

**April 8, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 7pm via Zoom amid the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. President James St. Clair presided over the meeting.

**Members Present:** James St. Clair, Matt Smith, Robert Barron, Mariah Fisher, Judy Hoffer, Jeff Craig and 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, and Fire Chief Corey Blystone.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion** was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jeff Craig to approve the minutes of March 11, 2021 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**BILLS PAYABLE**

**A motion** was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Judy Hoffer 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 Jeff Craig to approve the Consent Calendar. All of Council was in favor.

**BID OPENING – SEAL COAT**

Russell Standard	171 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Valencia PA	724-625-1505	\$35,176.35
Suit-Kote	797 Carlton Dr. Bemtleyville PA	724-669-2008	\$46,475.42
Ligonier Construction	P.O. Box 277 Laughlintown PA	724-238-4782	\$85,276.00

**A motion** was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Nate Sylvester to **award low bid to Russell Standard** of Valencia PA **contingent upon engineer & solicitor review**. All of Council was in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A motion** was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Jeff Craig to enter into executive session . The motion carried. Council entered into executive session at 7:10pm and returned at 8pm.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter received from Julie Donovan of Fort Ligonier requesting permission to use Ligonier Borough Bus Lot to park cars Saturday, May 8, 2021 for the Mason-Dixon Crew Mustang Club. There will be approximately 40-60 cars expected.

**A motion** was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the request from Fort Ligonier. All of Council was in favor.

Letter received from the LV Chamber of Commerce requesting permission for downtown merchants to hold sidewalk sales during the Wine, Whiskey & Sweets Walk on May 8, 2021

from 10am-5pm. All participants will be asked to follow all CDC guidelines in place at the time of the event.

**A motion** was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jeff Craig to approve the LV Chamber of Commerce request for downtown merchants to hold sidewalk sales during the Wine, Whiskey & Sweets Walk May 8, 2021. All of Council was in favor.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PARKS & RECREATION**

Mariah Fisher, Chair of Parks & Recreation Committee reported that the restrooms will be opening at Friendship Park next week.

### **TOWN HALL**

Town Hall Chair Judy Hoffer reported that Darr Construction is working on the outside back wall and doing some drain work. The new windows are now in the Council Chambers and the Council desk is also being worked on.

Gutter work has been set back a few weeks.

**Town Hall:** Hoffer reported that according to CDC regulations you can now open up public buildings at 25% capacity, this leaves the Town Hall Auditorium now being able to host up to 76 people. Masks must be worn and all must follow social guidelines.

The rooms upstairs could now safely hold 5 individuals following social distance and 50 people in the community room.

It was noted that Bridget Burkholder has recently requested use of Auditorium for a dance recital.

Hoffer asked who would police the Town Hall rooms as to CDC guidelines.

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer to keep the Town Hall meeting rooms, auditorium, and community room closed until CDC lightens up a little more. **Hearing no second to the motion, the Town Hall will remain as is.**

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Robert Barron, Chairman of Public Works reported that a Summit Avenue resident had dug up the street for a sewage and water tap and the public works had put in storm drains.

**A motion** was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Jeff Craig to authorize Ron Ross and public works to finish paving from the resident's tap out to Bell Street at a cost of \$4,400. The motion carried with all in favor.

Barron reported that the finance committee met with Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw and Street Supervisor Ron Ross as to the process of replacing the Borough's 2009 F350 dump truck.

Nate Sylvester confirmed the finance committee's approval.

**A motion** was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Jeff Craig to begin the procedure to replace the dump truck. The motion carried with all in favor.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

N/A

### **FINANCE**

Nate Sylvester, Chairman of the Finance Committee commended Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw for doing a great job over the past year managing the budget through the pandemic. Compared to 2020 we are \$47,000 better (a 65% improvement over last year).

#### **Former Police Station building:**

**A motion** was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Mariah Fisher that it is **the intent to gift** the building to Ligonier Hose Co. #1. All of Council was in favor.

**PLANNING /PERSONNEL**

Chairman Matt Smith reported that there was a discrepancy in a former employee's pension contributions. Smith explained that in order to correct, we must make a one-time final contribution of \$1,140.48 to the pension fund.

**A motion** was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Jeff Craig to pay the \$1,140.48 to the pension fund for the former employee. The motion carried unanimously.

**Zoning Officer:** A recent hire for zoning officer / code enforcement fell through.

**A motion** was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Judy Hoffer to nominate Karl Horman as new Zoning /Code Enforcement Officer. The motion carried with all in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS**

N/A

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Karl Horman thanked Council for the nomination to Zoning /Code Enforcement Officer. Karl informed Council that his daughter dances in Bridget Burkholder's recitals and offered himself and volunteers to ensure all CDC guidelines would be met if Council approved the request from Bridget Burkholder for use of Auditorium in June of 2021.

**A motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Jeff Craig to permit use of Auditorium by Bridget Burkholder dance recital in June with Karl Horman and volunteers policing the audience participation. All of Council was in favor.

Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported that Ligonier Borough Dumpster Days is this month on Friday, April 23, and Saturday, April 24, 2021 at the Borough Garage.

Fire Chief Corey Blystone thanked Council for the motion of **Intent to gift the former Police Station to the Fire Department** and he looks forward to working out the details and thanked council for their support.

Mayor Butch Bellas reported that the gravel on Summit Ave. has slowed traffic and he for one will be sorry when the new road is back.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**A motion** was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jeff Craig to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary-Treasurer  
Jan Shaw