

The regular monthly meeting of Lansford Borough Council was held 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 12, 2016, at the borough hall, 1 W. Ridge Street. The meeting was opened by President Martin Ditsky who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by secretary treasurer Jill Seigendall. Councilpersons attending were president Martin Ditsky, vice president Rose Mary Cannon, Matthew Walsh, Joseph Butrie, Jared Soto, John Turcmanovich, absent were councilman Colin Jones, mayor James Romankow, and solicitor Michael Greek.

PUBLIC COURTESY

Joe Genits, 232 W. Front Street, passed out a prepared statement regarding past code enforcement practices and the current services of Lehigh Valley Inspection Services. The letter is on file in the borough office under "Letters to Borough Council." Council acknowledged the letter .

Donny Gildea, 107 W Kline Ave., questioned councilman Turcmanovich (former police chief), asking whether he ever gave a ticket for driving on the wrong side of the road. The point of the discussion was about the efficiency of snow removal under the current plowing ordinance. Gildea does not want forced "no parking" on narrow streets.

Chris Ondrus, 36 Coal Street, made 3 points: 1. The importance of committee meetings. 2. The turnover in the number of council members and employees is the reason things are not getting done. 3. The Agenda and Minutes do not always show the bank account balances. He pointed out that minute book pages are not numbered, not signed, and is on 2 different size papers (2011 & 2015 are on different size paper.)

Irma Leibensberger, 164 W. Ridge Street , passed out the 2016 millage rates for all municipalities in Carbon County.

Pat Whalen, 341 W Ridge St., asked whether police do two tours of town every day. She had questions about the work hours and the work ethic of police officers.

Robert Dobosh, 33 W Ridge St, asked for permission to trim bushes and trees at Kennedy Park. Permission was given by president Ditsky and agreed by council.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to accept the August 10, 2016 meeting minutes. Second by John Turcmanovich, all were in approval, motion passed.

Joseph Butrie made a motion to accept the September 14, 2016 meeting minutes. Second by Matthew Walsh, all were in approval, motion passed.

Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to accept the September 26, 2016 special meeting minutes. Second by John Turcmanovich, all were in approval, motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Robert Lakata letter of interest in reappointment to CLSH Sewer Authority. Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to table the letter until the end of year when Mr. Lakata's term ends.
- CC Board of Assessment & Revision of Taxes-Carbon County Assessment Recap dated September 30, 2016 – Total \$32,763,703.00.
- PA Dept. of Transportation 2017 estimate of the borough's liquid Fuels allocation \$112,463.09. Ditsky noted that payment of the front end loader will come out of this.
- Responsible Recycling Services; council considered scheduling an event for the spring. Topic was tabled by Rose Mary Cannon.
- Vests Grant - The borough office was notified that \$1,380.00 was awarded to the Lansford Police Dept.
- CDBG Funds advertisement for public hearings. Hearings for projects for non-entitlement communities will be held 10/24/16, 7:00 p.m. in Summit Hill Borough, 40 W. Amidon St., and 11/14/16, 6:00 p.m. in Banks Twp., Treskow Hose Company, 26 E. Oak St.
- Martin Ditsky read a letter from Eric Snyder, Keystone Consulting Engineers, on the status of the deteriorating Elks Building. Its dilapidated condition is a risk to health, safety & the welfare of surrounding persons & properties. The engineer recommends demolition of the structure before winter and for the county to expedite paperwork for demolition. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to do what is necessary to obtain ownership of the Elks building as long as all necessary processes (such as environmental review) are done beforehand as well as money being released for the project before obtaining ownership of the building. Motion was second by Joe Butrie, all were in favor, motion passed.**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Municipal Administration - No committee meeting was held in September. Workload in the borough office has increased due to 16 Right-To-Know requests since the last council meeting. Additionally, the sanitation bills went out Sept. 1st. Cannon addressed the audience about the continuous time wasted answering criticisms of the past during the public courtesy portion of each meeting. Martin Ditsky also commented on the criticism he has received while serving on council.

Public Safety - The September committee meeting was canceled due to the special council meeting scheduled on Sept 26th. Since the last meeting the committee met with chief Soberick, evaluated the background of 1 full time and 2 part time police applicants. The civil service commission vacancy was advertised but there were no volunteers. Six new full time officer applications have been received.

Fire Department - In September the American Fire Company No. 1 responded 5 times; 1 ambulance assist, 1 hazardous material assist, 1 rescue intervention, 1 brush fire and 1 vehicle fire, and had 7 training sessions.

Ambulance - The August report shows 48 responses. The average dispatch to time on scene is 8.5 minutes. The September report was not received yet.

Mayors Report - no report available, the mayor could not attend due to family emergency/illness.

Police Report - There were 18 Criminal Arrests; 9 traffic citations, 9 non-traffic citations; 3 parking tickets; 21 Quality of Life tickets.

Park & Recreation - The September committee meeting was cancelled. Rose Mary Cannon reported that Brent Boyer from Facility Aquatics visited the pool to perform core borings as part of the feasibility study. Cannon asked that Smoky Krajnak be allowed to seal cracks in the pool so more testing can be done. Jared Soto gave estimates for the milling and paving at the skate park, a 60 ft. by 88 ft. area; Richard Diehl, (\$2 per sq. ft.) \$10,560 with a 2 yr. guarantee; Tom Berger Paving, \$6,500 to \$7,500; (a previous estimate was received from Alicia Paving for \$7,445). Soto noted that the price of crude oil may go down so the price may be lower in spring. **Soto made a motion that \$8,500 be kept in the budget for this project in 2017. Second by Rose Mary Cannon, all were in favor. Motion passed.**

Public Works - Discussion about a utility box for the public works 2001 Ford F350 truck, quotes: \$4,934.00 SMF Truck Solutions, second SMF quote painted, \$6,000; Lancaster Truck Bodies \$ 4,300.00. Joe Butrie made a motion, pending inspection, to purchase and install the SMF utility box costing \$4,934.00. After discussion, Rose Mary Cannon asked it be tabled until next meeting.

John Turcmanovich made a motion to advertise for CDL drivers for the winter snow plowing season, part time drivers. Jared Soto second the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

Joe Butrie made a motion to have a landline put at the borough garage. Public works chairman Martin Ditsky is in favor of the landline. Ditsky second the motion, all were in favor. None were opposed, motion passes.

There was discussion about taking possession of the portable radios previously used by the Lansford Ambulance Association.

Code Enforcement – the report was enclosed for council and is on file in the borough office.

Planning & Zoning - **Matthew Walsh made a motion to contact Solicitor Michael Greek to have the yearly fee for Sewer Transmission changed back to \$90 for both residential and commercial establishments. Motion was second by Joe Butrie; all were in favor except Rose Mary Cannon. Motion passed.**

Matthew Walsh made a motion to change the meeting date (and advertise the change) for planning & zoning committee to the last Monday of the month (same as public works committee meeting) at 5:45 p.m. Joe Butrie second the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

Tax Collectors Report - Borough Taxes collected during the month of September totals \$8,550.21. Total collected during 2016 is \$8,54,401.47.

Treasurer's Report - Fund Balances as of Sept 30,2016: General Fund \$358,787.02; Sanitation Funds: \$55,700.04, \$51,450.46, \$12,155.42; Sewage Transmission Funds: \$163,608.85, \$131,164.29, \$202,547.54; Park & Recreation Funds: \$62,750.47, \$1,329.58; Hi-Way, \$127,481.34; Fire Tax, \$43,444.92; Street Light, \$39,719.73; LST \$30,375.41. Bills to be approved totaled \$14,345.70. **Motion to pay the bills was made by Matthew Walsh, second by Jared Soto, all were in favor, motion passed.**

Carbon County Tax Collection Committee – September 21, 2016 scheduled meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

Solicitor's Report – No report, solicitor was not in attendance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Outdoor faucet estimates: Tom Reigel \$883.13, Hiles Brothers #373.60. **A motion to accept Hiles Brothers estimate was made by Matthew Walsh, second by Joe Butrie, all were in favor except Martin Ditsky who was opposed, motion passed.**

Alarm system estimates to upgrade the current video system at the borough hall/police station: Northeast Remote Surveillance & Alarm, \$1,400 (maintenance), \$3,600 (equipment) totaling \$5,000; Reliable Security Solutions quote \$9,911.96 Joe Butrie made a motion to table the issue and call to get more quotes and ask Northeast what the cost will be for higher megapixel cameras.

Employee handbook. Jared Soto explained that more detail is needed regarding the disciplinary procedure section, the progression of discipline; verbal warning, written warning, termination. **Joe Butrie made a motion to adopt the employee handbook after inserting the verbiage provided by Jared Soto regarding the disciplinary process. The motion was second by Jared Soto, all were in favor, motion passed.**

Martin Ditsky announced executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters at 8:20 p.m.

Back on the record 9:05 p.m.

Joe Butrie made a motion to advertise the Victoria Lot, 201 W. Bertsch St., for sale, with a minimum bid to be set at a future date after discussion with Attorney Greek. Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.

Councilman John Turcmanovich volunteered to fill the vacancy on the Civil Service Commission. **Motion was made to appoint John Turcmanovich to the Civil Service Commission by Matthew Walsh, second by Joe Butrie, all were in favor, motion passed.**

Regarding the Jesse Hiles Lawsuit, a motion was made by Matthew Walsh to have Attorney Greek review the case for further action, motion was second by Joe Butrie, all were in favor, motion passed.

Councilwoman Rose Mary Cannon walked along the business district, checking empty store fronts for code compliance with the Quality of Life Ordinance. Letters will be sent to those in violation to clean-up their properties.

Lansford Alive had benches installed at the corner of Ridge and Tunnel Streets as part of the streetscape project. The Public Works Department will remove one or both of the old benches at that intersection (along American First Realty) and place them at the Ashton Hill Park.

Motion to adjourn was made by Joe Butrie, second by John Turcmanovich, all were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Secretary/Treasurer