

February 10, 2022

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 7pm in the Town Hall with President Matt Smith presiding.

Members Present: Matt Smith, Mariah Fisher, Robert Barron, Judy Hoffer, Jordan Frei, Brad Chartier. Absent was Nate Sylvester.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **motion** was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve the minutes of January 13, 2022 as well as the minutes from both Auctions of January 29, 2022. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A **motion** was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Brad Chartier to approve the Bills Payable. The motion carried with all in favor.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A **motion** was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Consent Calendar provided. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carmen Quartararo, Borough resident and property owner at 214 W Main Street presented a letter to Council regarding various zoning issues.

Issues were referred to the Planning Committee.

Stephen Solo of 209 Franklin Street was present with complaint of an illegal Air BnB on Franklin St. from a converted apartment. Solo stated parking is also an issue with a dead end and people are damaging his property because of the need to back out if you pull in to park.

President Matt Smith stated that Council has discussed Air BnBs a few times but have yet to come up with a consensus. However, this will be looked into in the near future.

Solicitor Welty stated that at the present we have no ordinance for this but under the PA Supreme Court cases there is a township with similar ordinances to ours which prohibited Air BnB's within the R1 Residential District.

Per Welty, under the current zoning ordinance it is a violation. Under short term rentals, they are not compatible with single family residences.

Notice of Violation is something our zoning/ code enforcement officer can submit should this occur again.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance amending the Ligonier Borough Zoning Ordinance:

A **motion** was made by Jordan Frei and seconded by Mariah Fisher to table the amendment to the zoning ordinance and come back to it after the Planning Commission looks at it. All of Council was in favor.

Appoint Nate Sylvester to Planning Commission:

A **motion** was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Brad Chartier to appoint Nate Sylvester to serve on the Planning Commission. The motion carried with all in favor.

Re-Address Open Container Ordinance concerning Wine / Whiskey Walk:

It was clarified that all registered participants will be wearing a wrist band after ID was scanned at registration. Vendors are aware to check for wrist bands.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Brad Chartier to amend motion lifting of open container ordinance from previous meeting. The motion is amended to include participants are only permitted to have alcohol if they have a wristband; if they are within the festival area, and have a ticket to the event. No outside alcohol other than what is included or provided to them through the event. All of Council was in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from Mark Ferry Auctioneer thanking Mayor, Council, Attorney Welty and Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw for their part in the Auction process success.

Email received from LYBSA requesting permission to install French drains along the 1st & 3rd baselines on Donaldson A field & add dirt to crown both fields. Also requested is to tap into the storm drain.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jordan Frei to approve the request. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chair Mariah Fisher reported that the Parks & Recreation Committee is still working on the Lease Agreement for LYBSA.

Fisher had no updates on Friendship Park Phase 2 as yet.

TOWN HALL

Chair Judy Hoffer reported that Town Hall had an issue with the elevator but it has since been repaired and working fine.

Several snow guards have fallen off the Town Hall roof. The company has been contacted and we have been assured they will replace them and check all others.

PUBLIC WORKS

N/A

PUBLIC SAFETY

N/A

FINANCE

Chairman Brad Chartier reported that the Borough office is getting ready for a virtual audit by scanning documents. There is not set date for this.

NEW BUSINESS

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported that Ligonier Borough is proposing **April 29 & 30, 2022** for **Dumpster Days** in the Borough.

A motion was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve April 29 & 30, 2022 as Dumpster Days in the Borough. All of Council was in favor.

Larry Shew, Ligonier Twp. Recreation Board Chairman was present to speak about the Walking Trail Extension and the wish to extend the trail along the stream and connect to Kastner Street which is in the Borough. The Ligonier Township Recreation Board is seeking permission to extend the trail over to the end of Kastner Street. Shew stated that he has received permission from the private community there.

Solicitor Welty explained that it needs to be determined who the owner of Kastner Street is if it is not an open street. This matter will be looked into.

Public Works employee – Probationary Period:

A motion was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Joran Frei as Public Works employee Tom Burns has worked out his probationary period with no complaints, it is recommended to accept him as a regular employee with Ligonier Borough as of February 4, 2022. All of Council was in favor.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

RECOMMENDATIONS and COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported that the new salt shed is up and the old one is gone.

Ross also reported finding some old decorative railing and asked to place on Municibid.

A motion was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Brad Chartier to sell the decorative railing on Municibid. The motion carried with all in favor.

Police Chief John Berger that all officers are certified on the body cameras. New laptops have been received for each police vehicle thanks to the LV Endowment. Berger explained this enables the officers to do everything they could in the office in their cars.

Mayor Bellas reminded everyone to please shovel their sidewalks after a snow event.

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 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer