

**May 14, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, May 14, 2015 @ 7:00 PM in the Town Hall with Robert Helterbran presiding.

**Members Present:** Robert Helterbran, James McDonnell, Margaret Garland, Judy Hoffer, Matt Smith, Pat Scanlon, & Mike Bieterman.

**Others Present:** Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineer Ben Faas, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, Ligonier Hose Co. #1 Representative Damion Hart and Zoning Officer Rick Schwab.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion** was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to approve both minutes of April 9, 2015 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

#### **BILLS PAYABLE**

**A motion** was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the Bills Payable as also presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A motion** was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Pat Scanlon to approve the consent calendar as presented to council. All were in favor.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **Diamond Improvement:**

EADS Engineer Ben Faas presented a site plan and explained traffic study.

The Parks & Recreation Committee will meet with the Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce and others to form a project committee to work with EADS to bring a final design and construction plan to Council.

Faas explained, according to a potential timetable the Borough would spend the next several months planning and designing the project and securing permits before sending the work out for bid after Christmas. Construction could begin in the spring of 2016 in order to finish by Fort Ligonier Days in October.

Councilman James McDonnell questioned the previous approved bollards and whether to wait on them and tolerate the situation of trucks running over the Diamond or place boulders temporarily.

It was decided that the project committee could discuss and decide on that.

**A motion** was made by Margaret Garland and seconded by Pat Scanlon to authorize and approve the \$24,980 proposal from the EADS Group Inc. for landscape architectural and engineering services related to the Diamond renovation project. All of Council was in favor.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Use of Diamond and Bandstand application received from Tom Beckman to perform music Thursday evenings in June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9, 16, 30 & August 13, & 20, 2015.

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Matt Smith to approve. All were in favor.

Letter received from Terry Carcella, Ligonier Township Manager requesting a meeting be set up to pursue proposal for a joint municipal comprehensive plan.

**A motion** was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Pat Scanlon to approve meeting with Ligonier Township for the joint municipal comprehensive plan May 21, 2015 @ 6:00 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

President Helterbran stated that someone from Council would need to be the liaison between the Borough and Township. Helterbran felt that James McDonnell would be the ideal candidate. McDonnell replied that he would be interested in being liaison.

Councilman Pat Scanlon felt two individuals should represent the Borough. Judy Hoffer volunteered to join McDonnell as liaisons for the Borough.

Letter received from the LV Chamber of Commerce requesting that the Northeast quadrant of the Diamond be blocked off to traffic for all outdoor Sunday Evening Band Concerts scheduled from May 24<sup>th</sup> through August 30, 2015. Also requested is for meters on the northeast side of the one hundred block of East Main Street be bagged for the Laurel Highlands Antique Automobile Club to display their cars during the concerts.

**A motion** was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the request from the LV Chamber of Commerce. All were in favor.

Councilman McDonnell wished LV Chamber of Commerce Director Holly Mowrey success in her future endeavors upon vacating her current position.

Letter received from Arlene Lowry of Lowry of LV Education Trust requesting permission to put up a canopy in the Town Hall Court Yard for pie sale during The Stroll Friday, August 14, 2015 from 5:00-9:00 PM.

**A motion** was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the request from the LV Education Trust. All were in favor.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PARKS & RECREATION**

Chairman James McDonnell reported that all Borough parks are in the process of being cleaned and groomed.

McDonnell commended Doug Welty and committee for their part in the Rotary's project on Friendship Park Renovations. McDonnell reported that the design architect was present at a recent meeting and received various input in what the community would like to see at Friendship Park. The Plan is to move ahead this year with the fundraising project and submitting grants.

### **TOWN HALL**

Town Hall Chair Judy Hoffer reported receiving window cleaning bids for both inside and out of Town Hall.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Public Works Chair Margaret Garland reported that the Public Works crew has been busy painting traffic intersections for red lights, parking lots and handicapped spots in town. Public Works has also been busy with mowing and cleaning up the parks, and maintenance on tennis courts.

Public Works crew was thanked for their help with Township Lt. Eric Eslary's funeral.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY / SHADE TREE**

Chairman Matt Smith conveyed his sympathies to the Eslary family for their loss and thanked all first responders Chief John Berger and Ligonier Hose Co. #1 representative Damian Hart for the work they selflessly do.

**Shade Tree:** Smith reported Trees for Ligonier funding has come through. A tree inventory will be conducted first and will then start to think about planting for the fall.

Matt Smith asked for a brief executive session @ 7:33 PM for personnel with action to be taken afterwards.

Council returned from executive session at 8:00 PM.

**A motion** was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Margaret Garland to hire two part-time Borough police officers; Candidate #1 Anthony Dennis Vitone and Candidate #2 Chase A Mollomo. All of Council was in favor.

### **FINANCE**

N/A

### **PERSONNEL / PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Planning Committee: Conditional Use application was received for Linda and Gene O'Sullivan with decision to recommend approval. A conditional use hearing has been scheduled for June 11 @ 6:45 PM.

Councilman Patrick Scanlon suggested issuing annual temporary sign permits for events such as spaghetti dinners etc. that are placed along sidewalks in the Borough.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

N/A

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Resident Bill Clark of West Church Street was present at meeting and voiced his concerns with making College Alley one way. Clark presented a petition signed by several neighboring residents against making College Alley one way.

Bill Clark also asked if the money received from the Sale of the Water Sewer Plant was still intact and its whereabouts.

Council informed Mr. Clark that the money is indeed still intact in CDs.

The topic was discussed with Council considering a crosswalk and signage and leaving College Alley a two way alley.

Sherry Kozar was present at the meeting and inquired if her letter of complaint has been received.

Solicitor George Welty replied that the letter is being reviewed and will be referred to the proper people.

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

Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry thanked everyone who helped public works crew with the recent funeral of Ligonier Township Lt. Eric Eslary.

Fry thanked LV Chamber of Commerce Director Holly Mowrey for the great working relationship that the Chamber and Borough has had.

Solicitor George Welty stated receiving a letter from Attorney Daniel Hewitt in regards to lawsuit filed by Attorney Richard Flickinger on behalf of Council Judy Hoffer and James

McDonnell for ordinance #561 challenge abolishing the Planning Commission and replaced it with a Planning Committee.

Welty stated that the ordinance is upheld and found to be correct.

President Helterbran reported that the amount spent in the lawsuit has totaled \$4,594.20.

Engineer Ben Faas thanked Council for approving the proposal for the Diamond. Faas thanked Paul Fry and the Public Works crew and Chief John Berger for their work and efforts for the Eslary funeral.

Chief John Berger echoed Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry's comments in thanking everyone who helped with the recent Eslary funeral. Berger stated that last week was tough and the community outpouring made him proud.

Chief Berger thanked Council for the new part-time police hires.

Mayor Bellas also thanked everyone for their help with the funeral. Bellas also thanked Council for the new police hires. Bellas praised Holly Mowrey for all her hard work at the Chamber and wished her well in her new job.

President Robert Helterbran praised Public Works Crew and Borough Police Department on how well everything was handled for the funeral. Helterbran thanked Director Holly Mowrey for her work at the Chamber.

President reminded everyone that the Borough Council will meet June 11 @ 6:45 PM before the regularly scheduled meeting for the O'Sullivan Conditional Use Hearing.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Pat Scanlon to adjourn. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Office Manager