

The December 14, 2016 meeting of Lansford Borough Council was held 6:30 p.m. at the borough hall, 1 W. Ridge Street. The meeting was called to order by President Martin Ditsky and everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Secretary Treasurer Jill Seigendall, attending were Martin Ditsky, Matthew Walsh, Joseph Butrie, Jared Soto, Mayor James Romankow and Solicitor Michael Greek. Absent were Collin Jones, Rose Mary Cannon, and John Turcmanovich. Four residents and two high school seniors also attended.

PUBLIC COURTESY

Christopher Ondrus, no address stated, voiced budget concerns and suggested all fund balances be reflected on the agenda as well as the meeting minutes. Jared Soto asked for specifics of what he wanted. He requested a breakdown of all accounts with prior and current month balances on the agenda.

Terry Bono, 308 E. Patterson Street, reopened access at the back of his property bordering E. Bertsch St. He said the area was formerly a garage and he has installed off street parking. Solicitor Greek instructed Bono to speak to Zoning Officer Steve Meylach and Attorney Greek would do the same about the subject.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November 9, 2016 minutes were offered for approval, Matthew Walsh made a motion to approve the minutes. Joseph Butrie second the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Martin Ditsky read a Letter from Kevin Collevchio, issuing his resignation from the Civil Service Commission. Ditsky read a letter of interest in filling the vacancy from Steven Foster. **There was a motion to accept the resignation by Joe Butrie. Matt Walsh second the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.** Matt Walsh requests more information before an appointment is made. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Municipal Administration – November meeting was cancelled, no written report.

Public Safety – November meeting was cancelled, no written report.

Fire Department – The November report was read by Joe Butrie. 17 calls in November, 9 in town, 6 to Summit Hill, 2 to Coaldale.

Ambulance – The November report was read by Martin Ditsky. The Leighton Ambulance responded to 53 calls in Lansford with an average response time of 8 minutes from time of dispatch to arrival on the scene.

Mayors Report – The November Report was read by Jared Soto because the mayor had to leave the meeting for a short time. The monthly amount collected was \$2,308.95, year to date total is \$41,256.61.

Police Report – The November Police Report was read by Jared Soto. The arrest report included 15 criminal arrests, 7 traffic citations, 2 non-traffic citations, 1 meter ticket 19 parking tickets and 16 quality of life tickets.

Parks & Recreation – The November meeting was cancelled, no written report.

Public Works – The November meeting was postponed to 12/12/16. Martin Ditsky reported that a brief meeting was held. Topics reviewed were subcontracting grass cutting on borough owned properties and the heavy equipment parked at the palace, 101 W. Bertsch Street, where demolition is planned. There was discussion of using community service/juvenile probation workers for grass cutting jobs and quality of life violations. The probation office would need to provide supervision for these workers. Ditsky reported that the truck utility box for the 2001 Ford F350 pickup is being constructed and the 1997 Ford Crown Victoria, “powder puff” needs to be prepared for public workers’ use on the road.

Code Enforcement – The November report from Zoning Officer Steve Meylach was enclosed and reviewed.

Planning, Zoning & Code Committee - The November meeting was cancelled, no written report.

Tax Collectors Report - Borough Taxes collected in November \$7,078.61; \$865,716.87 collected in 2016.

Treasurers Report - Bills to be approved total \$20,613.98, Monthly checking account activity, Income Report, Profit/Loss Budget vs. Actual were presented to council. Bank Account balances at the end of November are listed below:

Bank Accounts

Nov 30, 2016 balances

2016 FUND/Saving & Checking	ACCT NO	Nov
General Fund	0132	\$259,049.68
Sanitation Fund	0222	\$77,176.94
Sanitation Fund	0283	\$51,468.62
Sewer Transmission	1198	\$163,964.50
General Fund	4685	\$3,000.00

General Fund	4842	\$2,180.00
General Fund	9908	closed
Lansford Pool A	1905	\$1,329.62
Hi Way/Liq Fuels Fund	3886	\$85,178.77
General Fund(Grants)	4585	.00
Sewer Transmission	5537	\$94,047.12
Sewer Transmission	5402	\$202,567.85
LST	5772	\$33,487.92
Sanitation Fund	6036	\$12,155.48
Fire Tax Fund	6283	\$40,662.51
Park & Rec Fund	6291	\$62,353.64
Street Light Fund	6309	\$17,105.84
RIRA	7437	Closed
Total		\$1,105,728.49

The Police Pension Audit amount of \$7,841, State Aid received due to overstatement of Police Pension wages, has been returned to the state.

A motion to approve payment of the bills was made by Matthew Walsh. The motion was second by Jared Soto, all were in favor, motion passed.

Solicitor's Report - The property auction of 201 W Bertsch St, known as the Community Garden, was held today 3:30 p.m. with a minimum bid of \$8,000.00 advertised. Solicitor Greek explained that 2 mortgages exist on the properties and he will have them removed, Frank Longo, represented by David Bergeron and Attorney Angelo Almonti, offered \$2,998.00 for the property. The bid was not accepted by the borough.

All Committee Reports are on file in the borough office.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

- Keith Maxwell of Northeast Surveillance plans to install system upgrades and new cameras in 2 to 3 weeks.
- Bid Tabulation for Elks demolition, 6 E. Ridge Street was received from Northeast Industrial Services Corporation: one bid in the amount of \$99,748.00 with alternate Bid #1 for \$19,000.00. Totaling \$118,748.00 Borough engineer Eric Snyder of Keystone Consulting Engineers recommended the bid be accepted.
- The police pension plan auditor and the borough auditor both advised the borough to include administrative expenses in its calculation of the Police Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) worksheet. The original 2017 MMO was estimated to be \$19,418.00. The revised MMO calculation including administration expenses is \$24,418.00. **Jared Soto made a motion to accept the revised 2017 Police MMO totaling \$24,418.00, the motion was second by Matt Walsh, all were in favor, motion passed.**
- **Resolution 2016-15 approving the 2017 Tax Anticipation Note for \$125,000 (with a \$1,000 fee) was offered for approval. A motion was made by Matthew Walsh to approve Resolution 2016-15. The motion was second by Jared Soto, all were in favor, motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

- A handicap parking application was considered for William Meyerriecks, 364 W. Snyder Ave. The Handicap Parking committee, Jared Soto, James Romankow, & Jill Seigendall approved of the application. **Jared Soto made a motion to approve the handicap parking spot at 364 W Snyder Ave. The motion was second by Matt Walsh, all were in favor, motion passed.**
- Mayor Romankow left the meeting for a short time so Jared Soto read the Mayor's Proclamation for School Choice Week, to be observed January 22-28, 2017.
- Mark Nalesnick of the Carbon County Emergency Management Association sent two resolutions for council to consider regarding hazard mitigation and hazard vulnerability assessment plan update. **Resolution 2016-16, Carbon County 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan, was passed on a motion made by Matthew Walsh, and second by Joe Butrie. All were in favor.**
- **Resolution 2016-17 Carbon County 2015 Hazard Vulnerability Assessment & Mitigation Plan Update was passed on a motion by Jared Soto, and second by Matthew Walsh. All were in favor.**
- Borough council was advised about a civil action brought by Barbara Goncalves/Howard J. Georgeson LLC regarding condemnation of 304 W. Front Street. Attorney Greek filed objections on some issues. There will be a hearing filed on her appeal.

- Martin Ditsky raised parking issues at the following locations; Center & W. Ridge Streets, W. Abbott & Cortright Streets. Martin explained the “T” intersection at Center & W. Ridge Streets is a hazardous situation for drivers. Martin and Joe Butrie recommended 2 parallel parking spaces be painted at the west end of the 100 block (on the south side) where it meets Center Street. Mary Soberick in the audience (and former councilwoman) recommended using the last 3 spaces as compact car only spaces or erecting “no trucks” signs in front of those parking spaces. At W. Abbot & Cortright Streets, going up Cortright on right there is a garage where parking causes a potential hazard. He recommends a “no parking” area be lined off.
- Advertisement of existing Snow Ordinance as an advertisement (not public notice). **Motion to put an ad in the paper was made by Joe Butrie, second by Martin Ditsky. All were in favor, motion passed.**
- Advertisement of seats expiring at the end of 2016. **Motion to advertise all open seats was made by Matthew Walsh, second by Joe Butrie. All were in favor except Martin Ditsky. Motion passed.**

Council convened to Executive Session for personnel purposes & discussion of borough property at 7:50 p.m.

Adjournment

Back on the record at 8:00 p.m., no further actions were taken and a motion to adjourn was made by Joe Butrie, second Matt Walsh, all were in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall

Secretary / Treasurer