

July 9, 2020

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 7PM via ZOOM due to 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, Nate Sylvester. Absent was President 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 Zoning Officer Rick Schwab. Absent was Fire Chief Corey Blystone, and Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Knepper.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Nate Sylvester to approve the minutes of June 11, 2020 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the Bills Payable as also presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Walking Trail Grant Resolution: Joint resolution between Ligonier Township and Ligonier Borough supports the PA Department of Health's WalkWorks application and serves as commitment to carry out the Active Transportation Plan project for Ligonier Valley Trail, if awarded a grant.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Robert Barron to move forward with the joint resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

A Temporary Sign Permit Application was received from the LV Library to hang a 4x7 ft. mesh vinyl banner on the fencing of library patio facing the Diamond for the month of July to thank Books & Brew 2020 Sponsors.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the request from the LV Library. All of Council was in favor.

A Temporary Sign Permit Application was received from the LVRx Pharmacy to hang two 3x4 ft. vinyl banners on the porch facing Rt. 30 and front facing Market Street to promote flu shots 8/30/20 – 11/30/20.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the request from LVRx Pharmacy. The motion carried with all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice President Matt Smith called for a brief executive session for personnel before any Committee Reports.

PARKS & RECREATION

Parks and Recreation Chair Mariah Fisher reported that Public Works has been working with Bartlett Tree Co. to get the trees in concern in Diamond Park healthier. Public Works will trim the dead limbs out of the trees. No decision needs to be made at this point on them and will try to give another month with hopes they will perk back up however they are not looking very good.

It was also reported that Diamond Park was the scene of two vehicle accidents this past weekend. Both accidents were in the Diamond quadrant near The Creamery. We are waiting for police reports for both incidents. Once reports are received Borough insurance adjusters will assess the damage.

Friendship Park restrooms have been painted. Individuals using the playground and restrooms are reminded to use social distancing, wash their hands and stay home if not feeling well. The restrooms are being cleaned and sanitized daily.

TOWN HALL

Judy Hoffer, Town Hall Chair reported receiving a bid from TMR for Town Hall roof; cooper gutters and liners. After seeing the figure it was advised that the project should be out for bid.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to authorize EADS Engineer Ben Faas to prepare the specifications for next month's meeting and advertise for bids. The motion carried with all in favor.

Upstairs Meeting Rooms / Auditorium / Community Room:

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Robert Barron to keep the meeting rooms upstairs closed as well as the auditorium/community room for another month due to COVID-19 Coronavirus. All of Council was in favor.

It was also reported that the empty rooms upstairs will be painted beginning next week to get them ready for new renters as Laurel Highlands has vacated the building.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Robert Barron reported that the Borough Crew had Scott Matson clear the debris at the sewage plant to satisfy DEP.

The handicap curb at Ligonier Pharmacy has also been completed.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jeff Craig reported receiving a letter of resignation from Gene Stouffer as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough. Under the regulations we are to appoint another within 30 days but can go longer as long as we can show that the Borough is looking for someone to fill the position. The committee is in the process of seeking candidates.

FINANCE

Nate Sylvester, Chairman of the Finance Committee reported that revenue in parking and fines is up since bringing back parking enforcement officer.

The Borough has received several quotes for appraisal services on the former Police Station building with one lined up to give an appraisal on the building.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Matt Smith reported that new public works mechanic Gary Roberts will reach the end of his probation period on the 15th of July.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Nate Sylvester to remove Gary Roberts from probation effective July 16, 2020. The motion carried with all in favor.

Parking Enforcement Officer:

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Jeff Craig to bring Parking Enforcement Officer Toni Ulery back to fulltime. All of Council was in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Dumpster Days:

A motion was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Jeff Craig to opt out of Dumpster Days for this year with the Township and have our own in the spring of 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Nate Sylvester read a statement:

“During these unprecedented times we need to realize that our strengths lie in the dynamic ability of our small close knit community to band together, and with that we need to do both our part in controlling the COVID 19- virus and support the local small businesses. First with the virus, we strongly urge all borough residents and visitors to follow the national and state guidelines regarding mask wearing and social distancing. By doing our part, we as citizens play a crucial role in curtailing the pandemic. It is pretty simple; wear a mask, wash your hands, stay home if sick, use common sense.”

Sidewalk Café Ordinance – Ordinance 544

Sylvester suggested to propose a step to support local restaurants by **temporarily suspending, (until October 31, 2020) Section 8-E No Alcoholic Beverages May Be Served Or Allowed To Be Consumed Upon The Sidewalk Café.**

Under this proposal those businesses with Sidewalk Café permits would be allowed to serve alcohol contingent that they:

- * Have sidewalk café permit issued from Ligonier Borough
- * Must have PLCB license
- * Alcohol served while seated **only**

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Judy Hoffer to temporarily suspend Section 8-E of Ordinance 544 which prohibits the sale of alcohol in Sidewalk Café’s effective immediately until October 31, 2020. This motion is contingent on first obtaining Ligonier Borough Sidewalk Café permit, approval from PLCB to extend license area to the Sidewalk Café, and limiting to only serving alcohol while seated at the establishment. All of Council was in favor.

COMMENDATIONS and COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported receiving a call from Tom Carney of the Boy Scouts asking for approval to again sell Christmas Trees from the public lot by Fat Daddy’s beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Mariah Fisher to permit the boy scouts to sell Christmas Trees in the lot by Fat Daddy’s beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving. The motion carried unanimously.

EADS Engineer Ben Faas to meet with Street Supervisor Ron Ross for the Town Hall gutter specifications.

Zoning Officer Rick Schwab reported that July was a pretty good month with 13 permits.

Police Chief John Berger reported that the recent “Peaceful March” in the Borough in honor of George Floyd went well. Both he and Assistant Chief Mike Matrunic walked with the group and they were very happy with that.

Berger reported that during the June 11th Council Meeting that he took part in a controlled drug buy behind the football field which led them to another municipality with a search warrant & arrest for 13 pounds of marijuana, which equals \$3,900 street value.

Mayor Bellas reminded everyone to stay hydrated and stay out of the sun during the extreme warm weather.

Vice President Matt Smith reported that Fort Ligonier Days Inc. has cancelled Fort Ligonier Days for this year due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and commended them for their very difficult decision and feels that it was the right decision.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Jeff Craig to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer

