

**July 9, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, July 9, 2015 @ 7:00 PM in the Ligonier Town Hall with Robert Helterbran presiding.

**Members Present:** Robert Helterbran, James McDonnell, Margaret Garland, Judy Hoffer, Matt Smith, Pat Scanlon, and Terry Murphy.

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion** was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the special meeting and regular meeting minutes of June 2015. All were in favor.

#### **BILLS PAYABLE**

**A motion** was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Pat Scanlon to approve the Bills Payable as presented. All of Council was in favor.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the Consent Calendar as also presented. The motion carried 7-0.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

EADS Engineer Greg Elliot gave an update on the Diamond Project. A survey of the Diamond area has been completed. It was explained that basic design work has been started. Elliot discussed possible options including installing a 10" high curb creating more of a barrier for potential trucks coming up over and damaging the Diamond along with a wider brick sidewalk. The turning radius problem areas are also being looked into by possibly pulling back the curb towards the inside of Diamond by a few feet.

EADS is waiting for a report on the condition of the trees around the Diamond.

Public Works Director Paul Fry stated that since the recent water main break on the north side of the bandstand in June some of the work planned for next year has now been done such as the water line relocation.

The Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County replaced and relocated the 105-year-old underground water lines after the break. The damaged brick has also been repaired.

A steering committee consisting of Public Works Director Paul Fry, the Parks and Recreation Committee, EADS Engineers as well as Chamber Director Anna Wertz are overseeing the Diamond renovation project.

President Helterbran stated that when a final plan is brought together Council should have a work session to discuss the project and vote on a final decision.

Fry stated that the steering committee hopes to have the design ready for bid at the end of this year after a final approval from Council and begin in March providing the Borough receives the necessary funding.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nothing

#### **PARKS & RECREATION**

Chairman James McDonnell reported that Friendship Park committee is still seeking grant funding. The initial cost expected was \$110,000 for the playground area only. Since then the committee is looking to expand renovations to include handicapped accessible for approximately \$220,000.

### **Comprehensive Plan:**

Councilman James McDonnell reported to Council that he is working on a survey for residents of the Borough to pick up either in the office or on the Borough website to gather ideas and information from residents that would be used when developing a joint comprehensive plan with Ligonier Township and Laurel Mountain Borough.

McDonnell reported that he is tailoring the survey for Ligonier using one created by officials in Hudsonville, Michigan, a town approximately the size of Ligonier. McDonnell hopes to present the survey to Council at next month's regular meeting.

### **TOWN HALL**

Town Hall Chair Judy Hoffer reported that a Preventative Roof Audit has been completed. Town Hall, Fire Station and Maintenance Building were all inspected with recommendations for minor repairs and cleaning up noted.

Town Hall retaining wall has been repaired.

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

Chair Margaret Garland reported that the crew has been busy with assisting in water line relocation for the clean up on the Bandstand and Diamond.

Garland added that the line and curb painting has been completed.

The crew is preparing the roads to be sealed in August.

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

Chairman of the Public Safety / Shade Tree Matt Smith reported that the tree inventory for Trees for Ligonier project has been completed. Some sight assessments will be completed to determine locations to plant trees.

### **FINANCE**

Chairman Terry Murphy reported that Guyasuta Investment Advisors report showed that our investments are in negative return and showing -2.36% for June. The common stocks are taking a hit.

On other business, Murphy asked for a motion for payment to the Police Pension Plan.

**A motion** was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Pat Scanlon to remit to the Police Pension Plan. All were in favor.

Councilman Terry Murphy reported that the Borough receives approximately \$30,000 in receipts from property tax and of that \$30,000 about half is outstanding. The Borough then receives the remainder in the following year. Murphy encouraged all of Council to keep this in mind when doing the budgets.

### **PERSONNEL / PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Nothing

Councilman Pat Scanlon welcomed new Council member Terry Murphy.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Susan Huba of the Loyalhanna Watershed was present at the meeting this evening and reported that the LV Recycling will be closing on July 31, 2015 due to lack of funding.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Anna Weltz, Director of the LV Chamber of Commerce seeks approval to bag meters for several upcoming events; Summer in Ligonier July 17 -18, The Stroll August 14, and Antiques on the Diamond August 22, 2015.

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Pat Scanlon to approve the request. All were in favor.

**COMMENDATIONS and COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS**

Solicitor George Welty suggested that Neil Van Horn come out to meet with Council and give a report. Welty suggested that Terry Murphy call him.

Police Chief John Berger reported that he along with officers Rob Hakel, and Joe Levey attended an Active Shooter Course on School Shootings June 23 and 24. Chief Berger stated the only cost was the officer's hours.

Mayor Ormond Bellas welcomed Terry Murphy to Council.  
Mayor Bellas thanked Chief John Berger for taking the recent training.

President Robert Helterbran thanked everyone for coming and noted that next month's meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council will be Thursday, August 13, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Office Manager