

February 9, 2023

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 7pm in the Town Hall with President Matt Smith presiding.

Members Present: Matt Smith, Mariah Fisher, Judy Hoffer, Nate Sylvester, Jordan Frei and Brad Chartier. Absent was Robert Barron.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Engineer Ben Faas, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, and Fire Chief Corey Blystone. Absent was Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve the minutes of January 12, 2023 as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Brad Chartier and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Bills Payable presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Nate Sylvester to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Calvary Methodist Church Parking Proposal:

Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported that the Public Works Committee has looked at the plans and do not want to move forward with the proposal. It will make it too tight for traffic and will also create a safety issue with people going to other roads to turn around to come back and park.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Brad Chartier to decline the parking proposal for Calvary Methodist Church. All of Council was in favor.

Planning Commission Member:

One person was interested in filling a vacant position on the Planning Commission – Karen Lynn

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Judy Hoffer to appoint Karen Lynn to the Planning Commission. The motion carried with all in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from the Weeders & Seeders Garden Club of Ligonier requesting to commemorate May Day with their first annual **Spring May Day Basket Contest**, a fundraiser event on the Bandstand area on Sunday, April 30, 2023. Fresh floral arrangements by entrants in baskets or displays would be judged by the garden club. Resident entries would be displayed on the Diamond from 1-5pm. Business / Organization entries would be displayed at their entryway to their business up to 5 days.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the request from the Weeders & Seeders Garden Club for Sunday, April 30, 2023 from 1-5pm. All of Council was in favor.

Proposal for a **5k Race to be held Sunday, January 7, 2024** was received from **Dean Banko** following the same parameters as his 5k race held January 2023 using the walking trail.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Brad Chartier to approve the request by Dean Banko. All of Council was in favor.

Letter received from LV Chamber of Commerce asking permission to hold a special event celebrating Summer Solstice **“Dinner on the Diamond”** Wednesday, June 21, 2023. Registrants would purchase a ticket to enjoy a catered dinner with a maximum of 2 cocktails provided & served by a RAMP certified bar tender. Tents would be on the walkways secured by weights to protect guests from elements. No tents would be placed on the grassy areas.

Council decided to table the request and refer to the Public Safety Committee for further discussion.

Letter received from the LV Chamber asking permission to use Mellon Park on the two previously approved dates (June 3 & August 26 for Antiques on the Diamond) to hold **“Not Your Grandma’s Antiques” – a yard sale for residents**. Residents would reserve a space through the Chamber office to sell items they no longer need.

Council tabled the request and asked LV Chamber to come back with established rules for the proposed event.

Letter from the LV Chamber of Commerce asking permission to use Diamond Park on July 22, from 9am to 4pm for the annual **“Summer in Ligonier”** as well as for merchants to hold sidewalk sales. Also requested is to close the first block of East Main Street on July 22 from 10am to 3pm. Included in the request is permission to complete paperwork to close the first block of East Main Street.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the annual “Summer in Ligonier” event July 22, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

An email request was received from Annie Otto of Valley School of Ligonier requesting permission to **use the Loyalhanna Parking Lot** for an Art & Auction event they are hosting at Fort Ligonier Saturday, 4/22/23 from 6-9pm. Otto asks for Loyalhanna lot to be bagged by 5pm.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve the request. All of Council was in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chair Mariah Fisher reported that the committee has received the design for Friendship Park Phase II however, as it was just received the committee has not had a chance to review and recommend approval by full council. Parks & Recreation committee anticipates a meeting next week to review and is looking forward to getting it out to everyone. Fisher stated that the committee also has a community group that has been giving feedback on the project. Fisher finished her report by stating that it comes with quite the price tag; therefore there will be lots of fundraising.

Mariah Fisher commented on the recent annual Ice Fest and the growing safety concern with traffic and pedestrians around the Diamond. The possibility of closing the Diamond or partial closure to traffic during the weekend was questioned.

Discussion ensued with Street Supervisor to check with PennDot.

TOWN HALL

Town Hall Chair Judy Hoffer reported that the Public Works Department has painted a few rooms in the Town Hall.

PUBLIC WORKS

N/A

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jordan Frei thanked Fire Chief Corey Blystone for looking at the Calvary Methodist Church Parking Proposal as well as Street Supervisor Ron Ross.

FINANCE

Chairman Brad Chartier reported that the Finance Committee along with Guyasuta have come to the agreement to **move 10% of equity investments into bonds** for the first half of the 2023 fiscal year. The Borough's current equity investment percentage is 85% and will now be reduced to 75% and the 10% will be used to purchase the bonds.

A motion was made by Brad Chartier and seconded by Nate Sylvester to move 10% from Ligonier Borough equity investments and use that to purchase bonds. The motion carried with all in favor.

The finance committee has also decided to **increase Ligonier Borough permit fees by 10%** across the board.

A motion was made by Brad Chartier and seconded by Judy Hoffer to increase the permit fees by 10%. The motion was unanimously approved.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Nate Sylvester welcomed Karen Lynn aboard to serving on the Planning Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported that Dumpster Days for Ligonier Borough will be held Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22, 2023 at the Borough garage. More information to follow.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Eads Engineer Jake Bolby reported that Engineer Ben Faas is working on the Sidewalk Ordinance and it should be completed soon.

Police Chief John Berger reported that LVPD is in the process of obtaining a full time (SRO) School Resource Officer at Valley School of Ligonier.

President Matt Smith welcomed Karen Lynn to the Planning Commission.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Judy Hoffer to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer