

November 8, 2021

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Monday, November 8, 2021 at 7pm in the Town Hall. President James St. Clair presided over the meeting.

**Members Present:** James St. Clair, Matt Smith, Robert Barron, Mariah Fisher, Jeff Craig, and Nate Sylvester. Absent was Judy Hoffer

**Others Present:** Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Engineer Ben Faas, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, Fire Chief Corey Blystone, and Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Karl Horman. Street Supervisor Ron Ross attended via Zoom.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion** was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the minutes of October 4, 2021 meeting as presented. All of Council was in favor.

#### **BILLS PAYABLE**

**A motion** was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jeff Craig to approve the Bills Payable as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A motion** was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Consent Calendar. All of Council was in favor.

**Pittsburgh Scenic Award:** Mayor Bellas showed everyone the award which was presented Saturday, November 6, 2021 to the Borough for Community Scenic Achievement for Diamond Park.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

George Kerezi spoke about a vehicle that is not inspected/registered. Chief Berger stated that a letter could be sent to the owner if Kerezi supplies a picture of the plate.

President Sam St. Clair recognized the Boy Scout Troop in attendance.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Laughlintown Property:** Mark Ferry (Auctioneer) & Ron Rohall (Forester) were present to go over auction procedures for the Laughlintown property.

President Sam St. Clair appointed Matt Smith, Chairman, Nate Sylvester and Robert Barron to serve on a special committee of council for the Laughlintown Property.

It was noted that 5 acres of the property is not harvestable. There is a lot of Hemlock around the stream.

Timber appraisal would be approximately \$500.

Council will discuss this.

**A motion** was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Jeff Craig to appoint Mark Ferry Auctioneer for the Laughlintown Property. All of Council was in favor.

#### **Burd Alley:**

EADS Engineer Ben Faas reported that the project was initiated as an emergency. After the emergency highway occupancy permit was obtained, PennDot requires that you follow through with standard procedure with a normal permit. Security of that work is the last phase of the

project. A bond obtained through the contractor is the normal procedure. As this was an emergency, the Borough did not require such. The Borough must now obtain the permit. An irrevocable letter of credit may possibly be obtained through the bank for a lesser fee. Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw will talk to the bank.

**A motion** was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Matt Smith for Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw to proceed with discussion with the bank for the credit as well as to approve the **Resolution** authorizing Borough officers to sign the forms for Penn Dot. All of Council was in favor.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter was received from the LV Library asking Council to consider an allocation of \$1,200 to the LV Library.

**A motion** was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Mariah Fisher to make an allocation of \$1,200 to the LV Library. All were in favor.

A letter was received from Amy Beitel executive director of the LV Chamber of Commerce asking Council to consider free parking on the four Saturdays beginning November 27, 2021 and ending Saturday, December 18, 2021 for the Holiday Season. The Chamber has secured a \$1,200 sponsorship from Elek Wealth Management. Of this amount \$150 is designated for signage and \$1,050 will be a contribution toward the free parking.

**A motion** was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve free parking on the four Saturdays from November 27 to December 18, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **PARKS & RECREATION**

Mariah Fisher, Chair of Parks & Recreation reported that she has met with some community residents interested in helping and supporting the project of Friendship Park II remodel. A few residents are also looking into getting a sketch design for what is wanted in the area as well as looking into grants available. Fundraising opportunities should be upcoming as well.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Nothing

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Chairman Jeff Craig mentioned that the police budget for 2022 will be the same as 2021 and 2020. Craig added that the LVPD may even finish the year with a small surplus. Resources of income for police are LV School District, Idlewild Park and Country Market.

#### **FINANCE**

Chairman Nate Sylvester reported 2022 balanced Budget is available for public review in the Borough office. Following Council review, the Finance Committee will seek Council approval at the December meeting. Sylvester reported that the budget comes with no increase to taxes.

#### **PLANNING / PERSONNEL**

Chairman Matt Smith reported that the committee has worked on the contract for the non-uniformed employees. Ligonier Borough employees get a little increase in pay and an extra day off.

**A motion** was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the 3-year contract for the non-uniformed employees. The motion carried with all in favor.

Under Planning Matt Smith noted that the committee has been working with Zoning Officer Karl Horman and Borough Solicitor George Welty on minor changes to the Zoning Ordinance and will get back to Council with any changes.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Judy Marseglia of 325 N. Fairfield Street spoke about a need for a handicapped designation and ramp in front of her house on behalf of her husband. The Marseglia's have offered to absorb the cost.

Robert Barron of the street committee will look into this matter.

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

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported that tomorrow the Borough office is meeting with a representative from Meter Feeder Company and he will walk around with our meter attendant to show her how to work all the devices. Meter Feeder should be up and running next week.

Solicitor George Welty suggested a change for the proposed sidewalk ordinance from EADS by changing the wording of **zoning officer** to **code enforcement officer**. The fine is \$300 for violation of the ordinance for every offense. Borough does have the authority to go up to \$1,000.

Zoning / Code Enforcement Officer Karl Horman thanked Matt Smith, Nate Sylvester and Judy Hoffer for their help working on the changes needed for the Zoning Ordinance.

Horman reported on a recent webinar with PSAB on How to Maintain an Updated Ordinance.

Chief John Berger asked the young men and ladies of Pack 370 boy scouts to stand up and thanked them for coming this evening.

Chief Berger reported that LVPD handled 684 complaints with 427 through 911 resulting in 38 criminal arrests. 84 citations were issued with 57 being issued in the Borough. 297 calls were handled in the Borough for the month of October. Berger commended the police department on a tough situation last week with a convicted felon pretty well armed with a gun and magazine with 50 rounds. His intentions probably weren't the greatest. Without incident he was taken into custody and placed where he needed to be placed. Berger commended his officers.

Berger also added that he has no problem with his department using the meter feeder program in the evenings but would need a lesson on the devices.

Mayor Butch Bellas thanked the people from Scenic Pittsburgh for the recognition and Award for Community Scenic Achievement for the Borough.

Bellas also reminded everyone to rake their leaves to the edge of the road so the crew can suck them up.

President James St. Clair was happy to see young people in the audience and invited the Boy Scouts to come again.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A **motion** was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Matt Smith to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw  
Secretary-Treasurer