

February 11, 2016

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, February 11, 2016 @ 7:00 PM in the Ligonier Town Hall with James McDonnell presiding.

Members Present: James McDonnell, Robert Helterbran, Judy Hoffer, Matt Smith, Pat Scanlon, Terry Murphy, and Chick Cicconi via telephone.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, Zoning Officer Rick Schwab, and Engineer Ben Faas. Absent was Fire Chief/Representative.

Chief Berger introduced Lt Bob Johnson from PA State Police Barracks in Greensburg. Lt Johnson was present at the meeting to observe and answer any questions. Chief Berger also introduced Jill Miller, a November 2015 Police graduate from the Municipal Police Academy. Jill is a graduate from Latrobe High School and IUP. Chief Berger wishes to add Jill to the Borough part-time officer roster.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the minutes of January 4, January 14 and February 4, 2016 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the Bills Payable as presented. All were in favor.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and second by Terry Murphy to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Voting District Polls:

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Robert Helterbran to consolidate voting districts polls for Ligonier Borough for the upcoming election. All were in favor.

Joint Comprehensive Plan / Agreement:

Tabled to next month's Council meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

N/A

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION / SHADE TREE

Friendship Park committee member Karl Horman reported that "building day" for Friendship Park project is May 14th. Relay for Life and LYBSA baseball will be going on May 14th as well. A shuttle will be running on "building day" from 7 am until 9 pm when the luminary service begins with Relay for Life. Storage containers and possibly trailers will be placed on Bouquet Street for a couple weeks prior to the "build". Carol Barton discussed fundraising that is taking place for the Friendship Park Project such as Road Rally, T-shirt sale, Buy a Brick, Milkshake Madness, Shop Til you Drop at Carol & Dave's, selling of Gun Tickets and Kids Fun Day. It was reported that several businesses in town have stepped up and are donating a portion of their

profits towards the Friendship Park Project. Barton added that two Chair Lifts have been donated and will be placed in the Park as the committee raised money to have them redone. Annie Urban reported that the entire budget for Friendship tallies to approximately \$300,000 including all design work by Leathers Design and Engineering, the equipment, the accessibility with rubber flooring, new fencing and redoing the restrooms and pavilions. Urban noted that if necessary, the pavilions and restrooms can be put off until the next phase when restoration begins on the tennis courts. The committee has written several grants in addition to all the fund raising that has taken place. To date, the committee received \$20,500 from LV Endowment, \$25,000 from Katherine McKenna Foundation. Several gifts from various corporations ranging from \$500-\$1,000 have been received as well as all the fundraising the group has been doing. Urban reported that there are still 3 major grant applications outstanding from other foundations with hopes to hear from them by March. Urban stated that May 11 will be the start date for the project.

Diamond Park Project:

EADS Engineer Greg Elliot presented a schedule for the Diamond Park Project. A grant application was submitted to the Mellon Foundation. This is the first of two applications with this one for the engineering and final design funds. The Mellon Foundation is having a meeting the first week in April to make a decision as to which of the applications will receive grant funding. The second application will be for construction funds which will be submitted in June and considered in July. In July, the Mellon Foundation will notify successful applicants and a decision will then be made on the second grant application for the construction funds. In November, the final design will be completed with preparation of bids documents from April to approximately August of this year. Bids will be solicited from contractors in November and awarding construction contract in December. Begin construction with select items such as tree removal in February and proceed with all construction tasks in March of 2017. The plans are for construction to be completed in August of 2017 well before Fort Ligonier Days.

Matt Smith, chairman of the Parks and Recreation committee felt that with everything going on there was too tight of a schedule with no breathing room to have the project completed by Fort Days of 2016.

Greg Elliot explained that permits will need to be secured; one with Penn Dot for doing work within their right of way.

McDonnell asked if they plan to have an arborist check the trees.

Elliot answered that this could be done and Councilman Matt Smith agreed.

Councilman Robert Helterbran also agreed that an arborist should look into the trees on the Diamond.

TOWN HALL

Chair Judy Hoffer reported that the new ice machine has been installed at Town Hall and is working well. Other projects are on hold due to the weather.

PUBLIC SAFETY / PERSONNEL

Chairman Chick Cicconi thanked council for passing the resolution at last month's meeting to allow him to attend the council meetings while he is away via telephone.

Due to being away, Chick deferred the report to committee member Pat Scanlon.

Pat Scanlon reported that new carpet and flooring has been installed at the police station courtesy of donations received in memory of Chief Berger's father James Berger.

Part-Time Officer Jill Miller:

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to accept Chief John Berger's recommendation and hire part-time officer Jill Miller. The motion carried with all in favor.

Bullet Proof Vests (for high powered rifle):

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Chick Cicconi to purchase two new bullet proof vests for the police department. All of Council was in favor.

FINANCE

Chairman Terry Murphy commended Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry and Jan Shaw for moving a few accounts into other banks with permission from the Finance Committee thereby eliminating some high fees and saving the Borough money.

Murphy mentioned an upcoming big expense for the Borough with the storm drain which goes through Fort Ligonier and across route 30 and into the Loyalhanna Creek.

Murphy commented on the mild winter with hopes that it has also saved the Borough money with less salt, and less manpower hours.

PLANNING

Chairman Robert Helterbran reported attending a meeting with Bill Pritts from Heritage Church resulting in a recommendation that he proceed and apply for Conditional Use. A Hearing will be held most likely next month prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.

Fort Project Storm Water Repairs:

Annie Urban introduced Bill Gregory, representative for Fort Ligonier who works with the architect and all engineering taking place on the multiphase Fort project that is proposed involving renovation of the museum and the addition of an education center which will be built adjacent to the existing building.

Bill Gregory discussed the proposed plans and the storm drain repair.

James McDonnell commented on the expense of the Borough's portion of the storm drain that must be repaired. Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry explained to those not up to date that upon investigation of the storm sewer lines through the Fort property the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County televised and located the lines. Upon inspection they found a 24" cement culvert line that runs underneath Route 30 that is starting to collapse. It is not known how long it has been in this condition. By Borough Ordinance the Fort has been cooperating and increasing the size of the lines they had in place by putting in 30" and 36". We are waiting to hear back from Penn Dot as to what size lines are needed. It is hoped to have this project completed by June 15, 2016.

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Robert Helterbran to approve the plan for Fort Ligonier Project. All of Council was in favor.

Zoning Ordinance:

Solicitor George Welty discussed proposed zoning ordinance updates.

After a discussion it was decided to table the topic until next month's meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Pat Scanlon thanked Paul Fry and the Public Works for taking care of all the snow from the big snow storm just before Ice Fest in January.

NEW BUSINESS

West Penn Power Street Light Agreement:

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to ratify agreement with West Penn Power to upgrade 156 Street Lights to LED 90 Watt. All of Council was in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Solicitor Welty noted that the Storm Water Ordinance will be reviewed.

EADS Engineer Ben Faas added that the Fort Project storm water will proceed.

Resignation letter was received from part-time officer Chase Mollomo.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Robert Helterbran to accept the letter of resignation from Officer Chase Mollomo.

Mayor Bellas thanked Council for the new part-time police hire as well as the approval for two new bullet proof vests. Mayor Bellas also reminded everyone to please shovel their sidewalks.

President James McDonnell received a letter from Ligonier Twp. Fire Department requesting two members of Council to be part of their fundraising committee.

Chick Cicconi stated that the committee would discuss this.

Gateway to Communities is still on going. Will discuss at next month's meeting.

McDonnell read a letter from Johnstown Water Authority with regards to lead/copper in our drinking water.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Pat Scanlon to adjourn into executive session for personnel. All were in favor. Council adjourned into executive session at 8:26 PM.

Council returned from executive session at 9:26 PM.

A motion was made by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Robert Helterbran to terminate Officer Edward Huwalt immediately. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Pat Scanlon to appoint Officer Ken Burke to full-time Officer effective immediately. All were in favor.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Judy Hoffer to adjourn. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Paul A Fry
Secretary-Treasurer
Office Manager

