

July 11, 2024

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 7pm in the Town Hall with President Matt Smith presiding.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Brad Chartier to approve the regular and special meeting minutes of June 13, 2024 as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Brad Chartier and seconded by Carol Barton to approve the Bills Payable as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Consent Calendar provided. All of Council was in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura Manion of 230 Washington Street was present and spoke about a recently sold home on Washington Street (zoned single family residential housing) that she has learned will be converted to a short-term rental Airbnb by out of town investors.

Manion asked Council to develop a plan for the role that short-term rentals should have in our town. Manion asked which zoned area should allow Airbnbs and other short-term rentals; whether there should be a maximum number of short-term rentals in the town as well as whether the Borough would consider a tax or licensing fee for such rentals.

President Matt Smith replied that the Planning Committee will take a look at it.

Maureen Ittig of 223 Washington Street was present with the same concern.

PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION

Proclamation was presented to former Borough Solicitor George Welty.

Newly Elected Borough Solicitor Mark Sorice thanked former solicitor George Welty for his advice and continuing contributions to the Borough.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Laborer's Contract Approval:

The union proposal is a 2 year contract with a 2% price increase. President's Day was added as a paid holiday.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve the 2 year Laborer's Contract and include President's Day. All of Council was in favor.

Stormwater Authority Update:

Borough Engineer Jason Mash presented a Preliminary Stormwater Cost Study.

Stormwater Fee Estimated Income

Single Family Dwellings:

- \$100 per ERU per year (assumed)
- 574 parcels with 400 sf impervious area or more
- Income: \$100 (574) = \$57,400 per yr.

Commercial /Other:

- * Average: 2,358 sf (assumed 2,400 sf for ERU)
- * ERU computed for each parcel
- * Average ERU: 4
- * 13 parcels with ERU 10 to 30
- * Two parcels with ERU = 30
- * Income: \$74,900

$$\$57,400 + \$74,900 = \$132,300$$

Estimated Income = approx. \$132,000 per year

Replacement Cost Estimate

Currently installed system:

- 21,035 linear feet of pipe
- 44 outfalls
- 513 inlets
- 14 manholes

\$10 - \$15 million for replacement

Discussed Financing options including PennVest grants and loans.

Councilwoman Carol Barton added that the next step would be to hold a public presentation in the Town Hall Community Room to determine if there is a need to form a Stormwater Authority for the Borough. The presentation will be announced at a future date.

Street Supervisor Ron Ross added that MS4 (PennDot: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) could hit the Borough within 5 years or it could be 10 years. As of right now the Borough is nowhere near compliant.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from LV Chamber of Commerce asking permission to use lampposts in front of the shops around the Diamond and on North & South Market Streets, East & West Main Streets, as well as a few poles by Abigail’s, Ligonier Echo office, & Town Hall courtyard for their annual Scarecrow Contest. Scarecrows will go up between October 17 & 18 and be down by November 7, 2024.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the request for the Scarecrow Contest. All of Council was in favor.

Letter received from LV Chamber of Commerce asking permission to hold Pumpkin and Spice Festival, Saturday, October 26, 2024 from 11am-2pm. LV Chamber asks to seek restaurant, bakery & alcohol vendors to serve samples in merchant shops with appropriate liquor liability insurance secured. The Chamber requests to organize a pumpkin decorating contest and silent auction on the bandstand or Town Hall Community Room in case of inclement weather. This will be a ticketed event with plans to sell 400 tickets.

Councilman Jordan Frei questioned Chief Matrunics if there was any concern with the alcohol. Chief Matrunics stated there was not. Councilwoman Mariah Fisher added that this has been done before and we have never had a problem as there is usually wrist bands provided for identification.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve the Pumpkin & Spice Festival, Saturday, October 26, 2024 from 11am-2pm. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chair Mariah Fisher reported that a logo is now in place for Friendship Park Sports Complex. Fisher reported working on getting stickers and t-shirts for purchase by the public. The committee will be having an informational table at the Country Market Saturday, July 26th and will be accepting donations large or small.

TOWN HALL

Nothing

PUBLIC WORKS

Chair Carol Barton reported that as Public Works has received their new truck the old truck was recently sold. The 2011 Ford F250 for \$11,700 and the tar kettle was also sold for \$260. It was also reported that tar and chipping will begin soon.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jordan Frei thanked Councilwoman Mariah Fisher for taking on the upcoming National Night Out event. Frei also thanked Ligonier Hose Co. #1 and the neighboring fire departments for their part in the event as well.

Jordan Frei announced that Monday the 22nd is the Ligonier Hose Co. #1 Crab Dinner at Carol & Dave's.

FINANCE

Nothing

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Nothing

SHADE TREE

Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

LVPD Charter Updates:

President Matt Smith explained that the updates provided earlier this week to all were on code of conduct for Commission Members and is ready for action by Council.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jordan Frei to accept the changes and additions and move forward with it. The motion carried with all in favor.

Approval to advertise part-time custodian replacement for retiring employee:

A motion was made by John Poznick and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve the advertising of a part-time custodian position at Town Hall. All of Council was in favor.

Bus Lot Parking Rental:

Indiana Regional Medical Center has recently purchased the Shaker Building & will have approximately 10 employees and they are asking if they can rent 10 spots at the Borough Bus Lot on a monthly basis. They would vacate the spots if the Borough needs them at any given time.

Street Supervisor stated that even with 10 spots rented there is still room for 5-6 buses.

Jordan Frei questioned the need for new signage at the lot.

A motion was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve and establish a rate of \$105 per quarter and name the Bus Lot; Lot D. All of Council was in favor.

Resignation

Councilman Brad Chartier announced that he has turned in his letter of resignation as Council member with an exit date of August 8, 2024.

A motion was made by John Poznick and seconded by Brad Chartier to accept Brad Chartier's resignation with regrets effective August 8th and advertise position and accept letters of interest with a July 29th deadline. The motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Street Supervisor Ron Ross mentioned the upcoming National Night Out event and the need to get together with the committee to see what is needed in Parking Lot A.

Fire Chief Corey Blystone cautioned everyone about burning as it has been so dry.

Police Chief Mike Matrunic reported that there has been 657 complaints received during the month of June with 520 calls received through 911.

Chief Matrunic added that 91 traffic citations were also issued.

National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 6pm.

Councilwoman Mariah Fisher added that 5:30-8:30pm are the hours for the event to be held in Lot A. There will be a bouncy house, hopefully a dunk tank, demonstration by officer Kilo and Sgt. Friscarella. The Fire Department will do another demonstration with a car and it is hoped to do another tug-a-war as well.

President Matt Smith advised all that the next meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council will be held Thursday, August 8th.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jordan Frei to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer