

April 11, 2024

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, April 11, 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 and Carol Barton.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineer Jason Mash, Solicitor Mark Sorice, and Police Chief Mike Matrunics. Absent was Fire Chief Corey Blystone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to approve the special meeting and regular meeting minutes of March, 2024 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Brad Chartier and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the Bills Payable. All of Council was in favor.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to approve the Consent Calendar also presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Veteran Markers @ old Ligonier Cemetery:

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported that **William Bray** has replaced the three unreadable/damaged Civil War Veteran headstones in the old Ligonier Cemetery after permission to do so was granted at last month's meeting.

Stormwater Authority:

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported that a meeting was recently held with herself, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Engineer Jason Mash and Solicitor Mark Sorice. Matt Smith asked for volunteers.

A motion was made by Adriel Ginsburg and seconded by Jordan Frei to have the Public Works Committee look into the Stormwater Authority options. The motion carried with all in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from Sheila & Andrew Gornik of Heroes Never Alone Inc. / Fox's Pizza asking for a 10 minute grace parking spot to allow customers to pick up orders or a Veteran parking spot for any veteran to use.

It was decided that the Gornik's must first ask permission from the parking lot owner before the Borough can make a decision.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chair Mariah Fisher reported that the Public Works department should have the restrooms open at Friendship Park by the end of the month.

TOWN HALL

Chair Judy Hoffer reported that the Town Hall Community Room Beadboard has been installed around the base of the room with 6 more pieces to go. Hoffer stated that Ron Ross does a beautiful job and does not get the credit that he should.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chair, Carol Barton reported that Dumpster Days will be Friday, April 19 from 7:30am to 3:30pm and Saturday, April 20 from 8am until noon. For details, Barton advised all to see the Borough website.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jordan Frei reported that many basements were pumped out during the last round of rain storms / flooding.

Jordan advised everyone to watch their speed as more people are out and about. He further cautioned everyone to not blow their grass clippings out onto the streets for safety concerns.

FINANCE

Chairman Brad Chartier reported that he has been busy working on grants lately for Friendship Park. Chartier also thanked the police and fire departments for all their work with the recent rain storms.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Adriel Ginsburg welcomed both Solicitor Mark Sorice and Engineer Jason Mash.

Adriel announced that he and his family will be leaving the Borough and will be moving out of state and therefore is submitting his resignation serving on Ligonier Borough Council effective May 10th.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve Adriel Ginsburg's resignation as of May 10, 2024. All of Council was in favor.

Deadline for individuals to apply for vacant Council position will be April 30th. Those interested in applying are to either submit a letter to the Borough office or email.

SHADE TREE

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

Quote for flooring for Town Hall Community Room \$17,177.58 (supplies):

Public Works would install the flooring.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Carol Barton to approve \$17,177.58 for supplies for Public Works to install. The motion carried 6-1 with Brad Chartier opposing.

Appoint Solicitor for Planning Commission:

Solicitor Mark Sorice stated that he would be willing to serve.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Carol Barton to appoint Mark Sorice as solicitor for the Planning Commission. All of Council was in favor.

Twp. – Pursue DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant for the Carey School Road:

Ligonier Township Manager Michael Strelic was present to speak to Council.

Twp. asks for letter of support, Borough to extend sidewalks to Walnut Street, & willingness to continue trying for a grant if no success this time. The grant the Township is applying for is DCED Multimodal and if awarded 100% is funded by state. It was a 70-30 match with match waived.

Jordan Frei asked if the grant would be for the bridge or sidewalk or both. It was replied that it could be both.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to have Parks & Recreation committee work on the letter of support and look further into the request. All of Council was in favor.

Anthony Soto, President of LYBSA – Baseball fields:

LYBSA suggesting to strip and redo fields and work together with the Borough. The cost is estimated to be approximately \$50-\$60,000. LYBSA is asking for help from the Borough. LYBSA has been paying \$3,000 a year for dirt and it is just like throwing the money away.

Solicitor Mark Sorice noted that DEP may need to get involved.

Carol Barton questioned the cost to place a retaining wall to help with dirt runoff. Soto was unsure of the price.

Engineer Jason Mash volunteered Mash Engineering to donate time, survey, and resources to help with the project.

It was noted that Parks & Recreation will work with LYBSA. Chair, Mariah Fisher asked them to come up with a cost proposal of what LYBSA would like to see there and possibly a retaining wall. A meeting could then be held between LYBSA, Parks & Recreation, Street Supervisor Ron Ross and Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw. Mariah cautioned that it is not guaranteed that this project will be next year.

Councilman Brad Chartier stressed the importance of having the fields surveyed and felt it should be a priority. Chartier explained that a survey could show where the water is coming from and this could change perspective of project & cost.

Policy on Borough Data Information Ownership:

Mash feels the Borough should explore a policy in regards to data information.

Solicitor Mark Sorice suggested that in the interim this language could be put in a contract that any work product paid for by the Borough is the sole separate property of the Borough until a policy for the Borough is in place.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Brad Chartier to direct Solicitor Mark Sorice to draft an ordinance to discuss and consider. All of Council was in favor.

Possible Grant Opportunities for Town Hall and/or Mellon Park:

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw was approached for possible grant opportunities for Town Hall / Mellon Park. Shaw added that the first deadline for the first round is April 30, 2024 with another June or July 30th.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Adriel Ginsburg to authorize Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw to apply for the grant for Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Adriel Ginsburg and seconded by Jordan Frei to authorize Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw to apply for the grant for Mellon Park. The motion carried 6-1 with Brad Chartier opposing.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMENDATIONS and COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Street Supervisor Ron Ross is seeking permission to put a few things on Municibid. Public Works has a new Tar Melter and asks to put the old on Municibid. Ron reported that the new truck is built and he is waiting for it to be shipped. Once the truck is received Ross wishes to then put the old 2011 F350 on Municibid as well.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Carol Barton to authorize Street Supervisor Ron Ross to place the above mentioned on Municibid. All of Council was in favor.

Engineer Jason Mash thanked Council for the opportunity to serve the Borough.

Police Chief Mike Matrunics reported that LVPD has hired an administrative assistant. Officers are keeping up with traffic specifically on Church and North Market Streets with violations and speeding.

Mayor Bellas reported on several problems in town. Bellas noted that he along with Police Chief Mike Matrunics went into an abandoned house as the door was left open. It was reported that the groundhogs are back so the issue has been given to Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw who in return will again report this to Laurel Municipal Agency Code. Mayor Bellas spoke of littering issues around town that he is working on to get cleaned up.

President Matt Smith noted that the next meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council will be held Thursday, May 9th at 7pm in the Town Hall.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Judy Hoffer to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer

