

September 9, 2021

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 7pm in the Town Hall. 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, Fire Chief Corey Blystone, and Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Karl Horman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Nate Sylvester to approve the Minutes of the August 12, 2021 meeting as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the Bills Payable. The motion carried with all in favor.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Quartermaster of the Ligonier VFW was present and requested to erect a 10'x10' tent in front of the VFW building on East Main Street on Saturday, October 9 during Fort Days this year. The VFW would like to do a membership and buddy poppy drive. VFW is requesting permission to erect the tent immediately following the parade on Saturday morning and will disassemble the tent by 6pm that evening.

Chief Berger stated that the booth would not interfere with traffic detour.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Judy Hoffer to accept. All of Council was in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

Use of Mellon Park received from St. Michaels's of the Valley for **Pet Blessing** October 3, 2021 from 1-2pm for a Pet Blessing.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve. All of Council was in favor.

Letter received from Jack McDowell of **Fort Ligonier Days Inc.** thanking Street Supervisor Ron Ross for all his hard work and attention for their request of a new road detour for this year's event.

Temporary Sign Application received from **LVRx Pharmacy** for a 4x6' vinyl banner to be hung on porch in front of pharmacy from fall thru winter (Sept. 2021 – February 2022) for flu vaccine and Covid booster shots.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher and seconded by Jeff Craig to approve the banner for LVRx Pharmacy. All of Council was in favor.

Letter was received from the **LV Chamber of Commerce** requesting permission to use the Diamond Park area for **Fall Into Ligonier: A Restaurant Tasting Event** Saturday, November 6, 2021 from 11am to 2pm.

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

Letter received from the **LV Chamber of Commerce** requesting permission to use the lampposts in front of the shops around the Diamond and North and South Market Streets, East and West Main Streets, as well as the Town Hall courtyard for the annual **Scarecrow Contest**. Scarecrows will be up between October 13 and 31st. All scarecrows will be removed by 5pm Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Jeff Craig to approve the **Scarecrow Contest**. The motion carried unanimously.

Letter received from the **LV Chamber of Commerce** asking permission to decorate the lampposts in the Diamond Park Area and around the sidewalks for its annual Adopt A Lamppost beginning November 12, 2021 for **Christmas Season**.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Judy Hoffer to decorate the lampposts. The motion carried with all of Council in favor.

Letter received from the **LV Chamber of Commerce** asking for Council's help in coordination of **Santa's Arrival** and Diamond Lighting Friday, November 26, 2021 at 6:30pm. The Chamber requests the LVPD to detour traffic for Santa's Parade upon road closure approval. The Chamber will bag meters on the northeast quadrant of the Diamond by Town Hall and the first four meters on Fairfield Street beside YMCA for Misty Haven Carriages.

In the same letter **LV Chamber of Commerce** requests that two meters be bagged in front of the Ligonier Library from 9am to 5pm Sunday, December 5th for **Christmas Town-Wide Open House**. Also requested is to bag the first four meters on Fairfield Street beside the YMCA, 10am to 5pm for Misty Haven Carriages.

Councilman Jeff Craig advised LV Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Amy Beitel to address LVPD Commission directly to detour traffic for Santa's Parade.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Mariah Fisher to approve the above requests from the LV Chamber of Commerce as amended. All of Council was in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Mariah Fisher, Chairperson for the Parks & Recreation Committee reported that she hopes to have a meeting with volunteers for the renovation for the tennis court space within the next month and will give an update next month.

Fisher reported that the DCNR again reviewed the trees on the Diamond and determined that the 2 Zelkovia trees are not thriving and will become a safety hazard because of the limbs growing together. The limbs could break off. It is suggested to replace them with trees more likely to thrive in the soil and conditions that we have on the Diamond. At this point with the two that came down earlier this summer we will be in need of 4 new trees.

Ron Ross, Street Supervisor went to Rays Nursery in Johnstown and tagged a few potential trees; 2 Wildfire Black Gum trees and 2 Red Oaks. Both of which were suggested by DCNR as well as the folks at Rays Nursery. The trees will be smaller but should have a better potential to grow and thrive. The tagged trees are about 12 – 14' high and 2.5" to 3.5" in diameter and the cost should be under \$500 for each tree. The best time to replant them will be the end of October or the beginning of November. Potentially we will need to rent an excavator to dig out the root balls of all 4 trees.

A motion was made by Mariah Fisher seconded by Nate Sylvester to proceed with removing the two Zelkovia trees and replacing them with either the 2 wildfire Black Gum trees or the 2 Red Oak trees for a cost of around \$2,000 or less. All of Council was in favor.

Mariah Fisher also announced that Ligonier has been selected to receive a Community Scenic Achievement Award from Scenic Pittsburgh. The award is given to a Southwestern PA community who has demonstrated a consistent long-term and visionary commitment to protecting and promoting their scenic resources. When considering the award winners they looked at Ligonier's history of preservation and renewal of our historic Diamond and shopping district as well as our long-time commitment of using our green spaces and leveraging our history in the Community.

Fisher stated that the P&R Committee will be working with Scenic Pittsburgh as well as the LV Chamber to celebrate and accept the award on November 6, 2021 to coincide with the Fall Into Ligonier Event.

TOWN HALL

Town Hall Chairperson Judy Hoffer reported that the snow guards for the Town Hall roof are still not currently available. The Town Hall gutter project will proceed with painting and downspouts.

It was reported that the replacement desk for Council Chambers is on its way.

PUBLIC WORKS

Nothing to report

FINANCE

Nothing to report

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Matt Smith reported working on the contract for the employees.

Robert McCauslin has turned in his resignation for the Street Crew.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Jeff Craig to authorize the Personnel Committee to interview & hire someone before the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Matt Smith to thank Robert McCauslin for his 19 years of service to the Borough. The motion carried with all in favor.

Matt Smith asked for an executive session for legal purposes with no action to be taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Street Closure (Fairfield Street) October 24, 2021 for Ligonier Witches Brigade

Corey Blystone explained the event supports a local animal rescue with over 2000 witches in town. It is asked to have Fairfield Street from Main Street to Church Street shut down for the event for photo ops with the Fire Department.

A motion was made by Robert Barron and seconded by Jeff Craig to have Fairfield Street from Main Street to Church Street shut down for the Ligonier Witches Brigade event on October 24, 2021. The motion carried with all in favor.

Armory Way:

Solicitor Welty noted that at this time Council may take action on Armory Way since the hearing has been held.

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Mariah Fisher to advertise and move forward with an ordinance to accept Armory Way as a public street within the Borough of Ligonier. All of Council was in favor.

Petition for Armory Way to be No Parking:

A motion was made by Nate Sylvester and seconded by Jeff Craig to accept the petition and proceed with advertising for a no parking ordinance. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Engineer Ben Faas reported still working with Penn Dot for the HOP for the Burd Alley work. Will have several documents for action by Borough Council at the next meeting.

Police Chief John Berger asked Council to accept the temporary Traffic Restrictions for Fort Ligonier Days under 145-3 of the Code of the Borough of Ligonier.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Robert Barron to approve the temporary Traffic Restrictions for Fort Ligonier Days 2021. All of Council was in favor.

Police Chief John Berger also asked Council to suspend the sidewalk sales ordinance so merchants may have the sidewalk sales Thursday and Friday under 135-33 of the Code of the Borough of Ligonier.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the second request from Chief John Berger for Fort Ligonier Days 2021. The motion carried with all in favor.

Code / Zoning Officer Karl Horman reported getting several complaints of blighted property and encouraged residents to continue with the complaints by filling out the necessary forms so there is paper work to back up the complaint.

Mayor Bellas thanked Council for approving the VFW's request.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Nate Sylvester to adjourn into executive session for legal purposes with no action to be taken. All of Council was in favor.

The motion concluded the meeting at 7:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer