

December 14, 2017

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall with James McDonnell presiding.

Members Present: James McDonnell, Gus Breegle, Chick Cicconi, Judy Hoffer, Matt Smith, Pat Scanlon and Terry Murphy.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineer Greg Elliott, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, Fire Chief Steve Barron, and Zoning Officer Rick Schwab.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the minutes as presented to Council. The motion carried with all in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the Bills Payable as also presented. The motion carried 7-0.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2018 Budget:

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Chick Cicconi to adopt 2018 balanced budget of \$1,301,806.49 with no property tax increase. The motion carried with all in favor.

Tax Ordinance 2018:

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to approve/adopt tax ordinance for 2018. All of Council was in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from the LV Chamber of Commerce requesting the following meters be bagged for Ice Fest Saturday and Sunday January 20-21, 2018;

- 2 meters in front of the Library for Hanson's Original Kettle Korn from 5pm Friday, until Sunday at 5pm./
- The first 4 meters on East Main street along the side of Town Hall for the entertainers to load and unload their equipment Saturday from 9am – 4pm and Sunday 9am – 3pm.
- The first 4 meters on Fairfield Street beside the YMCA from 8am – 4pm Saturday and Sunday for Misty Haven Carriage to park their horse trailer and truck.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Chick Cicconi to approve the Chamber's request for Ice Fest 2018. The motion carried 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION / SHADE TREE

Nothing to report. Matt Smith noted that the Diamond looks beautiful and thanked all the volunteers who took part in decorating.

TOWN HALL

Nothing to report. Judy Hoffer wished everyone a healthy and happy holiday and New Year.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Gus Breegle reported that leaf collection is now over. Any remaining leaves within the next few weeks must now be bagged and placed by the curb for pick up. Breegle added that the crew is getting ready for winter.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Pat Scanlon also wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It was noted that the police car is in the process of repair after recently hitting a deer.

FINANCE

Chairman Terry Murphy reported that he is glad we have a balanced budget.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Chick Cicconi reported attending a Joint Comprehensive Plan meeting at Ligonier Township today with Council president James McDonnell, and Planning Commission members Jack Fry and Dave Waseman. The next meeting will be January 18, 2018 at the Township at 7pm.

Cicconi added that the Planning Commission meeting for December has been cancelled.

Cicconi thanked the citizens of Ligonier Borough for the opportunity to serve and told Council that he enjoyed working with them. Cicconi extended best wishes to incoming Council.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Borough resident Ashley Pardis of 216 West Church Street addressed Council about amending a section of chapter 72 in Ligonier Borough's code, which addresses loud noises from dogs and other domesticated animals. Pardis said how the section is currently worded may leave it open to abuse because it could allow residents to call the police after only one bark. Pardis has started a petition to amend the section with a time limit for barking.

McDonnell responded that Council will not be able to consider or act upon a petition to amend an ordinance, due to the fact that proceedings are currently filed for violation of the ordinance in the office of Magisterial District Justice Denise Snyder Thiel.

Richard Flickinger thanked parting Councilmen, Pat Scanlon, Gus Breegle and Chick Cicconi. Flickinger asked Gus Breegle and Pat Scanlon for their parting words after hearing Chick Cicconi's.

Council Gus Breegle thanked Council and stated that he was very young coming onto Council and is grateful for the knowledge gained and offered advice to incoming Council to do the best they can for the Borough. Breegle hopes to be back on Council in the coming years.

Pat Scanlon thanked Council for their help. Scanlon also commended Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry and the girls in the office. In closing Pat Scanlon added that he would like to see the Regionalization of the police force completed.

Gina Berkibile from Ligonier Township spoke in support for the dogs.

RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry reported being approached by Tom Donchez (volunteer of Diamond decorating committee) for the Borough to approach the LV Endowment for a \$5,000 grant for new LED lighting and decorations for the Diamond.

A motion was made by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Matt Smith to authorize Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry to pursue the funding on behalf of the Borough. All of Council was in favor.

Fry commented on the big change to Ligonier Borough and thanked Pat Scanlon, Gus Breegle and Chick Cicconi and expressed his pleasure working with them.

Solicitor George Welty wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Fire Chief Steve Barron wished all a Merry Christmas.

Engineer Greg Elliott presented a bid tabulation list for the Diamond project. Eight bids were received ranging from \$2,862,000 to a high of \$4,260,000. The low bid was from Darr Construction of Berlin PA.

Elliott recommended that Council award the bid to lowest bid by Darr Construction for \$2,862,000 contingent upon the Penn DOT final approval of a highway occupancy permit for the project. Penn DOT has posted an approval letter on its Engineering and Construction Management System website but the Borough has not yet received the permit. It was noted that the permit delay will not hold up construction. Demolition will not begin until the end of January or the beginning of February.

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to approve contract award to Darr Construction of Berlin PA pending HOP. All of Council was in favor.

Zoning Officer Rick Schwab wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Police Chief thanked Chick Cicconi, Gus Breegle, and Pat Scanlon. Chief Berger praised his department for stepping up in support of New Kensington Police Department for fallen officer Brian Shaw November 17, 2017.

Chief Berger wished everyone a Merry Christmas as well.

President McDonnell stated that he hopes to soon have a report on new vests for the police. McDonnell added that this has been a Rotary project.

Mayor Bellas also thanked Gus Breegle, Pat Scanlon and Chick Cicconi for their work serving on Council for Ligonier Borough.

Mayor Bellas reported that Chief Berger went above and beyond and saved a young girls life who recently went into anaphylactic shock after suffering a mushroom allergy. Bellas said Chief Berger cleared her airway and got her into a recovery position until the ambulance arrived. Bellas finished by extending all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

President McDonnell echoed Mayor Bellas's wishes. McDonnell thanked Gus Breegle, Pat Scanlon and Chick Cicconi for their selfless serving and advised all others to make haste slowly as we all try to do the right things for the right reasons.

McDonnell concluded by announcing that the next meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council will be held Tuesday, January 2, 2018 for its Reorganizational Meeting to be followed by the regular meeting January 11, 2018 at 7PM.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Judy Hoffer to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry
Secretary-Treasurer
Office Manager