

**March 12, 2026**

*Prior to the regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council, a work session was held beginning at 6:00 pm. In attendance were Jordan Frei, Carol Barton, Judy Hoffer, Jim Norris, John Poznick, Paul Verostko, Emma Betz, Tom Freeman, Jan Shaw, Ron Ross, Jason Mash, and Mark Sorice.*

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 7pm in the Town Hall with President Jordan Frei presiding.

**Members Present:** Jordan Frei, Carol Barton, Judy Hoffer, Jim Norris, Nancy Pleskovitch, John Poznick, Paul Verostko, and JR Council Member Emma Betz.

**Others Present:** Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Mayor Tom Freeman, Engineer Jason Mash, Solicitor Mark Sorice, Police Chief Michael Matrunics, & Fire Chief Matt Ferry.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*A motion was made by John Poznick and seconded by Jim Norris to approve the minutes of February's regular meeting as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.*

#### **BILLS PAYABLE**

*A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Nancy Pleskovitch to approve the Bills Payable as presented. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

*A motion was made by Carol Barton and seconded by Jim Norris to approve the Consent Calendar provided. All of Council was in favor.*

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*Hazel Alley - Jason Mash, engineer reported that the contractor needs to move the water line at an additional cost of \$34,000. Jason did get two additional outside quotes ranging from mid to upper \$30,000 so he feels that is an appropriate number. He is also proposing to extend the deadline to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Ron Ross stated the gas company is scheduled for paving in that area and will check to make sure the projects line up. A motion was made by Jim Norris to accept the deadline change and water line move cost change per Jason Nash's recommendation. It was seconded by Carol Barton. All of Council was in favor.*

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Ligonier Valley YMCA wrote requesting to use the Town Hall as their evacuation and reunification site for the Child Development Program.

*A motion was made by Paul Verostko to allow Ligonier Valley YMCA to use the Town Hall as a reunification site in case of an emergency situation. It was seconded by Judy Hoffer. All in of council in favor.*

A letter from Julie Donovan requesting permission to display one of the five 4' by 8' outdoor murals for the America 250 celebration to be displayed along the post and rail fence along Loyalhanna Street facing the Diamond.

*A motion was made by Judy Hoffer to approve the mural display by Ft Ligonier. The motion was seconded by Jim Norris. All of Council was in favor.*

Amy Beitel of the Chamber sent a letter requesting permission to hold the Sip n' Savor walk (formerly Wine, Whiskey and Sweets walk) on Saturday, June 13, 2026 from 4-7:00 pm. She is also requesting use of sidewalks and parking areas around the Diamond plus two blocks East and West Main Street and to bag the meters at 9:00 am for set up, the Town Hall Auditorium Foyer for registration and bottle pick up services, and a small band to perform on the bandstand.

*A motion was made by Carol Barton to allow the Sip n' Savor walk and the usage requests defined in the letter. The motion was seconded by Paul Verostko. All of Council was in favor.*

Amy Beitel of the Chamber sent a letter requesting the following things for Ligonier's America 250 celebration being held July 18, 2026 – port-a-johns to be set up on West Bank Alley, permission to bag meters for band members, use of podium, flag and microphone taken to bandstand, live music on the bandstand and Town Hall steps, decorations placed around town, use of golf cart provided by Fort Ligonier to transport band equipment, approval to install the Ligonier Cemetery Marker at a date to be determined, grab and go food available on private properties during event, permission for picnicking on the Diamond during the event, and permission to set an information table and pop-up tent in front of Town Hall. Amy is requesting these things on behalf of Ligonier's America 250 Committee.

*A motion was made by John Poznick to approve the request as outlined in the letter. It was seconded by Nancy Pleskovitch. All of Council was in favor.*

Tricia Betz, current clerk of Ligonier Borough submitted her two week notice as she was hired by the Ligonier Valley Police Department.

*A motion was made by Carol Barton to approve the resignation and seconded by Paul Verostko. All Council was in favor.*

*A motion was made by Carol Barton to hire Deborah Rhoades to the clerk position. It was seconded by Jim Norris. All of council was in favor.*

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PARKS & RECREATION**

Nancy Pleskovitch said the focus has been on plans to update Friendship Park and Mellon Park. The committee met with Jason Mash to discuss ways to downscale the plans to better match the grant received for \$600,000.

### **TOWN HALL**

Judy Hoffer said the downstairs renovations are nearly complete; the kitchen cupboards still need to be installed. She said Ron and the Public Works crew did an amazing job.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Jim Norris said Public Works has been busy with equipment maintenance and finishing the Town Hall project. The spring dumpster days are April 17 and 18.

The outline for tar and chipping was presented which would be 18,030 square yards.

*A motion was made by Jim Norris to allow the bid to go out. Carol Barton seconded it. All of council was in favor.*

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Paul Verostko said updates were made to the Borough's Emergency Action Plan. The committee also made amendments to Ordinance 544 in regards to the Parking Officer. All language referring to the Chief of Police was removed and replaced with Ligonier Borough Council. Paul met with Michael Marinchak of the Ligonier YMCA regarding their emergency evacuation plan; the YMCA donated 2 membership passes to pass along to the Ligonier Fire Department. Westmoreland Public Safety will be making a presentation March 25 from 6-8:00 pm in the Community Room. Registration is required.

#### **FINANCE**

John Poznick reported a meeting with the Borough's financial advisors has been scheduled for next month. The account is up 3.3%.

#### **PLANNING / PERSONNEL**

Carol Barton reported Deborah Rhodes will be replacing Tricia Betz in the clerk position. On Thursday, March 26, Tubmill and the Chamber will be hosting a merchant event to discuss ideas for growth and working together from 6:30-8:00 pm. Council is invited. Carol will be meeting with Bob Regola to discuss grants.

#### **SHADE TREE**

No Report

#### **STORMWATER AUTHORITY**

No Report

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The 2026 Emergency Action Plan was updated with the correct names

*A motion was made by Paul Verostko to approve the updated 2026 Emergency Action Plan. Nancy Pleskovitch seconded the motion. All of council was in favor.*

*A motion was made by Judy Hoffer to reappoint Jim Meade to the Zoning Hearing Board. It was seconded by John Poznick. All of council was in favor.*

The Intergovernmental Agreement between the Borough and Stormwater Authority had been emailed to council for review.

*A motion was made by Carol Barton to proceed with the Intergovernmental Agreement. It was seconded by John Poznick. All of council was in favor.*

An amendment to Ordinance 554 was presented. Solicitor Sorice explained that this amendment was needed to change the verbiage from the police/police chief to Borough Council in regards to who oversees the Parking Enforcement Officer. An amendment to Ordinance 541 and 554 was presented to reflect parking fine increases per the decision by council during budget preparation.

*A motion was made by Jim Norris to amend Ordinance 553; it was seconded by Carol Barton. All of council was in favor.*

*A motion was made by John Poznick to amend Ordinance 541; it was seconded by Judy Hoffer. All of council was in favor.*

*A motion was made by Paul Verostko to amend Ordinance 554; it was seconded by Carol Barton. All of council was in favor.*

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Dickson introduced himself as the new member of the Planning Commission.

**COMMENDATIONS and COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS**

Secretary/Treasurer Jan Shaw said the employees had their CPR/First Aide training and that the office was in the midst of the yearly audit.

Solicitor Mark Sorice said there may be a settlement coming soon for the Gardner/Podlucky litigation. He informed council of several possible outcomes and will continue to monitor the litigation.

Public Works Supervisor Ron Ross thanked the American Legion for donating an American Flag and POW flag. The American Legion donates two sets per year.

Fire Chief Matt Ferry reported that there were 26 calls last month with 363 man hours. He will be going on vacation and Asst. Chief Josh Umbaugh and Corey Blystone will be handling things while he is gone.

Chief Matrunic reported Act 18 went into effect in December of 2025. This means with every traffic stop, a report must be generated. The K-9 program received a \$15,000 grant from the Shaw Foundation for the next dog as Kilo will be retiring soon. Chief Matrunic also briefed the council on a DUI incident on Route 30, an incident in the Township that made the local news, and a direct threat on LVPD officers from a local resident.

Mayor Tom Freeman thanked Tricia for the time she was with the Borough and believes Debbie will bring a lot to the table for the Borough. He also thanked Council for the work on their committees and President Frei for the work sessions.

President Jordan Frei emphasized that there is not one tax dollar that goes into Sgt Friscarella's K-9 program. All the money that is needed for the program is donated through fund raising and grants.

President Jordan Frei noted that the next meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council will be held Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

*A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Carol Barton to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw  
Secretary-Treasurer