

## September 14, 2023

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 7pm in the Town Hall with President Matt Smith presiding.

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

**Others Present:** Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Engineer Ben Faas, Solicitor George Welty, and Police Chief Mike Matrunic. Absent was Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A **motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to approve the minutes of both August 10, 2023 regular meeting and special meeting of August 29, 2023 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **BILLS PAYABLE**

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

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A **motion** was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to approve the Consent Calendar presented to Council. All of Council was in favor.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sandy Podlucky of 227 W Main Street was present regarding complaint of Sweet Rust Restaurant outside entertainment every Friday & Saturday evening. Podlucky is asking Council to consider lowering the sound decibel limit permitted from 90 to 60 and asking for a reduction of playing hours from 7-10pm to 7-9pm as it is a bed and breakfast area with neighbors surrounding the venue. Also requested is relocation of the tent or location of the sound system and stage to face the alley/bank area.

Sandy Podlucky states that they cannot enjoy their own home or sit on the front porch as the music is too loud.

According to Podlucky the Colonial House on 231 W Main is also losing reservations/revenues from long time customers.

Christian Simmons of Sweet Rust Distilling was present and stated that the music decibels never reach over 80 (under the tent) as he has a decibel reader with a time stamp proving such. To any car driving by the decibel level is 70.

Simmons feels if there is such a change to decibel levels permitted for him, it should be considered at other establishments in the Borough as well.

Simmons stated the music playing from 7-10pm is within the regulations of his lease. The lease is with Adam and Michelle Gardner who have a bed and breakfast with 9 bedrooms on the premises. The Gardner's gave permission to play music until 10pm.

Simmons stated that he would be willing to work with any business who proves that they are losing revenue due to his music playing.

Relocation of the tent and or location of the sound system is something that he will look into but may not be as easy as it sounds to do so.

In the interest of time President Matt Smith stated that he would be willing to stay after the meeting to try to help work something out with them but felt the meeting must now proceed.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

N/A

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Temporary Sign Permit Application received from **LVRx Pharmacy to place a 4x6' vinyl banner** on the front of the pharmacy from September 23 to February 23, 2024 to promote vaccinations for community health.

**A motion** was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve. All of Council was in favor.

Email received from **Christy Boyd of BJB Foundation asking permission to take Holiday photos** (dogs, family, Santa) on the Diamond on Saturday, December 9, 2023 for a fundraiser for Students in need.

**A motion** was made by Adriel Ginsburg and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the request from Christy Boyd of BJB Foundation. The motion carried with all in favor.

Letter received from **LV Library requesting an increase in annual contribution** from Ligonier Borough to \$2,000.

**Council decided to pass this request onto the finance committee.**

Letter received from Ginny Fitzner of **Ligonier Hose Co. #1** requesting permission to close Fairfield St. from Church to Main Street, and Bank Alley one block in both directions from Fairfield Street Sunday, October 22, 2023 from 9am-6pm for the **Witch Brigade fundraiser event**. Ligonier Hose Co. #1 will serve food and drinks and will have RAMP certified servers.

**A motion** was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to approve the request for Ligonier Hose Co. #1. The motion carried unanimously.

Letter received from Julie Donovan of **Fort Ligonier** asking permission to use and bag the Loyalhanna Street Parking Lot & bus lot for a large private event Thursday, September 21, 2023.

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the request from Fort Ligonier but with direction to work with Country Market on the possibility of sharing parking at the bus lot on this date. The motion carried with all in favor.

Letter received from **LV Chamber of Commerce** asking permission to **decorate for the previously approved Let's Get Ready to Crumble Cookie Walk & Ligonier Wholidays**. Decorations would be put up Thursday, November 30 and removed on December 4, 2023. (Four decorated 5'x5 wooden houses displayed by Town Hall, Library, Heritage Church & G Squared. Lollipop decorations on parking meters, & life size Grinch by Bandstand).

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve request from LV Chamber of Commerce. All of Council was in favor.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PARKS & RECREATION**

Chair Mariah Fisher reported that the committee is still working on Phase II for Friendship Park. A flyer will soon be given out. The committee is continuing with fund raising and looking for community donations. It is hoped to have more to report in the next few months.

## **TOWN HALL**

Town Hall Committee Chair, Judy Hoffer reported that Town Hall is doing well. Town Hall elevator inspection passed.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

N/A

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

N/A

## **FINANCE**

N/A

## **PLANNING / PERSONNEL**

N/A

## **SHADE TREE**

N/A

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ratify closure of parking lot by Fox's September 2, 2023 from 5-9:15pm for free concert sponsored by Fox's.

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to ratify the parking lot closure by Fox's. All of Council was in favor.

Ratify LV Chamber request asking to add Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> as the official start day for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ice Fest 2023 to begin at noon.

**A motion** was made by Adriel Ginsburg and seconded by Judy Hoffer to ratify LV Chamber request to add Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at noon as start day for Ice Fest 2023. The motion carried with all in favor.

Memo received from **Fort Ligonier Days Committee regarding suspension of code pertaining to sidewalk sales by merchants**; suspension of sidewalk café permits; permission for sidewalk sales without a permit from Thursday, October 12 through Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> following Fort Ligonier guidelines during Fort Ligonier Days 2023.

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

## **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

N/A

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

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported in absence of Mayor Butch Bellas that **Trick or Treat** will take place this year on Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 6-8pm in the Borough.

Mrs. Shaw further reported that the contract was signed today for the **new roof at the Public Works Garage** with an initial construction meeting to be held next week.

A thank you was extended to the **American Legion who has generously donated 26 nylon flags** to replace our old flags. These are the flags that are placed around the Diamond on Holidays.

Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported he has spoken to the Game Commission regarding the skunk problem in the Borough and they will deal with them if rabid, but will not come in and trap them. It was advised to deter them by removing outside food sources; bring in pet food at night, remove or clean up around bird feeders, keep trash in sealed cans, as well as to put fencing around sheds. Two names of licensed individuals were provided that will come in and remove the skunks.

Ron Ross reported that the Friendship Park restrooms were open during September 1<sup>st</sup> home football game due as the restrooms at the field were in need of repair. No one from the Borough was contacted. It has been asked to notify the Borough in the event that this happens again and the need for someone to monitor them.

Police Chief Mike Matrunic provided a memo to Council listing **Temporary Traffic Restrictions & Other Designations for Fort Days 2023** with no changes from prior years.

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve the Temporary Traffic Restrictions & Other Designations for Fort Days 2023. All of Council was in favor.

Chief Matrunic also reported 2 investigations of **Bitcoin** cases. Matrunic advises individuals to call right away in regards to these particular types of scams.

It was reported that a new officer has been hired and will be sworn in tomorrow.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**A motion** was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Mariah Fisher to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw  
Secretary-Treasurer