm on the second Thursday of each month; Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 14, Apr. 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 7, (Monday), Nov. 14, & Dec. 12, 2024. The Ligonier Borough Planning Commission will conduct business on the fourth Tuesday of the month except November and December when they will meet on the third Tuesday at Town Hall @ 7pm.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to approve and advertise the Ligonier Borough Council meetings and the Ligonier Borough Planning Commission meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

President Matt Smith noted that the next meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council will be held Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer