

May 13, 2021

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 7pm via ZOOM amid the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic. In the absence of James St. Clair, Vice President Matt Smith presided over the meeting.

Members Present: 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, Fire Chief Corey Blystone and Zoning Officer Karl Horman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jeff Craig to approve the minutes as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

Ratify Heritage United Methodist Church request for National Day of Prayer use of Bandstand.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Jeff Craig to ratify the above request. The motion carried 6-0.

Request was received from the Weeders & Seeders Garden Club to use two spaces at the ends of the Masonic building in case of inclement weather during their Flower Show scheduled for July 24, 2021.

A motion was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Jeff Craig to approve the request from the Weeders and Seeders Garden Club. The motion carried unanimously.

A letter was received from the LV Chamber of Commerce requesting permission for downtown merchants to hold sidewalk sales during The Stroll August 13 from 10am – 7pm following all CDC guidelines.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Nate Sylvester to approve downtown merchants to hold sidewalk sales during The Stroll August 13, 2021. The motion carried with all in favor.

A letter was received from the LV Chamber of Commerce asking permission to organize and plan a Dog Days event September 25, 2022. LV Chamber is asking for permission for the date as well as to proceed with planning and will provide more details later.

Judy Hoffer voiced a concern with safety issues with small children and the dogs. Mariah added that dogs are not permitted on the Diamond grass area and that owners would need to clean up after their dogs.

Amy Beitel, Chamber Director replied that owners would have dog bags to clean up after them. Beitel further stated that volunteers could be placed around the Diamond to make sure the dogs are kept off the Diamond area.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Nate Sylvester to approve the planning of the event for September 25, 2022 with the event approval to be subject to further details. All of Council was in favor.

A letter was received from Julie Donovan of Fort Ligonier requesting use of Lot B (with meters bagged) for a memorial service for Brad Mooney, a longtime Fort Ligonier historic restorationist, to be held at the Fort at 11am Saturday, May 22, 2021. The Fort will compensate the Borough for use of the lot.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Mariah Fisher, Chair of Parks & Recreation Committee reported the Committee has been working with Bartlett Tree Service to keep the Diamond trees healthy. At the end of last year there were concerns on the condition of several of them and it has been determined that one of the newer trees planted will not be surviving. It is a Zelkova tree that is in the southeast quadrant of the Diamond across from the Creamery. Ron Ross and the Public Works Crew will be making arrangements to have it removed as soon as possible. Parks & Recreation committee will also be making further inquiries about the rest of the trees and will report on that at a later date.

TOWN HALL

Town Hall Chair, Judy Hoffer gave an update on Town Hall Chamber repairs. We are waiting for the council desk to be completed and then the carpet will be installed.

Public Works have been working on the microphones and sound system with advice from Todd Wilkins. Hoffer thanked Public Works crew for all the work they have done.

The brick and trim is complete on the wall. The two new windows inside still need framed in. The crew working on the gutters have been very accommodating with our requests. There will be a few change orders in the near future.

Open Town Hall

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Jeff Craig to open the Town Hall meeting rooms along with the Community Room and Auditorium on May 17, 2021 to comply with CDC guidelines that we can then open at 50% capacity.

PUBLIC WORKS

Nothing

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jeff Craig reported the Ligonier Valley Police Department has received its 2020 Audit and has received a clean bill of health. They have ended their first 2 years of operation with a positive fund balance. The Borough's contribution was not raised last year and Jeff Craig stated that he could not make that promise for next year but are working hard in that direction.

FINANCE

Chairman Nat Sylvester reported that through the **American Rescue Plan Act** there is potentially some funding available for both State and Local municipalities. We do not know the details as yet. Hoping to know more at next month's meeting.

Nate commended new Zoning/Code Officer Karl Horman for making progress in his new role.

Speed Limit: Jeff Craig brought up the need to evaluate the speed limit within the Borough which is currently at 25 mph.

Public Works committee and Public Safety committee will get together on this to determine if the speed limit through the Borough should be changed to 20 mph.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Matt Smith also thanked Karl Horman for an excellent job so far with Zoning / Code. A few shade trees will be taken down soon as they are old and ready to fall.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw made note that there were two former council members who just recently passed away; James Tito who served from 1978-1981 and Orvis Steimer who served from 1970-1974.

Street Supervisor Ron Ross reported that Summit and N. St. Clair, and East Main Street are a mess. As soon as Peoples Gas gets all ditching done and pipes in, they will be back to dig it all out and put binder down and top it. Ross asked all to bear with it until the project is done.

Ross added that Monday, the workers will be black topping the parking lot behind Town Hall.

Fire Chief Corey Blystone reported that as always the Fire Department is looking for new members.

Engineer Ben Faas reported concerning the cornice and gutter project; the contractor has been asked for a change order to add snow guards to the roof.

Karl Horman thanked Council for the kind words. Horman reported 9 total applications for **zoning**; 5 fence, 3 signs & 1 sidewalk applications. **Code Enforcement:** 38 illegal signs posted to utility poles and trees were removed; 8 courtesy notices of violations went out by mail, 3 visits to property owners and 2 out of the 3 are now compliant.

Ormond "Butch" Bellas also thanked Karl and stated that he would be working with Karl on the violations.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Mariah Fisher to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer