

The May 10, 2017 monthly Lansford council meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Martin Ditsky and the pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary Treasurer Jill Seigendall took attendance. Council members present were President Martin Ditsky, Vice President Rose Mary Cannon, Mayor James Romankow, Joseph (Joe) Butrie, Jared Soto, John Turcmanovich, and Solicitor Michael Greek. Absent was Colin Jones. In the audience were Chris Reber, Times News reporter, Donald Gildea, Robert Silver, Robert Dobosh, Irma Leibensperger, Marie Ondrus, Chris Ondrus, Mark Jancsics & guest, and TV 13 camera man/reporter.

Public Courtesy:

Robert Dobosh, 383 W. Ridge Street, asked who will take down the Christmas lights at Kennedy Park. Martin Ditsky said the public works department will take them down.

Mary Soberick, 109 E. Abbott Street, referencing last month's meeting, asked whether her suggestion was considered to use unspent park & recreation funds from 2016 as a match for new grant applications. Rose Mary Cannon said it was not specifically discussed at the May 3rd Park & Recreation committee meeting however the next grant application requires a 15% match and is due May 31, 2017. Martin Ditsky said it will be considered at the next committee meeting.

Bob Silver, 17 E. Ridge Street, asked whether there was a response from the contractor regarding the concrete used on the sidewalks installed with the Streetscape project. Martin says no new news. Bob asked who is responsible for the demolition of the Elks; to be sure it is being done according to the bid specifications. Silver said watering is not being done to keep dust down. Martin explained the grant is from the carbon county commissioners and Lansford engineer, Keystone Engineers, Eric Snyder, is involved with the demolition being performed by Northeast Demolition. Silver said it is not being done according to contract. Rose Mary Cannon explained there are meetings scheduled between the contractor, the borough engineer and the commissioners to address any concerns about the progress of the demolition.

Mark Jancsics, 506 Center St., Slatington, owns several rental properties in Lansford. He is concerned about the tenant in his rental unit at 510 E. Bertsch Street and the enforcement of the three strikes rule as written in the Residential Rental Licensing Ordinance. Police have repeatedly been to the neighboring property at 512 E Bertsch Street on domestic relations issues. Jancsics wants his tenants to stay but the tenants want to leave because of the situation. This is affecting Jancsics income. Attorney Greek explained that the 3 strikes rule cannot be enforced on domestic relations issues; to the victim or assailant. Jancsics wants to know why the police aren't charging the neighbor. Attorney Greek said charges have been filed and he suggested Jancsics sue the neighbor (or landlord of the assailants).

Christopher Ondrus, 10 Edgemont Road, questioned the Planning Commission item on the agenda and the business district 1 yr. warranty for the streetscape sidewalk project. Rose Mary Cannon reiterated that the contractor has not received an answer from the concrete provider. Ondrus asked why during the last snow storm, snow removal in the business district was done last. He said he did not like the attitude of council regarding businesses, asked for strict code enforcement, and left the meeting.

Martin Ditsky explained that such a large amount of snow was not expected. The snow removal plan was put together by himself, John Turcmanovich, Mayor Romankow and Chief Jack Soberick. The cost was about \$27,000.00 and they did the best they could.

Joe Butrie, 443 E. Ridge St, asked who will paint the cross walks after the Route 209 repaving project is finished and when the office front counter be completed. The crosswalks will be painted by the borough and the counter, constructed by Valley Home Construction, is expected to be finished before the next council meeting.

Meeting Minutes:

The April 12, 2017 meeting minutes were reviewed. **A motion was made by Rose Mary Cannon to approve the April 12, 2017 minutes. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor except Martin Ditsky, the motion passed.**

Correspondence:

Lansford Alive Events committee submitted a special event application to hold an event on July 8, 2017 at Kennedy Park. **Matthew Walsh made a motion to approve the event and Rose Mary Cannon second the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.**

Lansford Alive Events Committee submitted a special events application to hold "Music in the Park" on Sundays in June and July. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to approve "Music in the Park"; The motion was second by Matthew Walsh. All were in favor, motion passed.**

A letter was received from Lansford Alive informing council it will be doing work at Kennedy Park; power wash the gazebo, laying pavers and planting flowers. **Joseph Butrie made a motion to approve Lansford Alive's planned improvements. The motion was second by Martin Ditsky. All were in favor, motion passed.**

An invitation was received from Angela Canady, 2020 Decennial Recruiting, inviting council to a census briefing, Thursday, May 11, 2017. Martin Ditsky will attend.

Three residents residing along the 300 block of W. Patterson Street wrote letters to council requesting a "Children at Play" sign near Kennedy Park. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to reply to the residents explaining Kennedy park is not a playground, it does not have play equipment and was previously designated a quite grassy area for reflection. Joe Butrie second the motion, all were in favor except Matthew Walsh who felt a letter was not necessary, motion passed.**

An e-mail and flyer was viewed from Responsible Recycling Services with available dates to hold a recycling event for electronics and household goods. Matthew Walsh is opposed to the event and said residents can take most items directly to the dump. More investigation into available options was suggested and Jared Soto asked the topic be tabled until next month.

- The following correspondence were noted on the agenda but **not** enclosed to conserve paper, copies were available on request:
 - Invitation to attend Historical Society Open House, 117 E. Bertsch St, Sunday, May 21, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.; Regular hours open Thursdays 6-8 p.m.

- Philadelphia Insurance correspondence regarding condemnation of 304 W. Front Street
- Carbon County Council of Governments Minutes, March 28th meeting
- Beyer-Barber Co. Verification of compliance; 2012-2015 Audit of Police Pension Plan.
- UNIVEST, First Quarter of 2017 Statement of Account for Lansford Borough Police Pension Plan
- Invitation to Martin Ditsky & James Romankow to attend the mayor's conference May 20, 2017, May 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Northampton Community College.
- Phone call regarding former Lansford Ambulance; Appointed Liquidating Receiver Attorney Michael Garfield & John Kloss from Eastern PA EMS Council are handling the process to distribute the former Lansford Ambulance to another Eastern PA EMS Department.
- Compliance Audit 2015-2016 of the Lansford Fireman's Relief Association by PA Dept. of Auditor General

Committee Reports:

Municipal Administration – May 3, 2017 scheduled meeting was cancelled, no report. Rose Mary Cannon mentioned there was no response from business owners to the borough's offer to meet with them. Buildings not in compliance in the business district were assessed. The committee will see what code improvements are needed. Jared Soto said as a council there is only so much it can do.

Public Safety - The April 24, 2017 committee report was read by John Turcmanovich. The group discussed testing procedures for full time officers and sergeant. One of the officers hired at the April 12th meeting, Joseph Starosta, did not take the position. A new list of qualified officers is needed from the Civil Service Commission. Turcmanovich will meet with Attorney Greek on how to handle the procedure to form a new eligibility list. The police have reported that the new 2017 Ford Explorer does not run well in the snow. There was discussion on purchasing a prisoner transport vehicle because at times multiple people need to be transported.

Bob Silver, Michael Greek, and Mark Jancsics left the meeting.

Civil Service Commission – John Turcmanovich made a request to advertise for both full time and part time police officers. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to advertise for both part time and full time police applicants. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.**

Fire Department – The American Fire Co. April report was read by Joe Butrie; 10 calls were received, 4 in Lansford, 5 to Summit Hill, 1 to Nesquehoning. 86 Total training hours.

Ambulance – The Lehighon Ambulance responded to 48 incidents in Lansford in April, average response time of 8.17 minutes.

Mayors Report – James Romankow reported a monthly total of \$2,638.89. Year to date total is \$14,456.35.

Police Report – The April report included 16 criminal arrests, 7 traffic citations, 5 non-traffic citations, 32 parking/ ordinance tickets, 40 quality of life tickets. **Mayor Romankow read a Proclamation honoring Lansford Police Officers and the observance of Police Week, May 14-20, 2017, and May 15th Peace Officers Day, all flags are to be flown at half-mast in honor of officers killed in the line of duty.**

Michael Greek returned to the meeting.

Rose Mary Cannon thanked Jared Soto for moving the 15 boxes of old records out of the borough office.

Parks & Recreation – Rose Mary Cannon read the May 3rd meeting report. The Friends of the Pool will hold a golf tournament June 11, 2017. Jared Soto made a list of jobs at the park that can be done by borough workers. Some jobs may be OK for community service workers. Martin noted that trees at the pool park need to be trimmed. Rose Mary Cannon will get estimates. There was discussion about reroofing the gazebo at Kennedy Park and resurfacing the skate park with either concrete or blacktop. Also, tennis court nets need to be put up.

Public Works – The April 24th meeting report was read by Martin Ditsky. Items discussed were patching Dock Street from 390 W. Snyder Ave. to Route 209 and the guard rail at the intersection of Snyder and Springgarden. **Martin Ditsky suggested the May meetings for Zoning & Ordinance, Public Safety, and Public Works committees be moved from May 29, 2017 to May 22, 2017 due to the Memorial Day holiday on May 29th. Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to advertise the May 29th meeting date change. The motion was second by Joe Butrie. All were in favor, motion passed.**

Community Development / Planning/Zoning – The April 24, 2017 scheduled meeting was cancelled.

Tax Collectors Report – Borough taxes collected in April total \$208,580.24.

Code Enforcement – No report.

Treasurers Report - Bills to be approved total \$29,578.79; General Fund \$13,052.68, Liquid Fuels Fund \$722.20, Sewer Transmission \$10,080.91, Street Light Fund \$5,564.95, Park & Recreation Fund \$158.05. Council's packet also includes Income Statements, Checking Account balances, and Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual for all funds. **A motion to pay the bills totaling \$29,578.79 was made by Rose Mary Cannon. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed. Below are the April ends of month bank balances:**

End of month balances 2017

FUND/Saving & Checking	Acct No	End March	End April
General Fund	0132	\$176,300.68	\$187,006.18
Sanitation Fund	0222	\$64,724.77	\$96,394.63
Sanitation Fund	0283	\$51,502.73	\$51,511.20
Sewer Transmission	1198	\$164,073.17	\$164,100.14
General Fund	4685	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
General Fund	4842	\$2,180.00	\$2,180.00
Lansford Pool A	1905	\$1,329.71	\$1,329.73
Hi Way/Liq Fuels Fund	3886	\$24,940.82	\$112,840.54
General Fund	4585	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sewer Transmission	5537	\$181,491.96	\$190,411.87
Sewer Transmission	5402	\$202,607.81	\$202,628.13
LST	5772	\$33,231.50	\$33,498.62
Sanitation Fund	6036	\$12,155.71	\$12,155.72
Fire Tax Fund	6283	\$32,740.02	\$36,112.05
Park & Rec Fund	6291	\$64,231.33	\$60,449.76
Street Light Fund	6309	\$11,801.98	\$14,978.03
Total		\$1,026,312.19	\$1,168,596.60
Loans		Est Balance	Est Balance
LOAN-M&T Bank	899-5	1,241,091.50	1,226,859.99
LOAN M&T Bank TAN	0059	125,000.00	125,000.00
LOAN Jim Thorpe C Bk	0060	162,664.11	162,664.11
LOAN-John Deere	00635	42,486.70	42,486.70

LOAN-Com First Nat'l	New	36,521.57	36,521.57
		1,607,763.88	1,593,532.37

- Water shutoffs for delinquent sewage transmission accounts are scheduled for May 17th. Delinquent accounts totaling \$33,784.00 were notified, \$9,448.00 is left to collect. \$5,664.00 is uncollectible due to bankruptcy or the water is already shut off.
- The yearly audit of all accounts and the closing audit for the Streetscape Grant have been scheduled for May 24, 25, & 26, 2017 by the accounting firm Hutchinson, Gillihan & Freeh P.C.
- The Liquid Fuels audit for 2015 & 2016 has been completed by the Dept. of the Auditor General.
- Resident Carol German has filed a complaint against the borough with the district magistrate stating that there was a transposition of figures in the calculation of her sewage transmission bill in 2013. No date has been set for the hearing. The figures have been reviewed by current personnel and no discrepancies have been found in the borough's calculations.

Carbon County Tax Collection Committee – no report, next meeting is May 17th.

Solicitor's Report - Solicitor Greek explained that to repair Brimble's Wall the next step is to get bid specs from engineer Eric Snyder.

- Regarding the Elks building demolition, an easement agreement between the borough and Mary Kerestes (Demyanovich) is needed because there is no supporting wall and a new wall will be constructed on the existing foundation. The foundation of the former Elks building will serve as the foundation for a new wall for the portion of the Kerestes (Demyanovich) building which had been attached to the Elks brick wall. A temporary easement will be prepared and signed until a formal permanent easement document is written. The temporary easement is currently with Eric Snyder for his review. It was explained that the easement runs with the land and that it was not uncommon back when the buildings were built (1935) for properties to overlap by a foot or two. **A motion was made by Joe Butrie that if the temporary easement is in agreement between borough engineer Eric Snyder and Solicitor Michael Greek, president of council Martin Ditsky, may sign the temporary easement. The motion was second by Matthew Walsh. All were in favor, motion passed.**

Unfinished Business:

1. Carbon County Tax Claim: Request to forgive borough portion of taxes \$845.72 for 435 W. Patterson Street due to Sheriff Sale. Attorney Greek will check with Tax Claim; he thinks by law the real estate tax is already divested so he questioned why tax claim is requiring the borough to send written notification of forgiveness in this case.
2. Sale of Borough Property at 201 W. Bertsch Street (community garden). Martin Ditsky and Rose Mary Cannon met with David Bergeron, representing the buyer Frank L. Enterprises (Frank Longo), and accepted the bid of \$2,500.00 with a condition of the sale include that sidewalks be constructed per borough ordinances. At the current time the use of the property is unknown. Ditsky and Cannon spoke to the other interested buyer, Mr. Howard Tokash, who is no longer interested. **Joe Butrie made a motion to sell the borough property at 201 W. Bertsch Street to Frank L Enterprises at the price of \$2,500.00 with the stipulation that sidewalks be constructed per borough ordinance. The motion was second by Matthew Walsh. All were in favor, motion passed.**

There was discussion about the lack of a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) in the borough and at the county level. **A motion was made by Jared Soto to write a letter to the 3 member Lansford Planning Commission (Christopher Ondrus, Michael Kafkalas, Joe Butrie) to set meeting dates and review the proposed SALDO on file. The motion included advertising the commission's yearly meeting schedule. The motion was second by Rose Mary Cannon. All were in favor except for Martin Ditsky. The motion passed.**

Brimble's Wall, a deteriorating street retaining wall located between W. Ridge Street and W. Snyder Ave., along the property at 362 W. Snyder Avenue; Borough engineer Eric Snyder will provide bid specs to get estimates for the repair. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to have the engineer provide bid specs to repair or replace the wall in the most economic fashion available. The motion was second by Joe Butrie, all were in favor, motion passed.**

Rose Mary Cannon congratulated Lansford Police Officer Joshua Tom for receiving the Community Police Officers Award by state Sen. John Yudichak, state Rep. Doyle Heffley and Carbon County Commissioners at a ceremony held May 6, 2017, Carbon County Safety Day, at Mauch Chunk Lake. **A motion was made by Matthew Walsh to write a congratulatory letter from council. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.**

A sample ordinance on blighted properties (used in Lehighton) was given to all council members and the topic was tabled until the June 14th council meeting.

Councilman Matthew Walsh left the meeting. Approx. 8:15 p.m.

New Business:

Kevin Burke from Susquehanna Civil Inc., engineering the replacement of 5 traffic signals along Route 209 (East & West Patterson Street), during the PA DOT paving of route 209, requested the following Resolutions be passed. Each Resolution was read aloud by Jared Soto and voted on separately:

Resolution 2017-08 application approval for Traffic Signal at intersection of W. Patterson (SR 0209) and Center Streets. **A motion was made by Joe Butrie to approve Resolution 2017-08 as read. The motion was second by Rose Mary Cannon. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Resolution 2017-09 application approval for Traffic Signal at intersection of W. Patterson (SR 0209) and Coal Streets. **A motion was made by Joe Butrie to approve Resolution 2017-09 as read. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Resolution 2017-10 application approval for Traffic Signal at intersection of W. Patterson (SR 0209) and Tunnel Streets. **A motion was made by Jared Soto to approve Resolution 2017-10 as read. The motion was second by Rose Mary Cannon. All were in favor, motion passed.**

Resolution 2017-11 application approval for Traffic Signal at intersection of E. Patterson (SR0209) and Springgarden Streets. **A motion was made by Joe Butrie to approve Resolution 2017-11 as read. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.**

Resolution 2017-12 application approval for Traffic Signal at intersection of E. Patterson (SR 0209) and Chestnut Streets. **A motion was made by Joe Butrie to approve Resolution 2017-12 as read. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.**

Notification was received from the Carbon County Planning & Development Office that the Federal Fiscal Year 2017 CDBG Program pre-applications will be accepted until June 2, 2017. Martin Ditsky is planning to submit an application for street improvements.

Resolution 2017-05 – Resolution 2017-05 requesting \$250,000.00 in grant funds from the Commonwealth Financing Authority through a Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Grant was read by Martin Ditsky. Borough councilman Jared Soto and secretary treasurer Jill Seigendall were designated in the resolution to execute all documents and agreements between the borough and the Commonwealth Financing Authority. The grant requires a 15% match and the Friends of Recreation will be partners in the application. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-05 as read. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.**

Martin Ditsky explained the Dirt & Gravel Grant program is to improve drainage and exiting pipes. To qualify the road master and borough secretary must attend classes through Penn State; the application price is \$100 for a 2 day workshop on Oct 24, 25th at Cabela's near Hamburg.

Rose Mary Cannon asked Attorney Greek to write a letter to Caputo Painting to repair the peeling paint on the borough hall ceiling, painted last spring. The company has not responded to many phone calls.

At 8:30 p.m. president Ditsky called a short recess followed by an executive session to review the Teamsters Contract.

Back on the record at 8:45 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Rose Mary Cannon, second by Joe Butrie, all were in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Secretary Treasurer