

January 12, 2017

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, January 12, 2017 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, Engineer Ben Faas, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, Zoning Officer Rick Schwab. Absent was Mayor "Butch" Bellas, Fire Chief Steve Barron and Code Enforcement Officer Rick Bell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Gus Breegle to approve both minutes of December 8, 2016 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Code Enforcement:

President McDonnell gave an update on Hickory Alley property. Property owner was advised by the code enforcement officer to make necessary corrections to the state of deterioration of property by April 1, 2017. A daily fine will be issued if not corrected by the deadline.

Voting District Hearing:

Judge McCormick has signed an order approving to combine the two sites in Ligonier Borough. It is unknown as to when it will be implemented.

CORRESPONDENCE

Cari Frei, Ligonier Country Market Executive Director asked Council for permission for the County Market to have horse and buggy rides during Country Market. The route and costs have not been confirmed at this time. A \$1 million liability coverage is in place. It is suggested to have the route start on Old RT 30 storage for Loyalhanna Watershed, down Main Street and stop in front of Town Hall, then past the YMCA and turn left in front of the fire department back onto Main Street.

A discussion ensued with Frei to bring back more details.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION / SHADE TREE

N/A

TOWN HALL

N/A

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Gus Breegle reported that Public Works has received the new dump truck. It is currently in Somerset for a new bed.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Pat Scanlon reported that the new police car is in but not yet in service. Scanlon also reported that we will be losing part-time officer Tony Vittone to the State Police. Chief Berger expressed interest in hiring part-time officer Chrissy Fiok, a Ligonier resident and a November 17 graduate of the police academy. Chrissy is also a part-time officer at Ligonier Township.

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Pat Scanlon to hire Chrissy Fiok as part-time officer for Ligonier Borough. All of Council was in favor.

FINANCE

N/A

President James McDonnell asked all to think of new ways to generate revenue short of taxes.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Chick Cicconi reminded all that next week the 10 focus groups will meet with the Joint Comprehensive Plan Workshop meeting to be held Thursday in the Town Hall Auditorium. The public is encouraged to come.

In seeing Richard Flickinger in the audience, Cicconi made note that the committee is still working on the Planning Commission resurrection with hopes for April.

President McDonnell expressed the need at a later point during the meeting for an executive session for personnel. No action will be taken.

NEW BUSINESS

BNY Mellon National Assoc. Subdivision:

A motion was by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Gus Breegle to approve the subdivision as presented by Adam Davis of Ross Surveying. All of Council was in favor.

Re-enact Ordinances:

#262 Real Estate Transfer Tax 1%

#328 Wage Tax .5%

#329 Per Capita Tax \$5.00

#361 Amusement Tax 5%

#368 Occupational Privilege Tax \$5.00 (LST Tax)

A motion was made by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Judy Hoffer to re-enact the above ordinances for 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

Depositories for Borough Funds:

BNY Mellon Bank

Citizens Bank

Commercial Bank

First National Bank

PNC Bank

Standard Bank

First Commonwealth Bank

Somerset Trust Co.

PLGIT

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the depositories for Borough Funds above. All were in favor.

Financial Services:

Berkheimer Tax Administrator – Act 511 Taxes

PNC Advisors – Police Pension Fund

Guyasuta Investment Advisors Town Hall & P&R Funds

Mockenhaupt- Police Pension Fund

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Gus Breegle to approve the Financial Services. All of Council was in favor.

Appointments for 2017:

Auditor – Delisi Keenan and Associates

Solicitor – Welty & Welty LLP (George Welty)

Engineer – EADS Group (Ben Faas)

Chief of Police – (John Berger)

Fire Chief – (Steve Barron)

Secretary-Treasurer / Public Works Director (Paul Fry)

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer (Jan Shaw)

Zoning Board Counsel – (David DeRose)

Zoning Officer – (Rick Schwab)

UCC Appeals Board Counsel – (Mark Sorice)

Delegate for State Borough's Convention (Paul Fry) Alternate (Jan Shaw)

Right to Know Officer (Paul Fry)

Chief Financial Officer (Pension Plans) (Paul Fry)

Delegates for Act 32 Tax Collection Committee for 2017 (Paul Fry) Alt. (Jan Shaw)

Emergency Management Coordinator (Gene Stouffer)

Code Enforcement Officer (Rick Bell)

Animal Control Officer (Amber Noel)

Fort Ligonier Advisory Committee Representative (Chick Cicconi)

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the Appointments for 2017 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

Bidding Threshold for 2017:

The PA Department of Labor and Industry has announced an increase in the Borough Code bidding thresholds under Act 92 of 2011. The increase of the Consumer Price Index-Urban for the past 12 months was 1.5 percent. Therefore, the bidding thresholds effective January 1, 2017 are as follows:

Any contract or purchase under \$10,700 requires no formal bidding or telephonic quotations.

Contract or purchases in the amount of or greater than \$10,700 and less than \$19,700 require three telephonic or written/email quotations.

Any contract or purchase of or greater than \$19,700 require the formal public bidding process as prescribed in Section 1402 of the Borough Code.

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the Bidding Thresholds for 2017. All of Council was in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Flickinger commented that it is nice to hear new ideas.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from the OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry reported that the meetings for 2017 have been advertised and thanked Council for his re-appointment.

Solicitor Welty also thanked Council for his re-appointment. Solicitor Welty has been Borough Solicitor for 33 years.

Engineer Ben Faas echoed Solicitor Welty's thanks. Faas reported that the Fort storm water has been completed.

Engineer Greg Elliot reported that Penn Dot ruled against 10inch curb around perimeter of Diamond. EADS advised to go with an 8inch curb around the Diamond. Elliot noted that they are completing the final design for the Diamond project to begin within two weeks to solicit bids.

Chief Berger thanked Council for his re-appointment and for hiring part-time officer Chrissy Fiok. Chief Berger spoke about the police radios that are outdated. The Borough, Township and Loyalhanna Police Association applied for a grant and was awarded \$77,000 (\$31,000 for the Borough). The radios have been ordered. The Borough will receive 10 portables plus one for each car.

Zoning Officer Rick Schwab thanked Council for his re-appointment.

President James McDonnell wished everyone a Happy New Year. McDonnell thanked everyone for everything they do and commented that as long as we do the right thing for the right reason we should be okay.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A **motion** was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Judy Hoffer to adjourn into executive session for personnel with no action to be taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry
Secretary-Treasurer
Office Manager