

November 10, 2016

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, November 10th, 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, Engineer Ben Faas & Greg Elliott, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger, Zoning Officer Rick Schwab. Absent was Fire Chief Steve Barron and Code Officer Rick Bell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Pat Scanlon to approve the minutes of October 10, 2016 as presented. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Chick Cicconi to approve the Consent Calendar. All of Council was in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from the LV Chamber of Commerce asking permission to help in the coordination of Santa's Arrival and Diamond Lighting Friday, November 25th at 6:30 PM. Also requested is for the Borough Police to detour traffic for the parade as well as to bag meters on the northeast quadrant of the Diamond by Town Hall and the first 4 meters on Fairfield Street beside the YMCA for Misty Haven Carriages.

On the same letter the Chamber requests that two meters be bagged in front of the Library 9 AM – 5PM for Town Wide Open House Sunday, December 4, 2016 and the first 4 meters on Fairfield Street beside the YMCA from 10 AM-5PM for Misty Haven Carriages.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the request from the LV Chamber. All were in favor.

Letter received from LV Chamber of Commerce requesting Council's continued support in offering free two-hour parking at all meters on the Saturdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the free two-hour parking at all meters on the Saturdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas; November 26, December 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

A sign permit application was received from LV Football Boosters to place two 3' x 5' Banners in support of LV Football team at Mellon Park and St. Clair Grove Friday, November 11, 2016 through remainder of season.

A motion was made by Terry Murphy and seconded by Gus Breegle to approve the Banner request from the LV Football Boosters for one Banner to be placed at St. Clair Grove with the

second banner to be placed at the LV School Administration Building rather than Mellon Park as requested after permission is granted from school board. All of Council was in favor.

Sign Permit Application received from the LV Chamber of Commerce for two 2' x 3' sandwich boards signs to be placed around the Diamond and one by LVSD Building on W. Main Street November 28 – December 4, 2016 for Town Wide Open House.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Pat Scanlon to approve the signs to be placed around the Diamond and to have the LV Chamber seek permission from the LVSD for the other. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION / SHADE TREE

Chairman Matt Smith reported that Friendship Park project is near completion with pavers still needing to be placed and sidewalk to be finished.

The last tree planting took place November 5th with 30 trees planted in the Borough. Smith thanked all who volunteered.

TOWN HALL

N/A

Town Hall Chairperson Judy Hoffer wished all a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Gus Breegle reported that the Public Works crew has been busy with leaf collection and cleaning up the parks and repairing storm sewer work.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Pat Scanlon reported that the police car and public works truck are on order.

Pat Scanlon read a resignation letter received from Officer Jill Miller effective as of October 27, 2016 as Ligonier Borough part-time police officer. Miller was hired at IUP for full-time officer.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Pat Scanlon to accept the resignation of Officer Jill Miller with regrets. All of Council was in favor.

FINANCE

Chairman Terry Murphy thanked the office staff for help with the budget. A proposed budget will be advertised with no tax increase. The Budget 2017 will be prepared for vote at the December meeting.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Joint Planning Workshop:

Chairman Chick Cicconi reported that the Joint Planning Workshop was held October 25th at the Town Hall with low Borough turn out. However, Cicconi reported a great survey response has been received by the residents of the Borough and Ligonier Township. Signups for focus groups are open for individuals wishing to get involved. The second Workshop meeting will be held sometime in January of 2017.

Fort Ligonier Days:

Chairman Chick Cicconi reported that he along with the Planning Committee feel that the Borough Council has the need to improve communication and be better informed on the planning of Fort Ligonier Days. The Planning Committee recommends an amendment to change ordinance #556 Section 89-10 covering the permit application, advisory committee and fees. It is recommended that FLD Inc. will appoint two members, the LV Chamber of Commerce will

appoint another two, and a council member will fill a fifth seat as opposed to the Advisory Committee consisting of only Fort Ligonier Days Inc. members.

A motion was made by Chick Cicconi and seconded by Judy Hoffer to amend ordinance #556 as described above by Councilman Chick Cicconi. All of Council was in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Flickinger updated Council on the combined voting precincts for Ligonier Borough. Flickinger advised that the hearing has been postponed until December 13, 2016.

Flickinger questioned if the Planning Committee has taken any steps to establish a Planning Commission.

Councilman Chick Cicconi recalled that he told Richard Flickinger that a Planning Commission will be established again but that it will take time to do this.

Flickinger asked if there will be a chance for public input regarding the Diamond project.

Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry stated that there has been a public meeting regarding the Diamond project.

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS

N/A

SOLICITOR

N/A

FIRE CHIEF / REPRESENTATIVE

Nothing

ENGINEER

It was reported that the Diamond Project was presented at the LV Chamber Breakfast by EADS Engineer Greg Elliott, Council President James McDonnell, Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry, and LV Chamber Director Susan Grunstra.

Engineer Greg Elliott added that they are waiting on Penn Dot to grant a highway occupancy permit for the upcoming renovations.

Once the plans are finalized a public meeting will be held possibly in December to discuss traffic control around the area during construction.

Elliott explained that the designs include a 10 inch curb while Penn Dot's standard is 8 inches.

The project remains on schedule and EADS plans to complete the final design and contract documents by mid-January and then solicit bids and award a construction contract in early to mid-February. At the end of February, the large trees on the Diamond will be removed, with the full construction starting in mid-to-late March. Work is expected to finish in August.

Engineer Ben Faas reported that the Diamond was photographed recently by a drone and cameras for survey purposes for the Diamond Project.

Police Chief John Berger advised everyone on an upcoming presentation on Drug Awareness to be held November 17th, 2016 from 6:30 – 8PM at the LV High School Auditorium.

Chief Berger expressed his sympathy regarding the Canonsburg tragedy.

Chief Berger asked Council to consider Johnathon Murphy from Greensburg PA as a part-time officer to replace Officer Jill Miller for Ligonier Borough. Murphy currently works as a part-time officer at Ligonier Township as well and knows the streets in the Borough.

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

Mayor Bellas echoed Chief Berger's sympathy to those involved in the Canonsburg tragedy. Mayor Bellas wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

President James McDonnell also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked everyone for all they do.

McDonnell added that the next meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council will be held Thursday, December 8, 2016 @ 7PM in the Town Hall.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Gus Breegle to adjourn the meeting. All of Council was in favor. The meeting was adjourned @ 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry
Secretary-Treasurer
Office Manager