

October 5, 2020

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, October 5, 2020 at 7:00pm via ZOOM due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. President James St. Clair presided over the meeting.

Members Present: James St. Clair, Matt Smith, Robert Barron, Mariah Fisher, Judy Hoffer. Absent was Jeff Craig and Nate Sylvester.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineer Greg Elliot, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, and Zoning Officer Rick Schwab. Absent was Fire Chief Corey Blystone and Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Knepper.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the minutes of September 10, 2020 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the Bills Payable. The motion carried with all in favor.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the Consent Calendar presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Use of Mellon Park Application received from Ann Hewat of St. Michaels of the Valley for Pet Blessing Sunday, October 18, 2020.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve. The motion carried with all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Council Chair Mariah Fisher reported that the committee will soon set a date for a public forum via ZOOM to discuss the possible renovations of the tennis courts @ Friendship Park. The committee has received several letters in support of creating a skate and bicycle park at the recreation cite.

Mariah also reported that unfortunately both the Township and Borough were not awarded a PA Department of Health Walk Works program grant which was applied for jointly. The funds were to be used to plan an extended walking trail connecting multiple landmarks between Laughlinton and the Diamond. The Borough still plans to work with the Township on pursuing other future grants.

TOWN HALL

Judy Hoffer reported that no one was injured as a runaway garbage truck crashed into Town Hall in the early morning on Monday, September 28th leaving a huge hole and significant debris in Council Chambers.

The Borough office is waiting for insurance projections before proceeding with the repairs.

A motion was made by Town Hall Chair Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to keep the Town Hall auditorium, upstairs meeting rooms and community room closed to the public for another month to keep the employees safe amid the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic **with the exception of Election Day, November 3, 2020 where the Community Room will be open.** The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Diamond Closure:

In the absence of Public Safety Chairman Jeff Craig, LVPD Chief John Berger reported that Penn DOT has new requirements to close state highways such as the Diamond area to traffic. Chief Berger suggested that Council should mandate timeline deadlines to give police and Borough enough time to address any issues and submit the road closure request to Penn DOT.

A motion was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Matt Smith to require anyone requesting closure of the Diamond or state roads in Ligonier to submit their plans to the Borough for approval 3 months prior, along with the necessary liability insurance information 10 weeks prior to their event. The motion carried with all in favor.

FINANCE

Nothing to report.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Hall Gutter Replacement Project: (Bids were opened at a special meeting Friday, October 2, 2020)

EADS engineer Greg Elliot reported that the lowest bidder was **Mid-State Construction Inc.** of Altoona at \$142,947 for a complete replacement of Town Hall's internal gutter system.

It was reported that given the prolonged time to receive materials, namely roofing slate, that it would extend the construction period beyond the 45 days identified in the bid documents. Therefore council decided to postpone the work until late March 2021. Mid-State Construction Inc. agreed to hold their bid until spring.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Matt Smith to award the \$142,947 bid to Mid-state Construction Inc. to begin late March 2021. All of Council was in favor.

211 N. Walnut Street Subdivision:

It was noted that the proposed Walnut Street Subdivision has been recommended by the Planning Commission last month. The Former McDowell's Dry Cleaning business at 211 North Walnut Street will revert to a residential use. Property owner Sandra Mellon wishes to subdivide and reconsolidate three existing lots into only two and rezone the new parcels as R-1 residential. All existing buildings on the site will be demolished for future single-family homes.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Robert Barron to approve Sandra Mellon subdivision plan. The motion carried unanimously.

Saunder's Conditional Use:

Saunder's Conditional Use application was presented to the Planning Commission on September 22, 2020.

The proposed Conditional Use plans are to turn the old Ligonier Hardware building into a yoga studio with a short-term rental apartment unit in the rear. The mixed residential / commercial use requires a conditional use permit from the borough.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Judy Hoffer to hold a special Conditional Use Hearing at 6:45 pm Thursday, November 12, 2020 prior to the regular borough council meeting at 7:00 pm. All of Council was in favor.

Old Police Station:

Council President James St. Clair stated that he would soon appoint a committee to review the current status of the former Police Station on North Fairfield Street and come up with a recommendation for the building's future.

Westmoreland County CARES Grant:

Resolution #4 of 2020:

A motion was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Mariah Fisher to adopt Resolution #4 of 2020. Westmoreland CARES Municipal Support Grant Resolution. The motion carried with all in favor.

The resolution approved enables the Borough to apply for a Westmoreland **CARES** Municipal Support Grant that would reimburse the Borough for unbudgeted COVID-19-related expenses – from sanitizing supplies to software purchases incurred from March 1 through October 1, 2020.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nothing.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported that Leaf Pick Up will begin in the Borough October 15 or 16th.

Zoning Officer Rick Schwab reported a busy month with 13 applications and \$970 in fees collected.

Police Chief John Berger reported that the LV Police Department is to receive \$12,500 from the State and that John Peck will match that number to purchase Body Cameras.

Mayor Bellas stated that although there is no traditional Fort Ligonier Days this weekend the merchants will be hosting sidewalk sales which will bring additional people into town and reminded everyone to be careful crossing the streets.

President James St. Clair closed the meeting by telling everyone to stay safe and be careful.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Judy Hoffer to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer