

September 8, 2016

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Ligonier Town Hall with James McDonnell presiding.

Members Present: James McDonnell, Gus Breegle, Chick Cicconi, Judy Hoffer, Matt Smith, Pat Scanlon and Terry Murphy.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas via phone, Solicitor George Welty, Fire Chief Steve Barron, Zoning Officer Rick Schwab, Police Chief John Berger.

Due to time constraints President McDonnell asked for a brief executive session @ 7:01 PM regarding litigation; one involving a lawsuit concerning the borough and several residents; an update on a tax matter under litigation as well as a personnel matter.

Attorney Dan Hewitt and Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry were asked to attend.

Council returned from executive session @ 7:46 with no action taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the minutes of August 11, 2016 meeting as presented. All of Council was in favor.

Marsha Hudock of Walnut Street was present to comment on previously approved minutes of July 14, 2016 when she expressed concerns of speeding on Walnut. Hudock wishes to clarify her comments to read that speeding occurs throughout the day & night but is heavier between 7AM and 8:30 AM and again from 2:30 PM to approximately 5:30 PM.

BILLS PAYABLE

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the Consent Calendar for August 2016. The motion carried 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Enact Ordinance to Delete the position of Corporal & establish the position of Police Sergeant. Solicitor Welty read the ordinance.

Chief Berger noted that this would be at no raise in pay.

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Gus Breegle to enact Ordinance #565 to promote Corporal Ken Burke to Sergeant at the same rate of pay. The motion carried unanimously.

Establishment of a Planning Commission

President McDonnell explained that currently the Borough has a Planning Committee. A Committee is comprised of three Council persons while a commission gets residents involved. Councilman Matt Smith suggested that the establishment of a Planning Commission be put on hold until the Comprehensive Plan is finished but to perhaps have two non-voting advisors join the committee. McDonnell asked the Planning Committee members to discuss this idea.

CORRESPONDENCE

Notice received from Westmoreland County Transit Authority with community's local share assessment for 2016-2017 at \$880.00

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Chick Cicconi to approve Westmoreland County Transit Authority assessment for 2016-2017 @ \$880.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Letter received from Fort Ligonier Days, Inc. requesting permission for signage to be posted relating to the festival October 14-16, 2016. Signs are requested to be placed around the Diamond, East & West Main Street, North and South Market Streets and throughout the borough as needed. Also requested is to hang event banners on lampposts and utility poles on the Diamond and on East and West Main Streets.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Matt Smith to approve Fort Ligonier Days Signage request. All of Council was in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION / SHADE TREE

Councilman Matt Smith reported that Friendship Park is moving along. Smith added that the Pour and Place floor at Friendship Park will soon be done. Smith is not sure of the opening of the park as yet.

Matt Smith presented a proposal to Council from Rampart Security for 5 cameras to be installed at Friendship Park in the amount of \$4,394.18 + internet fees.

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Gus Breegle to table the topic until next month. All of Council was in favor.

Public Works Director Paul Fry advised that the Pour and Place floor takes an additional 7 days to cure once poured. He added that the park should remain closed for this time period. Fry also stated that the fence which has been previously approved in the spring will be put up.

TOWN HALL

Judy Hoffer reported that the four windows in Town Hall have been replaced and primed inside. Once the weather turns cooler the public works crew will paint the inside of the windows.

PUBLIC WORKS

Gus Breegle, Chairman of the Public Works Committee reported that public works has been busy following up with a few flooding issues from the recent heavy rains, repairing storm drains and catch basins. The public works crew has also been assisting with Friendship Park renovations as well as cold patching pot holes.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Pat Scanlon reported that the police & fire station roofs have been repaired and will be painted. Scanlon reported of a safety issue on North Dice Alley and West Main Street at Somerset Trust Bank. There have been accidents because you cannot see. Scanlon noted by eliminating one parking spot you would gain 35' for clear site.

A motion was made by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Matt Smith to eliminate one parking spot on West Main Street to gain 35' for clear site. All of Council was in favor.

Pat Scanlon spoke of another safety issue regarding the traffic and congestion during Fort Ligonier Days on West Main at Walnut Street. The Public Safety Committee feels the answer is to eliminate the use of Mellon Park for the Festival Area for 2017.

A motion was made by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Pat Scanlon to remove Mellon Park from the Festival Area for 2017. All of Council was in favor.

FINANCE

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Chick Cicconi to accept the 2015 audit as presented. All of Council was in favor.

The Audit will be advertised and will be available in the Borough office for anyone wishing to review.

Murphy stated that 2017 budget preparation has begun. It is still unknown about employee health care costs for 2017.

Town Hall fund is at 0% for the month of August.

Parking fines and vehicle violations revenue is up.

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Pat Scanlon to authorize Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry to obtain quotes for a police car and a public works vehicle as well as to obtain a proposal for financing. All of Council was in favor.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Chick Cicconi reported that a Joint Comprehensive Planning organizational meeting will be held in two weeks. In October a community workshop meeting will be held at either the township or town hall. Cicconi reported that the Borough has received approximately 121 surveys at the Borough office and it unknown at the present how many have been received online. All area residents are asked to complete a survey.

NEW BUSINESS

Fort Ligonier Festival area map:

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the Festival map. The motion carried unanimously.

Fort Ligonier Days Sales Permits:

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Chick Cicconi to approve the Fort Ligonier Days Sales Permits. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Flickinger thanked Council for the decision to remove a parking spot on Main Street by Somerset Trust for safety.

Flickinger voiced his concerns on a planning commission versus planning committee and urged Council to act now and not wait until after the Comprehensive Plan has been finished.

It was stated that the hearing for voting consolidation for the Borough districts has been postponed until November 30th, 2016.

Mrs. Marsha Hudock of Walnut Street stated that she has been visiting neighbors and that all are concerned regarding the speeding on Walnut Street as well as Vincent and Indian Streets. Hudock requests more traffic control in town.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry reported that leaf collection is approaching and will most likely begin the Wednesday after Fort Ligonier Days.

EADS Engineer Ben Faas reported that he has been working with Penn Dot on the Route 30 storm drain. Faas added that he is still working on Diamond Project and detours with Penn Dot.

Police Chief John Berger thanked Council for the promotion for Ken Burke to sergeant. Berger added that next Tuesday will start the 12th year that he has been Chief.

President McDonnell remarked on the amount of household trash that ends up in the Borough receptacles.

The next meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council will be Monday, October 10th, 2016 @ 7:00 PM.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Judy Hoffer to adjourn. All was in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry
Secretary-Treasurer
Office Manager