

The Monthly meeting of Lansford Borough Council for general and executive purposes was held 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 14, 2016, at the borough hall. The meeting was called to order by President Martin Ditsky and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were 22 residents and 1 reporter, Chris Reber, from the Times News Newspaper in attendance.

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COURTESY

Robert Dobash, 383 W. Ridge Street, asked for permission to paint the flag holders along Ridge Street black. They are presently silver. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to have Robert Dobash paint the flag holders, second by Matthew Walsh, all were in favor, motion passed.**

Mary Soberick, 109 W. Abbott Street, on behalf of Friends of Lansford Recreation (FOLR), made a billboard easel or posting (approx. 4 ft. by 8 ft.), showing the level of donations made to the pool fund. She asked to post it outside the borough hall, on the outside of the building or railing. **Joseph Butrie made a motion to allow the Friends of Recreation to put the posting outside of the borough office, attached safely, second by John Turcmanovich, all were in favor, motion passed.**

Nat Halenar, President of FOLR, explained the phases of the pool feasibility study. Nate asked for council's approval of its Monroe County Local Share Account (LSA) grant application. Nate and Rose Mary Cannon will be working on the grant application and the application fee will be paid by the FOLR. Bill Richards, from Senator Yudichak's office, urged council to contact the senator's office if anyone has any questions about the grant program. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to approve the Friends of Lansford Recreation LSA grant application, motion was second by Matt Walsh, all were in favor, Motion passed.** Council asked for periodic updates on the activities of Friends of Lansford Recreation.

Pat Whalen, 341 W. Ridge Street, spoke out against construction of a new community pool and vandalism at the pool. She wants welfare recipients to pay for use of the pool, questioned whether curfew and loitering ordinances are being enforced, and is concerned about high taxes. Rose Mary Cannon explained that everyone admitted to the pool had a paid membership or paid for daily entry to the pool. Cannon said, "If you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem." Matt Walsh tried to impress on the audience that borough taxes are not high in comparison to school taxes. Martin Ditsky urged Whalen to attend a pool meeting held on the first Wednesday of the month, to get answers to her questions about the pool. Mayor Romankow assured Whalen that curfew & loitering ordinances are enforced.

Sherry Shellhamer, Summit Hill, assistant manager at the pool, said she is not aware of any vandalism during the 2015 season (when the pool was open) but there is graffiti on the buildings now in 2016. Shellhammer said everybody pays to use the pool and a computer is used to identify those entering and exiting the facility. The staff does everything in their power to keep everybody safe. Nat Halenar, FOLR, said installing cameras would help stop the graffiti problem. The committee is trying to help the community by using private funds as much as possible to construct a new pool, taxes are not to go up because of the pool.

Mary Soberick, 109 W Abbott Street, reported that coming down Walnut Street, at the corner of Walnut and E. Patterson Street, the Stop sign is obstructed.

Charles Earley, 509 E. Bertsch Street, questioned whether the 3 strikes rule in the Residential Licensing Ordinance is being enforced. The mayor said the police can work with the landlord on these issues. Earley explained that charges at the magistrate were dismissed in his neighbor's case and he is interested in the situation. He is concerned about drug use at his neighbors and a car on the street does not have registration. Mayor Romankow asked for make and model of the car and he will look into it.

Don Gildea, 107 W. Kline Avenue, asked that the snow "No Parking" ordinance be dropped. He suggested the main streets should be plowed and that's it. The ordinance cannot be enforced on narrow streets. He hopes plowing for the winter is being discussed.

Charles Early asked whether parking lines are being painted. Ditsky explained yes line painting has been done on Kline St. and begun on the south side of Water St., Center St. & Chestnut St. between Kline and Bertsch. Ditsky mentioned streets that will be patched.

Romankow announced a Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held next Tuesday, Sept 20th, 6:30 p.m. at the borough office.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- August 10, 2016 – minutes were available for approval. Rose Mary Cannon made a motion that the minutes be tabled due to just receiving them and council needs time to review them.

CORRESPONDENCE

- David Bargeron, of Corker & Almonti Attorneys at Law, Letter asking whether Council is interested in selling the Victoria Lot. Council is considering advertising the lot for sale.
- UCC Accessibility Auditor, Steven Laudenslager, PA Department of Labor & Industry, sent a letter stating the audit is completed.
- Letter from Fred Johnson stating that maintenance and upkeep of the PPL Solar light in Edgemont is not the responsibility of the borough.
- Carbon County Juvenile probation Dept – Letter offering free manual labor from individuals on probation needing to perform community service. Joe Butrie and Matt Walsh want to take advantage of this; cutting grass and painting trim on the borough building. Jared recommended we make a list to send to the county at the next meeting.
- Tax Assessment Appeals – Attorney Greek explained that the amounts published for upset sales are for all taxes; borough, county, & school district.
- Lansford Alive letters: 1. Invitation to attend check presentation to Lansford Alive from First Niagara's Charitable Contribution Program on September 22, 2016, 9:30 a.m. at First Niagara Bank, Lansford. 2. Request to approve Lansford Alive's "Streetscape" (second phase) LSA grant application. LSA grant applications are due September 30, 2016. Ditsky asked for a motion from council to approve both Lansford Alive's streetscape application and the borough's garage application. **A motion was made by Rose Mary Cannon to approve the streetscape and borough garage LSA grant applications. Motion was second by Joe Butrie, all were in favor, motion passed.** 3. Request that Lansford Alive members volunteer to update the Residential Rental Licenses List for the borough; access to sewer transmission billing list, sanitation billing list, and landlord list. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to thank Lansford Alive for its interest but updating the Residential Rental Licensing List is being done by borough personnel (in-house) and it should remain that way, denying the request, Joe Butrie second the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.**
- Nathan Halenar and Friends of Lansford Recreation gave an estimate of the pool cost from Brent Boyer of Aquatic Facility Design, Pool reconfiguration and refurbishment \$950,000. Phase II project – bathhouse refurbishment \$600,000 for a total of \$1,550,000.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Municipal Administration - Jared Soto, bids for resurfacing Skateboard Park were: Mike Reilly, \$12,000 to \$15,000, Motola's \$5,000, Alicia paving \$7,425.00. Soto reported Alicia is most reliable quote. Rose Mary Cannon reviewed the committee meeting minutes; Tom Reigel put in a quote to put in faucet, another plumber will give estimate tomorrow. Handicap doors for the borough office are being considered. Administration agreed if a price can be reached with a prospective buyer, the Victoria Lot should be sold and put back on the tax rolls. Cannon, assisted by code enforcement, wants to contact downtown empty store front owners and ask them to cleanup those buildings. **Cannon made a motion to find candidates for a junior council seat by writing a letter to Panther Valley High School, CC Vo-Tech and Marian High School. Cannon will contact the schools. Motion was second by Jared Soto, all were in favor except Matthew Walsh. Motion passed.**
- **Public Safety** - read by John Turcmanovich - There are no new applicants for full time patrolman, low pay schedule, heavy work load, and high crime rates seem to be the reason. Secretary Seigendall said an advertisement was posted on the PA Chief of Police website. Rose Mary Cannon questioned the most recent crime watch meeting. The mayor said 5 people attended – the group is early in the process, ward managers have not yet been assigned.

- **Fire Department** - read by John Turcmanovich, 10 total calls in August, 4 mutual aid calls to Summit Hill and 2 to Coaldale, 127 calls for 2016 to date.
- **Ambulance** - Report was not received in time for the meeting.
- **Mayors Report** - Read by James Romankow - Monthly total collected for August is \$3,126.00. Year to date total is \$35,229.22.
- **Police Report**- Read by James Romankow - During the month of August there were 18 criminal arrests, 21 traffic citation, 14 non traffic citation, 19 parking tickets and 58 Quality of Life tickets issued.
- **Parks & Recreation** – Read by Rose Mary Cannon, Brent Boyer of Aquatic Facilities will be coming in a few weeks to complete the core boring, Cannon requests pool facility manager Smokey Krajnak be kept on the borough payroll to perform duties for completion of the feasibility study.
- **Public Works** – Read by Martin Ditsky. Work to be done by the summer employees was discussed. The new “No Parking” snow emergency signs have been ordered, cost \$1,300.00. A new storm inlet will be installed at Patterson & Cortright Streets. A utility box is needed for the Ford 2001 F350, estimated price is between \$3,500.00 to \$10,000. Contractor Brad Kane has completed the repairs at the borough garage.
- **Community Development/ Planning /Zoning** – Read by Matthew Walsh. Matt Walsh was named new chairman of the committee by Ditsky. Discussed at the meeting was Quality of Life ordinance enforcement, zoning enforcement, Moving Permit enforcement, increasing fines, building public awareness, and Residential Rental Licensing.
- **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.
- **Tax Collector’s Report** – August receipts \$6,436.09. Year to date total collected is \$845,851.26.
- **Treasure’s Report** - Bills to be approved, Income Report, P/L Budget Vs Actual. Total Bills to be approved \$12,353.49 from the following funds.: General \$ 6,280.31; Sewer \$1,355.68; Hi Way, \$4,717.50. General Fund balance is \$348,522.57. Rose Mary Cannon pointed out that water turnoffs for delinquent Sewer Transmission accounts was done in August. Approx. \$15,000 was collected. **Motion to approve the bills was made by Matthew Walsh, second by Colin Jones, all were in favor. Motion passed.**
- **Carbon County Tax Collection Committee** - no report, the next meeting is Sept. 21, 2016.
- **Solicitor’s Report** – Regarding the Elks building to be demolished: Attorney Greek spoke to the county, president Ditsky and Keystone Engineers and explained that the borough’s engineer is reluctant to go into the property at 6 E Ridge St. until the borough owns it. The borough should purchase the property through a repository sale as close to the demolition date as possible.
Regarding the SALDO: In the past the borough accepted the county Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance(SALDO), which was then rescinded by the county and therefore rescinded by Lansford Borough. The borough presently does not have a SALDO. Attorney Greek said a minor land development subdivision ordinance is being created as well as the police chief’s contract.

All Committee Reports are on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Ordinance No 2016-10, regarding parking in the unit block of W. Ridge Street. Ordinance 2016-10 was advertised. **Motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-10 was made by Jared Soto, second by Rose Mary Cannon, all were in favor except Joseph Butrie, motion passed.**
- Two Handicap Applications were considered for approval; Cindy Tobias at 34 E. Bertsch Street & Edward Nunemacher, 37 E. Bertsch Street. The Handicap Parking Committee recommended approval of both spaces. **Motion to approve both spaces was made by Jared Soto, second by Rose Mary Cannon, all were in favor, motion passed.**

NEW BUSNISS

- .Trick or Treat night was set for Monday, October 31, 2016, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Residents are asked to put their porch lights on.
- A Special Event application was considered for a prayer event outside of St. Katherine Drexel Roman Catholic Church, 124 E Abbott Street, on the grass island owned by the borough on Sunday, Sept 25th at noon. The group wants to celebrate 125 years, however the church recently closed and the group is trying to revive it. The group cannot meet on church diocese property. Council requires insurance on borough property. **Motion to approve the event and block off E. Abbott Street between Springgarden and Walnut, provided insurance is obtained, was made by Matthew Walsh, second by John Turcmanovich, all were in favor, motion passed.**

- 2017 MMO (minimum obligation) for Police Pension Plan, estimate amounts to \$19,418.00
 - Resolution 2016-09, Annual contribution rate to police pension plan 3.5%
Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to adopt resolution 2016-09, second by John Turcmanovich, all were in favor, motion passed.
 - Resolution 2016-08, Police Pension Professional Services Contract Procedures.
Jared Soto made a motion to adopt resolution 2016-08, second by Rose Mary Cannon, all were in favor, motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A short break was taken at 9:00 p.m. followed by a 20 minute executive session.

Out of Executive Session

- **Matthew Walsh made a motion to raise the CDL snow plow driver rate to \$13.50, second by Jared Soto, all were in favor, motion passed.**
- **Motion was made by Matthew Walsh, second by John Turcmanovich, to accept the Police Pension Plan 2017 MMO \$19,418.00 as presented earlier in the meeting. All were in favor, motion passed.**
- **Motion was made by Matthew Walsh to add one day (8 hrs.) per week to the Zoning Officer's hours (LVIS), motion second by Jared Soto, all were in favor, motion passed.**
- Chris Ondrus, president of Lansford Alive, asked to speak and asked why the offer to help update the Residential Rental Licensing List was refused earlier in the meeting. Joseph Butrie explained that volunteers should not be involved in work in the business office, the offer is appreciated but council declined the offer.

ADJOURNMENT

Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m., second by Joseph Butrie, all were in favor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Secretary/Treasurer