

August 12, 2021

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 7pm in the Town Hall. President James St. Clair presided over the meeting.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

BILLS PAYABLE

A **motion** was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the Bills Payable as also presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A **motion** was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Jeff Craig to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Meter Feeder App.:

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported that secretary Carole Henderson, Meter Attendant Toni Ulery, Street Supervisor Ron Ross and herself met with a gentlemen from Meter Feeder. There is an annual fee of \$2,000. It will, however, save \$550 from purchase of parking tickets.

Council woman Mariah Fisher clarified that this app is something individuals can put on their phones to allow credit card payment for parking tickets as well as put more time on their meter. The meters will still use coins as well. This is just another option and convenience for users.

A **motion** was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jeff Craig to move forward with Meter Feeder. All of Council was in favor.

Proposed Parking Resolution:

A **motion** was made by Councilman Jeff Craig Chairman of the Public Safety Committee and seconded by Nate Sylvester that vehicles belonging to members of the Ligonier Volunteer Hose Company #1 (LVHC) be extended the privilege of parking behind the old Borough Building and without charge at metered spaces on North Fairfield between Main and Church Streets while conducting Fire Department business, provided that the vehicle has attached to the front of the vehicle or is otherwise clearly displaying a license plate by LVHC. The motion carried unanimously.

Burd Alley Repair:

Original emergency repair cost proposed for Burd Alley was for \$86,000 but due to unforeseen additional repair work by Ligonier Construction Company that had to be done the price has gone up to \$112,938.30.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Matt Smith to pay Ligonier Construction Company for the repairs needed for Burd Alley in the amount of \$112,938.30. All Council present was in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from Leigh Ann McCulty, owner of Diamond Theatre of Ligonier asking permission for Diamond Theatre and it's actors to do "Ghost Walks" beginning Friday, October 1st and run on weekends only ending Sunday, October 31, 2021. Times would run approximately, Friday & Saturdays from 8:30 pm – 11:30pm and Sundays from 7:30pm-10:30pm.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the request from Leigh Ann McCulty of Diamond Theatre of Ligonier for the "Ghost Walks". All of Council was in favor.

Tom Carney of Boy Scout Troop #372 asking to sell Christmas Trees on the Borough Property on W Loyalhanna Street November 21 thru December 21, 2021.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the request as done in the past. All of Council was in favor.

Letter from Chairman of Fort Ligonier Days Festival Jack McDowell asking permission to approve the list of locations (and sales permits) as temporary festival areas for Fort Ligonier Days October 8, 9, & 10, 2021.

Proposed Temporary Festival Areas

1. Pioneer Presbyterian Church yard
2. Ramada Ligonier parking lot
3. West Main Street and Walnut Street (LV Railroad Assoc., Fort Allen Antique Farm Equip.)
4. Thistledown at Seger House – 221 West Main Street
5. Rosalie Keslar, lot behind 331-333 W Main Street
6. St. James Lutheran Church, 300 w Main Street – church yard

Requests for Sales Permits

1. Pioneer Presbyterian Church
2. Ramada Ligonier
3. Fort Allen Antique Farm Equipment
4. Ligonier Valley Railroad Assoc.
5. Rosalie Keslar – 39 – 10'x10' spaces
6. St. James Lutheran Church

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Nate Sylvester to approve the list of festival locations and sales permits for Fort Ligonier Days 2021. All of Council was in favor.

Letter from Chairman of Fort Ligonier Days Festival Jack McDowell requesting permission for signage to be posted in the Borough as it relates to the festival October 8, 9, & 10, 2021.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the request for signage for Fort Ligonier Days 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

Letter from the Loyalhanna Watershed Assoc. requesting permission to utilize sidewalk space in front of G Squared Gallery as well as erect a tent in case of inclement weather on E Main for a fundraising event in partnership with G Squared Gallery Friday, October 1, 2021 from 6-8:30 pm.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the request provided 5' of walkway is allowed or go the whole width of sidewalk and tent be 7.5' high. All were in favor. The motion carried with all in favor.

Email from Jamie Krupper seeking approval for use of softball / baseballs field for fundraising tournament October 15-17, 2021.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Jeff Craig to approve the request provided that they have insurance to cover the event. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chair, Mariah Fisher reported that the Parks & Recreation Committee hosted a public meeting July 22nd at the Town Hall and invited community members to come and talk about options and ideas for the tennis court space behind Friendship Park. Approximately 30 people attended. Nineteen people spoke and offered their ideas. Emails and letters were also received. After hearing everyone and reading all the emails and letters it was decided by the Parks & Recreation Committee that it is their recommendation that the tennis court space be remodeled for a multi-use facility. The facility will include 1 tennis court, 2 pickle ball courts, a multi-use court as well as a portion be dedicated for a bike / skate park section. Community members interested are invited to reach out and get in touch with the Parks & Recreation Committee to help assist with the project. The Committee's next stop will be looking into grant funding to design the space.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Nate Sylvester to proceed with grant options to get a formal design in place for the tennis court space behind Friendship Park. All of Council was in favor.

TOWN HALL

Town Hall Chair Judy Hoffer reported that the courtyard restrooms have been renovated and are now open and functional.

The snow guards for Town Hall roof are on back order.

Hoffer reported that she would be asking for an executive session at the close of the meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS

N/A

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jeff Craig reported that a series of meetings have been held to improve traffic flow for Fort Ligonier Days. Street Supervisor Ron Ross and Chief of LVPD John Berger have also been involved along with FLD Jack McDowell and Tom Stablein.

Jeff Craig also reported that the Police Commission has approved an agreement with FLD for police protection.

FINANCE

Nate Sylvester, Chair of the Finance Committee reported that the budget is looking good for the year. Sylvester commended Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw for her work. Sylvester closed his

report by stating in the next couple of months the committee will be looking at the budget for 2022.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Matt Smith reported that the Special Fire Committee has been working on the fire services agreement and turning the building over to the Fire Department. Smith provided all with the proposed agreement and asked everyone to look over to act on at next month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Credit Card System

Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw reported that she was approached by Standard Bank and they have a credit card system free to the Borough. It would be based on convenience fees which the user would pay. Shaw feels this would be a good way to receive payments for parking tickets, zoning fees, town hall use etc.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the Credit Card App provided by Standard Bank. The motion carried with all in favor.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Engineer Ben Faas reported that he has submitted a sidewalk ordinance to the staff to review.

Assistant Police Chief Mike Matrunic introduced recent new hire Officer Ryan Hall. Hall is currently on a one year probation. Matrunic added that Hall is doing well blending with the community.

Matrunic read several letters from appreciative individuals receiving help from the LVPD. Matrunic reported receiving a \$16,500 grant from a generous family from Rector with connections to Indian Community Foundation (Grant Family Foundation) in Florida on top of the Federal Grant received for body worn cameras, program, and system.

Mayor Bellas commented on the heat and advised everyone to stay hydrated and out of the sun.

President James St. Clair stated that he is glad to be back.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Judy Hoffer to adjourn into executive session with no action to be taken.

The motion concluded the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer