

October 7, 2024

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

Members Present: Matt Smith, Mariah Fisher, Judy Hoffer, Carol Barton, Jordan Frei, Karen Lynn, & John Poznick.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the minutes as provided. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jack McDowell of Fort Ligonier Days, Inc. was present at the meeting and discussed a few Fort Ligonier Days activities. There has been Liquor Control Board law changes in regards to event licenses in relation to live bands and wineries / distilleries. McDowell added that there are 4 live bands (Tavern, Thistledown, Romans, & Wondering Spirits) within a block and ½ of the Diamond. Fort Ligonier Days Inc. is concerned with the noise factor. McDowell stated that he doesn't think there is anything currently in the Borough Ordinance that would restrict this type of thing but suggested that it may be something the Borough would want to look into for future years.

It was noted that it will be observed for this year and maybe look into adding time restrictions for bands in the ordinance.

Richard Flickinger spoke about his troubles in dealing with Laurel Municipal Agency out of Carrolltown for a dormer on his garage.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ligonier Township - Multimodal Grant:

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported that she received an email from Michael Strelac, Ligonier Township Manager stating that the township did not get the grant they applied to for the Carey School Road / Walking Project. It is planned to wait for the next round to come through and he will then come to a Borough meeting to discuss further.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from the **LV Library requesting financial support.**

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by John Poznick to contribute to the LV Library using the budgeted amount for this year. The motion carried with all in favor but Councilmember Mariah Fisher abstained from voting due to being on the Library board.

Letter received from **Margaret Frey, President of Mountaintop Faith Ministries, Inc.** asking permission to **hold a gospel concert** on the Diamond Thursday, September 4, 2025 from 6-8pm.

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

Email received from **Julie Donovan of Fort Ligonier** requesting permission to **place two 4'x3' signs on their post and rail fence** promoting free admission for youth Saturday and Sunday of Fort Days. Signs to be hung as soon as approved.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Carol Barton to approve. The motion unanimously carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chair Mariah Fisher announced that the Parks & Recreation Committee has received a Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Contract with a grant award of \$299,996.50 for the Friendship Park Sports Complex. This grant will be in collaboration with the DCNR and the committee is in the process of securing those funds. The award does require a match, therefore the committee is still fundraising, and community outreach, as well as have t-shirts and stickers for sale. The committee is looking into hosting a few events in the next couple of months. More information is hoped to be provided soon.

Mariah further stated that the Parks & Recreation Committee have an auction running for two sets of 4 seats each for people to bid on for Saturday's Fort Ligonier Days parade on the reviewing stand. Mariah thanked those on Council who gave up their seats. The bidding is still ongoing and closes Thursday evening.

Mariah closed her report by wishing everyone a happy and safe Fort Ligonier Days.

TOWN HALL

Town Hall Chair Judy Hoffer was excited to announce that thanks to the due diligence of Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw and Street Supervisor Ron Ross and the brainstorming from the Town Hall Committee; the Richard King Mellon Foundation has awarded Town Hall \$651,000 that will be used for a generator, gas line leading to the new generator, new appliances for the kitchen, air and heating updates for the entire building, as well as elevator repair. Hoffer added that the initial idea was to use the Town Hall as a Community Shelter in case of disaster.

PUBLIC WORKS

Carol Barton, Chair of Public Works reported on a great turn out for the October 1 informational meeting(s) on stormwater. Barton thanked all that attended. Moving forward it was announced that members for the authority are needed and letters of interest should be submitted to the Borough office.

Fort Ligonier Days preparations have begun with the public works crew.

Leaf pick up will commence the Wednesday after Fort Ligonier Days.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jordan Frei thanked Fort Ligonier Days Inc. members present for keeping the channels of communication open with the Borough.

Frei thanked Chief Corey Blystone, Ron Ross and Public Works crew for their work and preparations for Fort Ligonier Days.

FINANCE

Chairman John Poznick reported that in addition to the funds received for Town Hall; the Borough has also received \$50,332.44 from the State for 2024 municipal pension aid. Also received was \$10,204.88 from the State for 2024 Fire Relief Payment which will directly go to

the Ligonier Firemen Relief Association. Additionally, \$2,200 was received from the State for Ligonier Borough's portion from Liquor Control Board licenses for the year.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chair, Karen Lynn reported that the committee is in the process of fine tuning the proposal for a new ordinance for short term rentals and Airbnbs. Once prepared, the proposed ordinance will be brought before Council hopefully by the December meeting.

Karen Lynn stated that David DeRose has resigned as solicitor for the Zoning Hearing Board. Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw has contacted the board of Westmoreland County Law Journal to post the open position. Interested parties are to contact Jan Shaw by October 14. Interested individuals will then be interviewed by Council's personnel committee and zoning board members.

Solicitor Mark Sorice advised that the municipality's planning code does require any current applications must be scheduled for a hearing within 60 days. In the event that we do not have any candidates pursuant to the advertisement placed, it is suggested that we engage someone on a temporary basis to ensure that the application is heard within this timeframe. This would have to be confirmed by council.

NEW BUSINESS

Shade Tree: Ginny Fitzner

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by John Poznick to appoint Ginny Fitzner to serve on the Shade Tree Commission. All of Council was in favor.

Guyasuta:

Jeff Todd & Henry Beukema of Guyasuta were present with a presentation on the Investment Review as of September 30, 2024 for the Town Hall Endowment Fund. Presently almost 6.5 million is in the account. The equities percent is at 77.8%, Income Trusts at 1.7% and Fixed Income percent at 17.3%. Quarter to date the equities are up 8.4%

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw thanked Guyasuta for the presentation.

Jan advised council that the Borough office and Street Supervisor Ron Ross's email will be changing soon.

Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported that an Emergency Management meeting was held earlier this evening with Police Chief Mike Matronics, Mutual Aid concerning Fort Ligonier Days.

Public Works Crew will be setting up all week for Fort Ligonier Days.

Ron also reported that 4 shade trees were taken down a week or two ago and 8 new were planted with 2 new still to be planted after Fort Days.

Engineer Jason Mash reported that the October 1st Stormwater Informational Meeting went well with a good turnout. Jason thanked Councilmembers Karen Lynn and Carol Barton for their help.

Police Chief Mike Matronics reported on the upcoming Fort Ligonier Days and traffic control.

Mayor Butch Bellas spoke briefly about a resident at the corner of McGowan & Deeds who is having trouble with people parking at her garage entrance. A discussion ensued with Street Supervisor Ron Ross stating that he could put No Parking signs there if Council wanted him to or paint yellow NP but cannot do so until spring.

Mayor Bellas also noted that Trick or Treat in the Borough will be Thursday, October 31st from 6-8pm.

President Matt Smith thanked Guyasuta for coming and also thanked Public Works Crew, Fire and Police in advance for all their hard work getting ready for Fort Ligonier Days. The next meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council will be held Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 7pm.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Mariah Fisher to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer