

June 8, 2023

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 7pm in the Town Hall with President Matt Smith presiding.

Members Present: Matt Smith, Mariah Fisher, Adriel Ginsburg, Judy Hoffer, Nate Sylvester, Brad Chartier and Jordan Frei.

Other's Present: Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineer Ben Faas, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief Mike Matrunic, & Fire Chief Corey Blystone. Absent was Zoning / Code Enforcement Officer Karl Horman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to approve the minutes of May 11, 2023 as presented. 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 presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dennis Ingle of 312 Elm Street was present and spoke about 4 structures on the corners of Elm and Fairfield that are dangerous, falling down and dilapidated with infestation of rodents. Ingle asked Council to take a look at these structures.

Dorothy Fry of 206 East Church Street spoke with complaints about neighbor on the corner of Church Street. Last year the owner had a car parked with 4 flat tires all winter long & has trash on top of his roof.

Solicitor Welty stated that Zoning / Code Enforcement officer can file a citation.

Debbie Campayno of 324 N Fairfield Street read a letter submitted to the Borough over 3 years ago regarding the properties of 312 & 316 N Fairfield Street in continual decline along with rodents. The problem has yet to be resolved. Campayno submitted complaint forms from 10 nearby residents with complaints of 312 & 316 N Fairfield Street. Campayno closed by asking if there is an ordinance pertaining to rodents.

President Matt Smith replied that the Code/Enforcement officer will be instructed to cite. It was added that it is the property owner's responsibility under the Borough's property maintenance ordinance in regards to weeds, insects, rats, vermin & motor vehicles.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

New Sidewalk Ordinance: Amending Chapter 135 titled Streets and Sidewalks

Solicitor Welty stated that as the Borough has received the proof of publication from the Tribune-Review and receipt has been received from the law library as well. The ordinance is ready for action by Council.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Jordan Frei to enact the updated sidewalk ordinance. The motion carried with all in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from **Fort Ligonier Days, Inc.** requesting **permission to hold the annual Fort Days Festival** within the designated festival zone area on October 13, 14, & 15, 2023.

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

Letter received from **Fort Ligonier Days, Inc.** requesting permission for **signage** to be posted in the Borough as it relates to the festival. Approval is asked for directional and location signage to be placed around the Diamond, on East and West Main Street, North and South Market Streets and throughout the Borough as needed. Also requested is permission to hang event banners on the Diamond and on East and West Main Streets. The banners will be up for approximately 4-6 weeks prior to the festival and will be removed the day after the festival.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the signage for Fort Ligonier Days 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Letter received from **Fort Ligonier Days, Inc.** requesting **approval for the list of locations as temporary festival areas for Fort Ligonier Days:**

1. Pioneer Presbyterian Church yard
2. Mack M. Darr Company, Inc.
3. West Main Street & Walnut Street (LV Railroad Assoc., Fort Allen Farm Equipment)
4. Rosalie Keslar; lot behind 331-333 W. Main Street
5. St. James Lutheran Church, 300 W. Main Street – church yard
6. Holy Trinity Church

Fort Ligonier Days, Inc. further requests **approval for sale permits for the listed individuals & organizations during the Fort Ligonier Days Festival:**

1. Pioneer Presbyterian Church
2. Mack M. Darr Company, Inc.
3. Fort Allen Antique Farm Equipment
4. Ligonier Valley Railroad Assoc.
5. Rosalie Keslar (39) 10x10 spaces
6. St. James Lutheran Church

A motion was made by Adriel Ginsburg and seconded by Nate Sylvester to **table** the request to review the ordinance and ask FLD to attend the next meeting. The motion carried with all in favor.

Letter received from **Fort Ligonier** requesting use of the bus parking lot for overflow parking Saturday, June 10, 2023 @ 2pm for celebration of life for Rev. Benton McKee.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the request from Fort Ligonier. The motion carried unanimously.

Letter received from **Barbara McMillan / David McMillan** asking Council & Mayor to write letters of concern regarding the proposed expansion of Robindale / LCT's Rustic Ridge underground coal mine northward into Westmoreland County toward Stahlstown and Ligonier.

President Matt Smith stated that the municipality of Ligonier Borough as a whole should not comment on this however anyone on council may comment on their own as a private citizen.

Letter received from **Westmoreland County Ambulance & Rescue Assoc.** requesting assistance with EMS crisis.

Council is to consider options.

Letter received from LYBSA informing Borough of their plans to replace both scoreboards at the Donaldson Baseball / Softball Complex.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Nate Sylvester to approve. The motion carried with all in favor.

Request received from **Lydia Hull and Alex Fleming** for use of Diamond on Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25 from 12-3pm to perform Celtic music. They will be using an amp and microphones.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Nate Sylvester to approve the above request. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chair Mariah Fisher reported that the committee is still working on Friendship Park Phase II and are still accepting donations for the project. Fisher reported that the Borough is now able to accept credit card donations on the Borough website at www.ligonierboro.com. The committee is hopeful to have a lot of community participation with this. There are no current updates on grants for the project as yet.

TOWN HALL

Chair Judy Hoffer reported that Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw recently went to the PSAB (Pennsylvania State Association of Borough's) Conference in Hershey, PA. Hoffer thanked the Borough office and public works crew for planting the flowers on the Diamond.

PUBLIC WORKS

Adriel Ginsburg, Chairman of the Public Works committee reported that the Public Works crew recently painted the lines on the roads.

It was also reported that a structural engineer & architect were at the Public Works building and were pleasantly surprised with the structure they found that will accept the peaked roof. It will be a 5/12 pitch.

Bid package will be ready prior to next Council meeting but will not be ready for opening bids at the meeting. A bid opening will be scheduled between the July and August Council meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jordan Frei requested that public keep safe outside during cooking and grilling during the very dry weather.

FINANCE

N/A

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

NA/

NEW BUSINESS

The Borough's former Emergency Management Coordinator resigned from the position and the Borough will need to appoint another. Greg Sullenberger will remain as alternate deputy. Street Supervisor Ron Ross has volunteered to take on the position.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jordan Frei to appoint Ron Ross the new Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough. The motion carried with all in favor.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

Secretary –Treasurer Jan Shaw reported receiving a lot of useful information from the PSAB Conference in Hershey.

Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported attending Career Day at the LV Middle School. Students were shown how to change the front brakes on a car. The students were very appreciative and sent letters of thanks.

Engineer Ben Faas questioned the need for a motion to advertise for opening of bids for the Borough garage roof.

A motion was by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to advertise opening of bids after Engineer Ben Faas has the bid package complete. The motion carried with all in favor.

Police Chief Mike Matrunics referred to his provided reports.

Mayor Bellas reported that he can no longer help residents with trapping skunks.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Jordan Frei to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer