

March 14, 2024

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 7pm in the Town Hall with President Matt Smith presiding.

Members Present: Matt Smith, Mariah Fisher, Adriel Ginsburg, Judy Hoffer, Jordan Frei, Brad Chartier, & Carol Barton.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Mayor Ormond “Butch” Bellas, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief Mike Matrunics, and Fire Chief Corey Blystone.

Seal Coating Bid Opening

Quaker Sales	\$ 50,266
Midland Asphalt	\$104,301.95
Russell Standard	\$ 53,533.29
Derry Construction Co.	\$ 56,297.92

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to accept lowest bid from Quaker Sales subject to review by Borough engineer. The motion carried with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the minutes of February 8, 2024 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to approve the Bills Payable as also presented. All of Council was in favor.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Consent Calendar provided. The motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

An executive session was called for personnel at 7:07pm.

Council returned from executive session at 7:15pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Appointment of Solicitor:

A motion was made by Adriel Ginsburg and seconded by Judy Hoffer to appoint Mark Sorice as Borough Solicitor effective midnight tonight. Council unanimously approved.

Appointment of Engineer:

A motion was made by Adriel Ginsburg and seconded by Brad Chartier to appoint Mash Engineering as Borough Engineer. The motion carried 6-1 with Matt Smith opposing.

Dumpster Days:

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported that Dumpster Days has been set for **Friday, April 19th from 7:30am – 3pm and Saturday, April 20th from 8am-12 noon at Public Works Garage**. Price is set for \$10 per pickup truck and \$5 per car which is the same as last year. Items that will not be accepted are; paint, pressurized cans, hazardous materials, items containing dirt, concrete

blocks, plaster, fiberglass insulation, shingles, household garbage, broken glass and grass clippings.

Shaw stated that anything with refrigerant-containing appliances still remains at \$20 per unit while Cleanways has increased the price on truck tires to \$4.00 off rim and \$5.00 on rim.

CORRESPONDENCE

Email received from William Bray asking approval to replace three unreadable/damaged Civil War Veteran headstones in the **old Ligonier Cemetery**. The headstones would be replaced with new Veterans Administration issued headstones.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to grant permission to William Bray to replace the three unreadable/damaged Civil War Veteran headstones in the old Ligonier Cemetery. All of Council was in favor.

Email received from **Dean Banko** asking for permission to once again use the trail for a **5k race** benefiting the Ligonier Borough Volunteer Fire Co. The proposed date is January 7, 2025 beginning at 10am and ending by 12 noon. Proper insurance will be obtained.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Brad Chartier to approve contingent on receiving permission from the LV Police Commission and Ligonier Township Supervisors. The motion carried with all in favor.

Email received from **film director / producer Peter Guellard** requesting permission to film a **music video with country band "Six Gun Sally" on the Diamond and Bandstand**. The proposed dates for the shoot are March 22, & 23 depending on weather. Filming is anticipated to take place between 11am and 5pm. Crew will consist of 10 people, including the band members. A tour bus will be parked nearby for logistical purposes. All guidelines and regulations will be followed.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the request & also make aware it is a public park and will not be shut down as well as that nothing can be attached to the bandstand. The motion carried with all of Council in favor.

An email was received from **Paul & Susan Hoover** with comments in relation to businesses being closed on Mondays as well as many of the establishments not being handicapped accessible.

Email was forwarded to the LV Chamber of Commerce.

Letter received from **LYBSA informing the Borough of upcoming plans to enhance the Donaldson Fields for the upcoming season**. The League plans to address the Field A drainage solution. The league is purchasing a different type of dirt this year. This clay/dirt mixture has less silt, which will reduce runoff. The dirt will be delivered either April 4th or 5th with installation April 6th.

Karl Horman met with Andy Queer to analyze the water runoff during a recent storm. They are proposing to clean up and re-stone the area behind the home plate backstop with 3" rock topped off with 2B limestone. They also propose to dig a 4"-8" hole in a small section next to the dugout where the water collects. The hole will then be filled with 2B limestone. Boards would be installed along the fence to help redirect the water to the stone outlet. The installation, if approved is hoped to be completed on April 6th. If LYBSA does not hear from Council by April 1st they will assume it is approved to move forward.

A motion was made by Brad Chartier and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to approve LYBSA to make improvements to Donaldson Fields. All of Council was in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chair Mariah Fisher reported that council was informed by **LYBSA** last May in regards to their plans to replace the **scoreboards**. At that time they did not know when this would happen. They now know this information and the scoreboards will both be updated with Field A scoreboard replaced onto steel beams. This project will take place this week.

Friendship Park Sports Complex:

The Brandon Boyd Foundation has donated \$10,000 to the project.

Easter Egg Hunt:

It was reported that Councilwoman Carol Barton has put together an Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for this coming Saturday, March 16, 2024 beginning at 1pm at Friendship Park.

Mariah finished her report by stating that the committee is working on putting together a few other events in the next couple of months and will keep everyone posted.

TOWN HALL

Chair Judy Hoffer reported that Town Hall updates are continuing with the walls and flooring in the Community Room. Hoffer commended Public Works Crew for a fantastic job working on the Community Room.

Judy reported that the committee will meet with Heritage Church committee regarding the church clock on March 22, 2024.

Judy Hoffer finished her report by welcoming Tubmill Creek Provisions; newest business in town.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chair Carol Barton reported that Public Works has installed 2 new parking spots at Tubmill that will benefit the town.

Brush Pick-Up has resumed and will be on Mondays weather permitting. Garden / yard waste must be placed in the paper lawn bags.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jordan Frei reported that the volunteer fire service tax credit discussions will resume with the Borough's new Solicitor Mark Sorice.

Frei reported that the LV Chamber of Commerce has named LVPD Person of the Year & Ligonier Hose Co. #1 as Non-Profit of the Year.

FINANCE

Nothing

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Adriel Ginsburg commented on the Borough obtaining both a new solicitor and engineer.

SHADE TREE

Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

Request of delivery drivers to park in loading zones:

Request was brought forward after an issue with a UPS truck parking in a handicapped spot.

The Borough has received correspondence from Rep. Leslie Rossi's office with a reply that it is a state road and PennDot reports there is nothing in the law for delivery drivers; they give them

the grace to unload and park while they do with no set time limits and guidelines. Title 75 is mentioned; where it does provide a general rule to parking outside a business.

Matt Smith stated that basically drivers are allowed to park within certain parameters but the Borough can make a request to the delivery drivers that they use our loading zones. We have 2 on the Diamond and we ask that they use those when on the Diamond.

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw stated that UPS & FedEx will be notified.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Mariah Fisher to reiterate Ligonier Borough parking procedures so that commercial delivery services should use the designated loading zones when making deliveries in the Borough. The motion carried with all in favor.

Chief Matronics and officers will take note and keep an eye on the situation as well. Matronics suggested that new solicitor Mark Sorice may research this since the Borough really does not have an ordinance to guide officers.

Revision of Borough Permit Fee Structure

Councilman Brad Chartier stated that some revisions have been made to the Borough Permit Fee Structure; such as removing the \$55 Demolition fee as it is now part of Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency. A \$50 fee for Commercial Permits for Electric Vehicle Charging Station Application as well as a \$.45 /KW Electric Vehicle Charging Fee have been added to the fee structure.

A motion was made by Brad Chartier and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to approve the proposed changes to the Borough Permit Fee Structure effective March 14, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

Additional Public Comment

Susan Dominick of 216 E Main Street was present and thanked Council for appointing TH Committee to begin working on the issue of the church clock. Dominick reiterated that it was a disappointment on Monday to find that the bell did indeed get turned off. Dominick spoke of numerous people who are sorry the bell was not able to stay on.

Council Judy Hoffer stated that the meeting with the church and TH committee is eight days away and the bell will remain off.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Solicitor George Welty stated it has been his pleasure to be the solicitor for the Borough for the last 40 years and 3 months. Welty expressed his pleasure in working with all the many Councils, secretaries, public works directors, police and mayors.

Ron Ross thanked George Welty for his service to the Borough.

Fire Chief Corey Blystone thanked the LV Chamber for the award and that the credit is with all the volunteers.

Police Chief Mike Matronics spoke about a **Yellow Dot Program**. Yellow Dot is a free program which provides first responders with quick access to critical medical information about the occupants of the automobile in the event of an accident or health emergency. Participants place a Yellow Dot Decal on the driver's side rear windshield of their cars.

The yellow dot alerts first responders to check your glove compartment for vital information to ensure you receive the medical attention you need.

Mayor "Butch" Bellas thanked Solicitor Welty for his service. Butch also commended both police and fire departments.

Mayor Bellas finished by reminding all with spring coming to keep their grass mowed.

President Matt Smith thanked George Welty for his years of service. Matt also thanked the police and fire departments for all their work as well.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer