

December 9, 2021

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, December 9, 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, Judy Hoffer, Jeff Craig, & Nate Sylvester.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Matt Smith was made to approve the minutes of November 8, 2021 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Bills Payable as also presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Consent Calendar for November 2021. The motion carried 7-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Matt Smith to enter into a brief executive session. All of Council was in favor. Council went into a brief executive session at 7:02pm and returned at 7:18pm with no action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Kerezi of 312 N. St. Clair Street was present inquiring about a vehicle parked on the 200 block of N. St. Clair with expired stickers. Kerezi noted that the car is being driven. Kerezi contacted the police and was told that nothing can be done unless the vehicles is being driven at the "time".

Chief John Berger stated that Officer Dorazio found that the license plate is still current and valid. If it had no current insurance on it, it would have come back. The only issue right now is an inspection sticker which is not an ordinance violation per Chief Berger.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Laughlintown Property:

Auctioneer Mr. Ferry was present and explained that a drone fly over took place on the property. People are interested and have contacted him in regards to the property from the ad placed in the Echo.

Ferry questioned if the auction could take place in the Town Hall Community Room Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 1pm.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Nate Sylvester to hold an auction for the Laughlintown Property in the Town Hall Community Room at 1pm Saturday, January 29, 2022. All of Council was in favor.

Matt Smith stated that the committee for the Laughlintown Property discussed the timber on the property and feels it is not worth the Borough's time or effort for a lumber appraisal.

Mr. Ferry will get in touch with Matt Smith to get the contract in place for the auction.

Budget Acceptance:

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Mariah Fisher to accept the proposed budget for 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

Handicapped Spot – Marseglia 325 N Fairfield St.:

Street Committee Chair Robert Barron reported that with the slope of the sidewalk & curb on Fairfield Street it is not feasible at this time. It is felt that it will take a lot of planning with engineering fees incurred and not something easily done by Ligonier Borough Public Works. Jan Shaw to get back to Mrs. Marseglia.

Proposed Sidewalk Ordinance:

Solicitor George Welty will meet with EADS Engineer Ben Faas for a few final items.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment:

Zoning /Code Enforcement Officer Karl Horman reported a few sections in the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to fencing seemed to be unenforceable especially that of fencing around dumpsters. Wording will be changed to remove this section.

Also fences around swimming pools will be changed so that it will adhere to the uniformed construction code rules.

Ten foot fences are to be removed from Commercial districts and only be permitted in industrial districts.

Horman added that the changes are ready for the Planning Committee to make recommendation to council and then Council will make their letter to the Commission.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher that the Planning Committee approve of the proposed changes and forward to the Planning Commission for their comment. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from the LV Library acknowledging and thanking Ligonier Borough for the \$1,200 allocation to the library.

Letter received from Julie Donovan of Fort Ligonier asking to hang two 12' square signs promoting Fort Ligonier's winter hours on the post & rail fence at the Fort from now until March 31, 2022.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Nate Sylvester to approve as long as the signs follow Ligonier Borough sign ordinance requirements. All of Council was in favor.

Letter received from LV Chamber of Commerce in regards to Ice Fest January 22-23, 2022 requesting Council's consideration to bag 2 meters in front of the LV Library for Hanson's Original Kettle Korn from 5pm Friday until Sunday at 5pm. Also requested is to bag the first 2 meters on E Main St. along TH for the entertainers to load and unload equipment Saturday from 12pm – 4:30pm & Sunday 10am – 4pm. Lastly, the LV Chamber requests to bag the first 4 meters on Fairfield St. beside the YMCA from 8am – 4pm Saturday & Sunday for Misty Haven Carriage.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the above request from LV Chamber of Commerce. The motion carried with all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**PARKS & RECREATION**

Chair, Mariah Fisher thanked everyone who took part in decorating the Diamond this year for the Holidays.

Phase II Friendship Park Remodel: the committee has continued to meet with members of the community and it has been decided that a professional park designer is needed for this space. By doing this, a cost estimate will be provided to council after speaking with 3-4 companies or designers to submit proposals. The committee is hoping to apply for a DCNR grant in the spring and to move forward as much as possible.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Nate Sylvester to proceed with cost proposals for Phase II design of Friendship Park. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN HALL

Chair Judy Hoffer reported that snow guards have been installed. The Town Hall gutter project is now complete.

Hoffer wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe and Happy New Year.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Robert Barron reported a structural issue with the salt shed at the Borough garage.

A motion was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Matt Smith for approval to use Liquid Fuel funds to reconstruct the salt shed. The motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Jeff Craig, Public Safety Chair reported that at their November LVPD Commission meeting it was adopted by motion to request that both Twp. and Borough extend existing Charter Agreement term ending December 2023 to 2026 and renew every year thereafter.

Resolution 2021-05: Second Amendment to Agreement:

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the Resolution to extend the existing Charter Agreement term to 2026 and renew every year thereafter. The motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Jeff Craig finished his report by noting that Council needs to elect another member of Council to serve on the LVPD Commission as his term on Council will be done 12/31/21.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Mariah Fisher to appoint Matt Smith to serve a 4-year term on the LVPD Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE

Resolution 2021-04:

A resolution of the Borough of Ligonier fixing the tax rate for the year 2022.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Mariah Fisher to adopt Resolution 2021-04 with no change to the tax rate for the year 2022. All of Council was in favor.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

Inter-Municipal Agreement: private water line in the Borough

Bethany Caldwell of Ligonier Township was present and inquired if the Borough would be interested in joining the township in an inter-municipal agreement. The township is working with the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC) as well as the Ligonier Township Municipal Authority to try to batch together all of the private water lines and get them replaced and turned over to MAWC for maintenance. It has been discovered that there are at least 66 private water lines in the Township. Laurel Mountain Borough is dealing with

the same. Bethany explained that there is only one private water line in the Borough that services about 6 structures.

Ligonier Township plans to proceed to draft up an agreement as Laurel Mt. Borough has already agreed to work together to get the funding to replace the lines. If 100% funding is not achieved, the residents would have to pay a portion. Bethany is here tonight to see if the Borough would like to enter into the agreement as well.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Nate Sylvester to agree to enter into the Inter-Municipal Agreement with Ligonier Township. The motion carried 6-1 with Robert Barron abstaining due to his employment at Ligonier Township Municipal Authority.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported that the Meter Feeder App is in operation now and seems to be working pretty well but working through some minor issues.

The Newsletter went out last week and enclosed was a survey concerning Fort Ligonier Days. So far, we have received approximately 40 results. Shaw encouraged all to fill out the survey. Shaw thanked both James St. Clair and Jeff Craig for their services to the Borough.

Shaw closed her report by reminding everyone that the Re-organization meeting is January 3 @ 7pm.

Solicitor George Welty commented that he has enjoyed working with both James and Jeff and that he hates to see both go off of serving as Councilmen for Ligonier Borough.

Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported that Monday will be the last run through town for leaf pick up after which all leaves must be bagged.

Engineer Ben Faas wished everyone a Merry Christmas as did Fire Chief Corey Blystone, and Zoning Officer Karl Horman.

Police Chief John Berger thanked Jeff Craig for being such a huge part of the police consolidation.

Mayor Bellas thanked James St. Clair for his years of services and wisdom and Jeff Craig for his part of the police consolidation.

President James St. Clair wished everyone a Merry Christmas. St. Clair stated that this term has been the best Council that he has had the pleasure of working with.

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 @ 7:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer