

June 10, 2021

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 7pm via ZOOM amid the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. Vice President Matt Smith presided over the meeting in the absence of President James. St. Clair.

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

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 Representative Steve Barron. Absent was Code/Zoning Officer Karl Horman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the minutes of the May 2021 meeting as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the Bills Payable. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted. The motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Email received from a group of Ligonier residents writing to ask Council to join them in a process for re-drawing PA’s voting district maps in 2021.

Fair Districts PA – a Resolution of Support is on the Agenda and will be addressed under New Business.

Letter received from Ginny Fitzner of 309 W Vincent Street asking the status of her request of November 2020 to permit LVHC#1 members to park their plated vehicles for free on the block of Fairfield Street from Church Street to Bank Alley.

Jeff Craig and the Public Safety Committee will come back next month with recommendations.

Letter received from Arlene Lowry of LV Education Trust requesting use of the Town Hall Courtyard and Community Room Friday, August 13, 2021 form 4-9 pm the evening of The Stroll to sell pie.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the request. The motion carried with all in favor.

Email received from James Duska, Parishioner at Holy Trinity Catholic Church requesting permission to walk with a group of men from Holy Trinity up the sidewalk along West Main

Street to the Diamond carrying a statue of Our Lady & banner, recite a rosary and return to Holy Trinity.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the above request. All of Council was in favor.

Letter received from LV Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Amy Beitel requesting permission to explore grant opportunities for an electric car charging station for downtown Ligonier in partnership with Ligonier Borough.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Nate Sylvester to grant LV Chamber of Commerce and Amy Beitel permission to pursue the grant. The motion carried with all in favor.

Letter received from the LV Chamber of Commerce requesting permission to use the Town Hall Auditorium at full capacity in the event of inclement weather during Summer Band Concerts.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Jeff Craig to approve use of Town Hall Auditorium in the event of inclement weather during the band concerts. The motion carried unanimously.

Letter received from LV Chamber of Commerce seeking permission to display a vinyl banner on the East Main Street side of Citizen's bank listing all event sponsors. Banner is to be hung during The Stroll August 13, 2021 from 5pm-9pm.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Jeff Craig to approve. All were in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chair Mariah Fisher reported that the committee has been discussing plans for the renovations of the tennis courts at Friendship Park again. It is proposed to have a community meeting to get public input on the space Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 7pm. Specific location will be discussed at next month's meeting. Anyone with ideas is invited to come and speak with the Parks & Recreation Committee at that time.

Fisher stated that the Zelkovia tree in the southeast corner did not survive the winter and was taken down by the public works crew. Unfortunately, an arborist from the DCNR visited and it is believed that up to 4 additional trees are struggling and will likely need to be removed as well. Most of those trees can be monitored & wait to be removed at the end of the summer, however, the tree that is in the southeast quadrant will need to come down sooner rather than later. The top has died and we do not want it falling down on its own. It will likely be taken down within the next few weeks or months. The Zelkovia trees initially planted have not acclimated well to our soil. All of them will likely need replaced with hardier trees. We will be having additional discussion with DCNR as to the best options for replanting trees, both size and type of trees that will have the best chance of survival from this point forward. Updates will be provided as known.

Councilman Robert Barron mentioned that DCNR came out with a 2020-2024 Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan with all kinds of funding for planting, upkeep, and rehab or parks. Barron will provide Mariah Fisher with the link for potential grants.

TOWN HALL

Chair of Town Hall, Judy Hoffer reported that the windows in the Council Chambers have all been trimmed. Carpet is on its way and we should have it by next week.

The inspector for insurance was recently at Town Hall and noted that a circuit needed replaced in the Borough office. This has since been replaced.
It was reported that there was an issue with the sump pump downstairs in the Town Hall, and is now being repaired.

PUBLIC WORKS

Nothing

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jeff Craig reported that at last week's meeting of Ligonier Hose Co. #1 it was voted to proceed with the purchase of a new Tower Ladder Truck. Jeff Craig noted that the fire department is moving at a pace faster than wished due to notification from manufacturer that if not purchased soon it would go up possibly 20% which could be as much as \$200,000. Not all funding is in place for this purchase but the fire department is confident that they will get the funding.

Speed limit through town: (now 25 mph)

Chief Berger explained that a traffic study would need to be done before any change can be made. Vehicle Code has rural as 30 mph and state as 55 mph. The 25 mph is under our Borough ordinance but vehicle code does not show that therefore a traffic study would need to be done.

Solicitor Welty confirmed that indeed a traffic study would need done.

Jeff Craig stated that he would talk to Engineer Ben Faas to see what is involved in a traffic study.

FINANCE

Nothing

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Matt Smith, Chairman of Shade Tree Committee reported that a couple of trees have been taken down and will be replaced in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Fair Districts PA: Resolution of Support:

This resolution is in support of reforming the legislative and congressional redistricting process.

Nate Sylvester stated that by passing this resolution Ligonier would be joining 24 counties in the state of PA as well as 362 municipalities that have already done this.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Mariah Fisher to adopt the resolution in support of reforming legislative and congressional redistricting process. The motion carried 5-1 with Jeff Craig opposing.

Fort Ligonier Days Inc.: requests use of Community Room for CAP; & store radios in the Auditorium foyer, and programs in the foyer hallway during Fort Ligonier Days.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the request. The motion carried with all in favor.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMENTS & COMMENDATIONS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported that office personnel Carole Henderson is in the process of scanning older minutes so that we have digital records as well as paper. Carole is back as far as 1950s.

Secretary-Treasurer made note that past Councilman Patrick Scanlon recently passed away May 16, 2021. He served on Council for Ligonier Borough from 2014 to 2018 and prior to that he served on the Zoning Hearing Board for many years.

Shaw also made note that the paperwork has been submitted for the American Rescue Plan Act so that we can hopefully get some monies from that.

Mayor Bellas commended Council for passing the Resolution for Re-Districting.

Vice President of Council Matt Smith stated that the next meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council will be Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Mariah Fisher to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary-Treasurer
Janette Shaw