

The Monthly meeting of Lansford Borough Council for general and executive purposes was held 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, 2016, at the borough hall. The meeting was called to order by President Martin Ditsky and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were 9 residents and 1 reporter in attendance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Secretary Treasurer Jill Seigendall. All council members were in attendance; Martin Ditsky, Rose Mary Cannon, Matthew Walsh, Joe Butrie, Jared Soto, John Turcmanovich, Colin Jones and Mayor James Romankow. Solicitor Michael Greek was absent.

PUBLIC COURTESY

Tommy Vadyak, 334 W Abbott St., explained that several months ago during snow removal, Mike Radocha, while working for the borough, ripped out the curb in front of his home. Martin Ditsky explained that Radocha or the borough will make the repair. Additionally, Tommy Vadyak voiced disapproval of the current code enforcement company (LVIS) citing the following situations for which he has filed complaints and nothing has been done: 1) height of a fence at his neighbors is over the code height limit; 2) Pit bulls feces in the yard of the home behind Vadyak's are being deposited in a bucket and not being disposed of ;3) 318 W Abbott Street, a previously condemned house, is being rented without having a residential rental license or initial inspection ;4) 232 E Ridge Street has a fence over the height limit, an illegal driveway and he questioned the legality of its land subdivision. Vadyak recommends the borough's code officers, Lehigh Valley Inspection Services be fired. On another topic, Vadyak was impressed by Officer Bonner who responded to fireworks being set off; saying Bonner moved from yard to yard to apprehend the culprit and was courteous to neighbors in his pursuit.

Steve Billman, 342 W. Snyder Avenue, was asked to move his camper, parked on private property, and he questioned why he was targeted while there are campers illegally parked on borough streets that are not being cited. He explained that there are not enough parking spaces to accommodate the number of cars in the neighborhood. He is wondering where to park. Also, the brick/stone/mason red garage adjacent to his property is vermin infested and run down and he said people are staying in it. It is disconcerting. Ditsky said he is familiar with the structure and it is being looked into.

Irma Leibensberger, 164 W Ridge Street, thanked Mayor Romankow and Martin Ditsky for attending the Ethnic Festival sponsored by Lansford Alive on July 9th at Kennedy Park.

Mayor Romankow questioned the sign erected for the Farmer's Market being held on Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. along Tunnel Street. He thought Lansford Alive was denied using a sign for its flower sale last fall. Matt Walsh explained the denial was not for a sign, it was about use of the sidewalk for the flower sale. The sidewalk cannot be blocked.

Marie Ondrus, 36 Coal Street, asked how many moving permits were issued this year. Jill Seigendall said the information is available at the borough office during regular office hours.

Charles Earley, 509 E. Bertsch Street, is disgusted with the property maintenance of his neighbor's house and the conduct of the people living there. He has complained for years and nothing is being done. He feels he is getting a run around. The mayor added that the police dept. has been at that house 14 times in the past two weeks.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- **June 8, 2016 monthly meeting minutes** – **Matthew Walsh** made a motion to accept the minutes, second by **Joe Butrie**, all in favor, motion passed.
- **June 23, 2016 special meeting minutes** – **Matthew Walsh** made a motion to accept the minutes, second by **Rose Mary Cannon**, all in favor, motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

- PA Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) – In a letter from Scott Dunkelberger of the (CFA), the Local Share Account program application submitted by the borough for additional streetscape improvements was denied. Martin Ditsky explained that competition was strong this year and when speaking to Mandy Book at the CFA and Marguerite in Doyle Heffley's office, it was explained that applications including some type of matching funds were more apt to be funded than those that had no funds to contribute. Conversation moved to funding options for building a new borough garage.
- Edgemont Road request regarding lighting from Joann Protivnak – Joann is asking for a statement in writing that the road is private. It was established that the road is private and does not appear on the borough Liquid Fuels map. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to send a letter to Joann Protivnak stating that the portion of Edgemont Road she is referring to (to install a solar light) is a private road and the borough**

has no obligation to maintain any installed lighting. Second by Matthew Walsh. All are in favor, motion passed.

- Heffelfinger property & “No Parking Zone” painting request from Joe Genits. Mr. Genits recommends the borough buy the Heffelfinger property parcel 122A1-25-C22 and paint white lines on the south side of W. Snyder Ave. from 342 W Snyder Ave. to the unnamed roadway, known as Kronies Road, erect and repair “no parking” signs at several locations.
- Attorney Greek Letter to inactive Lansford Ambulance Association requesting a receiver be appointed to distribute its assets.
- Attorney Greek letter to WADE Associates regarding the pool feasibility study. Wade Associates did not submit the pool feasibility study as promised. Attorney Greek is sending a letter to WADE Associates requesting a refund of \$2,000.00 down payment the borough paid for the feasibility study.
- PA Dept of Environmental Protection letter to Mr. Sepia of Silberline Manufacturing Co, 201 E Dock St, asking for a remedial plan to stop the elevated levels of Trichloroethene found in the main sewer line.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Municipal Administration – no meeting, interviews for prospective assistant borough secretary were held instead. Rose Mary Cannon explained that she is looking into getting estimates for a new front door, perhaps handicap accessible, and an outdoor faucet for watering the street side trees (planted as part of the streetscape project) and for washing police vehicles. Rose Mary Cannon commented on the building improvements PenCor made to its building at W. Bertsch & Coal Streets. Conversation turned to Park & Recreation, Jared Soto spoke to youth at the skate park and said the equipment is sufficient however resurfacing is needed at a 90’ by 30’ area. Rose Mary and Jared made lists of improvements needed at the borough parks and gave it to the public works department. She hopes to have a volunteer day to make some of the improvements and move equipment. Also, the park mulch has not been ordered yet.
- Public Safety - read by John Turcmanovich. Repairs are needed on Car 101, Ford Crown Vic and Car 102. Chief Soberick requests a second advertisement for full time officers, that civil service testing be done by a professional testing company, the purchase of ammunition, and using a new system for blood testing. **Matthew Walsh made a motion to approve the trade in of all standard issue handguns, the purchase of new handguns for all officers, and that all the guns be purchased be in the same caliber. Second by John Turcmanovich, all were in favor, motion passed.**
- Fire Department- Read by John Turcmanovich, the department answered 15 calls, held 4 fund raising events, and 11 training sessions in June.
- Ambulance- read by Martin Ditsky, the department responded to 46 incidents in June with an average time of dispatch to arrival on scene of 10 minutes.
- Mayors Report- Read by James Romankow - Monthly total collected for June is \$3,239.11. Year to date total is \$28,977.22.
- Police Report- Read by James Romankow – During the month of June there were 20 criminal arrests, 11 traffic citation, 9 non traffic citation, 2 parking tickets and 40 Quality of Life tickets issued. Romankow thanked the Lehighton Ambulance for assisting the police at a possible overdose.
- Parks & Recreation – no meeting was held
- Public Works – Read by Martin Ditsky. Work to be done by the summer employees was discussed. A utility box is needed for the Ford 2001 F350, estimated price is between \$3,500.00 to \$10,000. Brad Kane contractor has completed the repairs at the borough garage.
- Community Development/ Planning /Zoning – no report.
- Code Enforcement - Rose Mary Cannon noted that 300 Residential Rental License renewal forms have been mailed out. No updates on the demolition of St Ann’s Church, 8 E Bertsch Street, or the Palace demolition.
- Treasure’s Report, Bills to be approved, Income Report, P/L Budget Vs Actual. Total Bills to be approved \$40,545.84 from the following funds.: General \$ 18,591.56; Sanitation \$ 14.72; Sewer Transmission, \$19,391.15; Park & Rec, \$1,118.41; Hi Way, \$614.00; Fire Tax, \$816.00 . **Motion to approve the bills and pay half of the Tax Anticipation Note was made by Matthew Walsh, second by Colin Jones, all were in favor. Motion passed.**
- Tax Collector’s Report- Year to date total collected is \$ 708,660.59.
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee - no report, the next meeting is Sept. 21,2016.
- Solicitor’s Report – no report.

All Committee Reports are on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Ordinance No 2009-07, regarding parking in the unit block of W. Ridge Street. The ordinance will go to the solicitor to review needed changes.
- Borough owned parcel #123A-24-H48 (top of Tunnel Street). Motion to table was made by Martin Ditsky.
- Dock Street Bridge – Martin Ditsky explained the borough workers will look at it.
- Clewell Wall – Solicitor is needed to review the situation
- Vacancy Ordinance – Matt Walsh will get the changes needed and get it to Solicitor Greek.
- SALDO – Rose Mary Cannon explained that the Solicitor recommended consultants be contacted to review the Land Development Ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

- Friends of Recreation Special Event request, to hold a poker run on July 23rd at the pool parking lot. Motion made by Jared Soto to approve the event with the stipulation that proof of insurance is received by Friday, July 15th. Second by Joe Butrie, all were in favor, motion passed.
- Mayor Romankow requested the purchase of 2 shot guns. After some discussion the Mayor suggested Chief Soberick attend the next meeting to explain the department's needs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A short break was taken at 8:15 p.m. followed by a 20 minute executive session.

Out of Executive Session

Colin Jones made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Borough and Police to be sent to borough FOP for their approval. Second by John Turcmanovich, all were in favor, motion passed.

Matthew Walsh made a motion to hire Wendy Butrie, with the necessary background checks, as assistant part time secretary/treasurer at the rate of \$10.00 per hour for a probationary period of 6 months. On roll call vote, Matthew Walsh, John Turcmanovich, Martin Ditsky and Colin Jones voted yes, whereas Jared Soto and Rose Mary Cannon voted no, Joe Butrie abstained (husband of Wendy Butrie). Motion passed.

Matt Walsh made a motion to hire Brian Kiselewsky as a part time officer. Second by Colin Jones, all were in favor. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Joe Butrie made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m., second by Matthew Walsh, all were in favor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Secretary/Treasurer