

May 12, 2016

A special meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, May 12, 2016 @ 6:30 PM in the Ligonier Town Hall with James McDonnell presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a Public Hearing to consider and take action on an ordinance amending the Ligonier Borough Zoning Ordinance #545.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James McDonnell, Judy Hoffer, Robert Helterbran, Chick Cicconi, Matt Smith, Pat Scanlon and Terry Murphy.

OTHERS PRESENT: Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Solicitor George Welty, and Zoning Officer Rick Schwab. Absent was Police Chief John Berger, and Code Enforcement Officer Rick Bell.

The Public Hearing was conducted by Ligonier Borough Solicitor George Welty.

Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry stated that the hearing was advertised twice in the Latrobe Bulletin April 15th and April 22nd and has the proof of publication in hand.

Solicitor Welty also stated that notice was sent to the Westmoreland County Department of Planning; Daniel Carpenter who has replied that he has reviewed the notice and had no comments.

Solicitor Welty stated that the Borough has complied with the requirements of the Municipalities Planning Code to have a public hearing regarding the amendment of Zoning Ordinance #545.

Solicitor Welty read the legal notice advertising the ordinance amending the Ligonier Borough Zoning Ordinance #545. Solicitor Welty said that Council could take action on this ordinance if they chose this evening.

Solicitor Welty asked if any one present wished to offer testimony this evening to please stand and be sworn in.

Richard Flickinger was sworn in and asked Council when the public had a chance to put input into the proposed changes other than tonight?

It was stated that it had been brought up at planning meetings. McDonnell stated that there was no special meeting for this.

Zoning Officer Rick Schwab was asked to be sworn in and give testimony that the subject has been brought up in more than one public meeting.

Solicitor Welty asked Rick Schwab how long he has been the Ligonier Borough Zoning Officer. To which Rick Schwab replied that he has been the Zoning Officer for little more than a year. Solicitor Welty asked Schwab if it were true that he has reviewed the ordinance and have made a number of suggestions of changes to council.

Schwab stated that he has recommended changes such as suggestions with height of fences in town as it no longer possible to find a 42" fence. A recommendation was made to increase fence height to 48". Schwab said a lot of changes have been pending before he was Zoning Officer. Some changes came up recently such as apartment conversion granny flat. All of which were discussed at least one or two planning committee meetings.

Welty asked Schwab if some of these were also discussed at Council meetings to which Schwab replied yes.

Welty asked Mr. Schwab if he felt in his opinion that these changes needed addressed. Schwab again replied yes.

McDonnell reinforced that the topic has been discussed at Council meetings.

Richard Flickinger asked if any meetings were held specifically for that purpose after Council had suggested there should be additional meetings for input on the Zoning Ordinance. Flickinger asked if there were any meetings held for that purpose.

Flickinger further stated that he had previously pointed out in his opinion, technical errors in the Zoning Ordinance he claims that were not addressed.

MOTION TO ADOPT

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Robert Helterbran to adopt Ordinance #564 amending the Ligonier Borough Zoning Ordinance #545. All of Council was in favor.

The motion concluded the Public Hearing.

Respectfully Submitted

Paul A Fry
Secretary-Treasurer
Office Manager