

August 8, 2019

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, August 8, 2019 @ 7:00 PM in the Town Hall with James St. Clair presiding.

Members Present: James St. Clair, Matt Smith, James McDonnell, Mariah Fisher, Judy Hoffer, and Terry Murphy. Absent was Jeff Craig.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineer Ben Faas, Solicitor George Welty, and Police Chief John Berger. Absent was Zoning Officer Rick Schwab, Fire Chief Steve Barron and Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Knepper.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the amended minutes of July 11, 2019 changing Prudent Group to Protin Group under Planning / Personnel. The motion carried with all in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Consent Calendar. All of Council was in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Stop sign at Bell & Washington Street:

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Terry Murphy to make the intersection of Bell & Washington a 4 way stop for a 90 day trial period. The motion carried with all in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

Sign Permit Application received from LVRx Pharmacy for two 3x4 vinyl banners to be placed on the building facing Route 30 & one on back of building facing the alley from August 30 – November 30, 2019 advertising flu shots and that they accept all types of insurance.

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the request. All of Council was in favor.

An Application was received for use of Mellon Park for Ligonier Witches Bike Brigade dance with DJ for music to two songs from 11:00 – 1:00 PM October 27, 2019.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by James McDonnell to approve the request for use of Mellon Park October 27, 2019. The motion carried with all of Council in favor.

Application received for use of Mellon Park for Pet Blessing October 6, 2019 from 1-2 PM.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the request for the Pet Blessing October 6, 2019 in Mellon Park from 1-2 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

Letter received from LV Chamber of Commerce requesting approval for various locations as temporary festival areas / & approval for sales permits for Fort Ligonier Days October 11-13, 2019:

**Fort Ligonier Days
2019 Proposed Temporary Festival Areas & Requests for Sales Permits:**

Proposed Temporary Festival Areas

1. Pioneer Presbyterian Church yard
2. Ramada Ligonier Parking Lot
3. West Main Street & Walnut Street (LV Railroad Assoc., Fort Allen Antique Farm Equipment)
4. Thistledown at Seger House – 221 West Main St. (wine tasting area)
5. Ligonier Valley YMCA
6. Rosalie Keslar, lot behind 331-333 West Main Street
7. St. James Lutheran Church 300 W Main Street – church yard
8. Naomi's – Tent set up outside 337 West Main Street

Requests for Sales Permits

1. Pioneer Presbyterian Church
2. Ramada Ligonier
3. Fort Allen Antique Farm Equipment
4. Ligonier Valley Railroad Association
5. Ligonier Valley YMCA – 33 vendor spots, Kid Korner, craft & food vendors
6. Rosalie Keslar – 39 10'x10' spaces
7. St. James Lutheran Church
8. Naomi's

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve. All of Council was in favor.

Free town wide parking is asked by Scott Haines, executive director of the LV Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with Fort Ligonier Tuesday, August 13, 2019 for the 100th anniversary of the Transcontinental Military Convoy coming through town.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve free parking town wide Tuesday, August 13, 2019. All of Council was in favor.

A request was received from Fort Ligonier to use the Loyalhanna Street Parking Lot Friday evening September 20, 2019 and to bag the meters in the lot at 4:30PM for their Cannon Ball benefit from 5:30 -8:00 PM. Request was also made to use the Borough's bus parking lot parallel to Route 30.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chairman James McDonnell reported that the PA Chapter of American Planning Association has designated Ligonier Diamond Park as 1 of 3 great places in PA to visit. Westmoreland County Planners will be hosting an awards ceremony the morning of September 10, 2019 with County Commissioners and the public invited to attend.

McDonnell reported that our arborist has confirmed the death of a tree on the south east side of Diamond due partly to clay soil and very significant rain. The tree will be removed within a week or so. The irrigation has been turned off to the trees on the Diamond.

Punch list items remaining on Diamond Park should soon be completed. The crosswalks around the Diamond Park will receive white markings.

McDonnell closed his report by thanking Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Jeff Rhodes and Bob McCauslin for their hard work in Lot A.

TOWN HALL

Chair Judy Hoffer reported that a much needed vacuum has been purchased for the Town Hall. Hoffer thanked Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw and Custodian Tom Gibson for research in selecting the best vacuum for the money.

Trees in front of Town Hall have been trimmed and down spouts have been cleaned.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Terry Murphy reported Lot A work has been completed. Public Works is preparing for the Stroll parking and detour.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In the absence of Councilman Jeff Craig, Mariah Fisher reported that the Borough's first participation in the National Night Out Event was very successful. Mariah thanked Chief John Berger, Assistant Chief Mike Matronics, all officers, and the local fire departments as well as everyone involved to make the event the success it was.

FINANCE

Mariah Fisher, Finance Chair reported that the committee has approved Comcast and gas supplier contracts.

Budget talks will begin in September for year 2020.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Westmoreland Conservation Agreement: (to jointly promote the protection of water resources & the conservation of natural resources on lands both public and private; the reduction of soil erosion & sediment pollution; environmentally sensitive maintenance of roads; proper management of stormwater; forest stewardship, the remediation of mine drainage; and the protection & preservation of farmland and open space)

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to table the topic until next month's meeting. All of Council was in favor.

Savvy Citizen: Resident Notification system that notifies residents of important municipality information by an app in your smart phone, a text or email. The cost would be \$69 per month or \$690 per year with a \$200 initial fee to set up; advertising etc. The Borough office would input the information.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Terry Murphy to try the Savvy Citizen on a one year trial period. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2019-2: Fort Ligonier Days

A resolution of the Borough of Ligonier establishing the 2019 dates for the festival and establishing the fee schedule for Fort Ligonier Days sales permits based on the provision of ordinance #556 Adopted April 11, 2013.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve Resolution 2019-2 for Fort Ligonier Days. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Flickinger commented that he feels a tree should be placed in Lot A near the Veterans Memorial.

Flickinger added that he feels smaller trees should be planted in place of the bigger trees that have died on Diamond Park for a better chance of survival.

Flickinger stated that he plans on attending a Planning Commission meeting to question the difference between an Air BnB and regular BnB.

Richard Hudock 214 North Walnut Street was present with additional comments / concerns regarding the use for the former McDowell's Dry Cleaning now owned by the Bethlen Home. Hudock feels due diligence was not used in issuing permits.

Solicitor Welty explained that when Zoning Officer Rick Schwab got the complaint regarding the occupancy permit he investigated it and issued a certificate under this section of the zoning ordinance. Welty stated that there is nothing that Council can now do as a permit has been issued. Welty explained that the only thing they can really do if they wish to challenge it is to file an appeal with the Zoning Hearing Board as this is the procedure under the PA Planning Code.

James Paharik of 210 North Walnut Street was present regarding the same concern and stated that they would pursue with Zoning Hearing Board.

Carol Barton of 246 Plum Street at the Village of Ligonier. Barton asked why only half of Plum Street being maintained. Barton said that there is issues with both ice in the winter and rain laying now.

Street Supervisor Ron Ross explained that the street is not the Borough's and that it is part of the private development; The Village Association. Barton stated that the builder says he will not complete the street until 5 units are completed.

President St. Clair stated that this is an issue with the builder.

Gus Niapas of 336 Summit was present with a complaint of blighted Mitchell property on Lynn Alley. Niapas feels the code enforcement officer needs involved.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Chief John Berger thanked Mariah Fisher for all her hard work with the National Night Out.

Mayor Bellas also thanked Mariah. Mayor Bellas reminded everyone to make eye contact with drivers when crossing the streets.

President Sam St. Clair thanked everyone for coming.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Mariah Fisher to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17PM.

Respectfully submitted
Jan Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer