

March 10, 2016

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, March 10, 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, Engineer Ben Faas, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, and Zoning Officer Rick Schwab. Absent was Ligonier Hose Co. #1 Fire Chief Steve Barron and Code Enforcement Officer Rick Bell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Robert Helterbran to approve the minutes of February 11, 2016. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Robert Helterbran to approve the Bills Payable. All were in favor.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. All of Council was in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Joint Comprehensive Plan / Agreement:

Tabled until next month's meeting.

Zoning Ordinance #563

Amendment proposed to Ordinance #545 adding home based occupation low impact to Conditional Use in the C2 Zoning District. The home base occupation no impact amended to become permitted use.

A motion was made by Robert Helterbran and seconded by Pat Scanlon to advertise and give copy to the County Planning. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

NZK Productions Use of Diamond and Bandstand request received to film shots on Diamond March 23rd or 24th & 27th for a network reality show.

A motion was made by Robert Helterbran and seconded by Matt Smith to approve NZK Productions on the Diamond on the dates provided. All of Council was in favor.

Request received from Sherrie Stouffer of Ligonier Hose Co. #1 requesting permission to hold boot drives Friday, May 27th, Friday July 1st, and Friday September 2nd from 4:30 to 7:00 PM.

A motion was made by Robert Helterbran and seconded by Pat Scanlon to approve Ligonier Hose Co. #1 requests for boot drives May 27, July 1, and September 2, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

Letter received from Nathaniel Sofranko with Relay for Life asking permission to hang banners from the light poles around the Diamond from May 1 – May 16, 2016 for Relay for Life.

A motion was made by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Judy Hoffer to reject the request from Relay for Life. All of Council was in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION / SHADE TREE

Matt Smith, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation / Shade Tree reported on Friendship Park Build day. The playground must be shut down beginning April 4th to begin set up for the rebuild May 11-15th, 2016. The parks committee suggested a new fence was needed with a bid received @ \$6,842. The fence company is willing to take \$500 off as a donation leaving the balance at \$6,342.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Judy Hoffer to pay the \$6,342 to replace the fence around the Friendship Park area. All of Council was in favor.

Matt Smith also reported that the project Trees for Ligonier spring planting will take place April 30, 2016 at 9:00 AM. Anyone wishing to volunteer their time to help out would be greatly appreciated.

TOWN HALL

Chair Judy Hoffer reported that TMR Roofing will begin Town Hall roof repairs within the next 3-4 weeks.

The canopy at Fire Hall has already been repaired.

Hoffer additionally reported that within the last month, twice she has had students or adults stepping in front of her car who are selling subs.

Chief Berger said that he would call the sub sponsor the night before a sub sale and talk to them about it.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Pat Scanlon reported that Public Works has been cleaning up the parks. The street sweeper is away for inspection and repairs. The mowers and trucks have been serviced. Pot holes are being patched due to winter weather. It was reported that Public Works is looking into a new mower.

Public Works Director Paul Fry noted that he has been obtaining quotes for a new mower.

PUBLIC SAFETY / PERSONNEL

Chick Cicconi reported that the United Fire Company consisting of the local area Volunteer Fire Companies from Ligonier Borough, Ligonier Township and Laurel Mountain Borough is in the process of forming a committee for recruiting, funding and training for the fire departments in the valley. Cicconi stated that Matt Smith will be the contact for Ligonier Borough on this committee.

Personnel:

A motion was made by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Matt Smith to promote Officer Ken Burke to Corporal. All of Council was in favor.

Pat Scanlon added that a quote has been received to replace a computer used for training and certifications that is not working at the police station at a price of \$1,175.00.

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Robert Helterbran to replace a computer at the police station at a cost of \$1,175.00. All were in favor.

FINANCE

Chairman Terry Murphy reported a small positive return for the Town Hall fund. Interest revenue has increased to almost 10%. Salt for the winter is down almost 50% because of the mild winter. It was noted that Liquid Fuels is up 16%.

PLANNING

Chairman of the Planning Committee Robert Helterbran reported that there is nothing on the agenda and that there will be no meeting on Monday.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT

Zoning Officer Rick Schwab reported that the Zoning revenue is up.

COMMENDATIONS and COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry reported that Ligonier Borough has a no burning ordinance. Public Works has been picking up yard waste and brush during the summer months. Fry was recently informed from DEP that burning at the Sewer Plant is prohibited at this compost site. Public Works has been searching for a new site. Fry spoke with Ligonier Township about using their site located on Old Rte. 30. The Township is interested in pursuing an agreement that would permit Township resident's to drop off their leaves on our compost site and that we can in turn burn at their site. Public Works is looking for some cement Jersey Barriers to help contain the burn site at the Ligonier Township site. The Borough is looking for anyone willing to donate a few. Further discussion will ensue.

Engineer Ben Faas spoke of the proposed New Storm Water Ordinance.

A motion was made by Robert Helterbran and seconded by Matt Smith to advertise a short version of the ordinance and take action in April. All of Council was in favor.

Faas questioned if the Borough would be looking into an Arborist for the Diamond project. James McDonnell stated that the Borough would look into finding an arborist for the Diamond trees.

Rte. 30 Crossing

Faas reported on an upcoming meeting next week with Westmoreland County Conservation District to go over the permit application with them. The Penn Dot HOP permit will also be submitted next week.

Police Chief John Berger thanked Council for Ken Burke's promotion and for the new computer. Chief Berger spoke on having a committee meeting as soon as possible when Councilman Chick Cicconi returns.

Chief Berger added that Laurel Highlands DUI task force will be out conducting some roving patrols March 17-19th with Ligonier Borough included.

Mayor Bellas echoed Chief Berger's comments.

President James McDonnell spoke on the need of pet owners to control the pick up after their pets. McDonnell added hearing complaints of stray cats running around particularly on the East end of town between Washington, Summit and Church Streets.

Election Bureau

In regards to the consolidating of the Borough's two voting poles, a petition will be taken to the court whereupon the judge's approval, it will then be taken to the election bureau. The petition

will be available in the Borough office for borough residents to sign to elect to have only one voting pole in the Borough.

ACTIVITY

McDonnell reported on the numerous activities taking place in the Borough, all of which are in the very preliminary stages; such as the merging of police departments, storm water line, Comprehensive Plan issue, Diamond Renovation and another police matter. Facts are in the development process in each of these issues. Until these facts become available, there has been no cost assigned to these issues explained McDonnell. McDonnell advised that we must “make haste slowly.”

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Robert Helterbran. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry
Secretary-Treasurer
Office Manager