

**May 9, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 7pm in the Town Hall with President Matt Smith presiding.

**Members Present:** Matt Smith, Mariah Fisher, Judy Hoffer, Jordan Frei, Carol Barton. Brad Chartier via Zoom. Absent was Adriel Ginsburg.

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the minutes of April 2024 as presented. All of Council was in favor.*

#### **BILLS PAYABLE**

*A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Carol Barton to approve the Bills Payable presented. The motion carried with all in favor.*

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

*A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gregory Smith of 1659 Route 30 was present and stated that May is Motorcycle Awareness Month and asked everyone to be aware of motorcycles when driving. Smith complained of grass on roadways and that it is illegal to blow grass clippings out onto the roadways. Smith stated that when the Diamond is mowed the grass is blown out onto the street.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **Proposed Ordinance on Borough Data Information Ownership:**

Solicitor Mark Sorice explained the proposed ordinance.

*A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Judy Hoffer to proceed and advertise the ordinance. The motion carried with all in favor.*

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Matt Smith stated that Council would enter into a brief executive session for personnel @ 7:11pm and returned at 7:24pm.

##### **Appoint New Council Member:**

Matt Smith reported that the Borough has received two letters of interest for the vacant Council position. Personnel Committee has met with each via telephone conversations.

*A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Carol Barton to accept Jim Norris' bid for the vacant council position. The motion did not carry with Jordan Frei, Mariah Fisher and Matt Smith opposing.*

*A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Mariah Fisher to move forward with John Poznick's interest to serve in the vacant Council position. The motion carried 4-2 with Judy Hoffer and Carol Barton opposing.*

**John Poznick will be the new Council Member for Ligonier Borough.**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter received from Ken Bacha, Director of Community Outreach with **Mutual Aid Ambulance asking for a \$250 donation** to assist with appreciation to staff by hosting picnics, awards, and raffles throughout National EMS Week May 19-25, 2025.

Under advisement of Solicitor Mark Sorice the request should be denied because it is not a service nor qualifies as a service and would be in conflict of what is permitted under the Borough Code.

A request for a **3'x4' Vinyl Banner to hang at Pioneer Presbyterian Church for Vacation Bible School 5/17/24-6/14/24** was received from Pioneer Presbyterian Church.

*A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the banner for Pioneer Presbyterian Church. The motion carried with all in favor.*

Letter received from LV Chamber of Commerce asking permission for **Summer in Ligonier Block Party on Saturday, July 20, 2024 from 10am-2pm**. Requested to use Bandstand for demonstration from the Bug Lady. Use of Courtyard for children to play with blue blocks. Use of two parking spaces on East Main Street for the LV Police Department to have a car available for show & meet and greet a police officer. Permission to close the first block of N Fairfield Street for children & families to see fire trucks and meet firefighters. Permission is also asked for Kona Ice to set up to sell shaved ice on N Market Street.

*A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the request for Summer in Ligonier Block Party Saturday July 20, 2024 from 10am-2pm. The motion unanimously approved.*

Letter received from LV Chamber of Commerce asking permission for merchants to have **sidewalk sales during the Ligonier Night Markets June 20, July 18, August 15 & September 19**. Also requested is that the Teen Advisory Board of the LV Library be permitted to sell cotton candy, popcorn & slushies during Chamber events as well as during the Ligonier Night Markets.

*A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve. The motion carried with all of Council in favor.*

**Councilman Jordan Frei commented that he would like Council to see a list of prepared food for any event in the future.**

Letter received from the LV Chamber of Commerce requesting to hold **Bark in the Boro Sunday, August 18, 2024 from 12-4pm**. The Chamber requests to use the sidewalk & parking areas 2 blocks on E and W Main Streets for vendors. Set up to begin approximately 8am therefore it is requested to bag the meters Saturday evening. The Chamber asks to use the courtyard for an information table. Liability insurance will be purchased for the event. Permission is asked for merchants to have sidewalk sales. Dog waste bags will be available. Permission to have a red carpet with photos by a professional photographer on bandstand. NO dogs permitted on the grassy area of bandstand. Permission to have dog agility stations where appropriate. Each station monitored by a professional dog trainer.

*A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve the request for Bark in the Boro. Council unanimously approved.*

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PARKS & RECREATION**

Nothing to report for Parks & Recreation.

## **TOWN HALL**

Judy Hoffer reported that the Town Hall Committee is working on a solution for the town clock at Heritage Church.

Town Hall Committee is also working on an ordinance for food trucks to be put in place. It is hoped to have a proposed ordinance for review next month or soon after.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Chair Carol Barton reported that Dumpster Days went well with 55 vehicles taking part the two days.

Barton reported that a meeting was held recently regarding possible formation of stormwater authority and moving forward. Will update as it progresses.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Chairman Jordan Frei reported on the recent tornado alert received by many in the area during a storm. Frei reported that he will be investigating and hopes to present to Council how residents can best stay in the know prior to a severe weather event.

## **FINANCE**

Chairman Brad Cartier reported that he has been working on grant writing reviewing for Friendship Park.

## **PLANNING / PERSONNEL**

N/A

## **SHADE TREE**

N/A

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Ligonier Sewage Treatment Plant NPDES Discharge Permit Renewal:**

Letter received from Gibson-Thomas Engineering informing Ligonier Borough that the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County intends to apply for NPDES Discharge Permit Renewal for the Ligonier Sewage Treatment Plant. This is a standard every 5 year procedure.

*A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Brad Chartier to approve the renewal. All of Council was in favor.*

## **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

NONE

## **COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS**

Solicitor Mark Sorice spoke briefly about the **ownership of the clock at Heritage Church**. Court would have to rule as to who owns per Borough Code rules.

**Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported that the new truck has been received** however needs to have to go back again with a few more things to be completed on it. It will be in service within a few weeks.

Fire Chief Corey Blystone added to Jordan Frei's report regarding keeping residents in the know of imminent severe weather by informing all that Ligonier Borough does have a disaster alert siren. It is one solid tone as a warning Blystone explained. However, Chief Blystone further stated that someone has to physically activate the siren and then there is no way to notify everyone that all is clear and that the threat has passed.

Councilman Frei stated that more conversation is to come to find a way to keep the public in the know.

Police Chief Mike Matrunic reported that officers continue with traffic enforcement. Matrunic reported that the department also continues to watch the lines for speeding with stop watches.

Matrunic addressed a homeless issue the Borough is experiencing. Police are responding to the calls and help is offered however often denied. The individuals are being compliant as they have been warned by many businesses and private properties to not be at several locations. As yet there has never been an issue where someone was threatened or stolen from. Matrunic explained that you cannot just tell them to leave town.

Matrunic reported that no Borough Ordinance covers anything of this nature.

Solicitor Sorice responded that there has been many challenges to local municipal ordinances trying to restrict homeless people occupying.

Mayor Bellas welcomed John Poznick to serving on Council and thanked Adriel Ginsburg for his time serving as well.

President Matt Smith also welcomed John Poznick as newest member of Council as well as thanked Adriel Ginsburg for his service.

Matt Smith stated that the next meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council will be Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

Solicitor Sorice mentioned that it would be nice to recognize former Solicitor Welty with a proclamation for his 40 years of service with Ligonier Borough.

Mayor Bellas to write the proclamation.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

*A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Judy Hoffer to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.*

Respectfully submitted

Janette Shaw  
Secretary-Treasurer