

The May meeting of Lansford Borough Council was held 6:00 p.m. May 9, 2018 at borough hall, 1 W. Ridge Street, Lansford. The meeting was called to order by President Jared Soto and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken by Secretary Treasurer Jill Seigendall. Council persons attending were Jared Soto, Irma Leibensperger, Marie Ondrus, Joseph Butrie, Bob Silver, John Turcmanovich, and Mayor James Romankow. Absent were council man Matthew Walsh, junior council person Isabella Blasko and Solicitor Michael Greek. Attorney Greek arrived at 7:02 p.m.

Executive Session - Jared Soto called the group into executive session to discuss borough garage property and personnel. At 6:30 p.m. the group came out of executive session. About 12 people were in the audience.

Public Courtesy

Bobby Dobosh, 383 W. Ridge Street, asked that residents support Lansford Alive's "Music in the Park" series held Sunday's this summer at Kennedy Park. Council woman Marie Ondrus urged residents to get involved in planning community events.

Meeting Minutes Approved

Council reviewed the meeting minutes of the April 11, 2018 regular meeting. Bob Silver noted an error under public courtesy the word "turned" was used incorrectly instead of the word "torn." (The error was not picked up by spell check).

A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to approve the April 11, 2018 regular meeting minutes with the word "turned" changed to "torn". The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.

Correspondence

PA Dept. of Labor & Industry – A second noncompliance letter dated April 18, 2018 was received (to make improvements to the borough garage on Spring Street or leave the premises.) Mr. Silver is waiting for L & I personnel to return from vacation and he will contact them.

CC Tax Claim Bureau – The county received a bid from Dean Strohl Jr. to purchase from repository Parcel 122A-25-P28; 340 W. Snyder Ave., formerly owned by Jacqueline Urban Estate, \$800.00 Bid.

A motion to approve the repository sale of 340 W. Snyder Avenue to Dean Strohl Jr. was made by Joseph Butrie, second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, motion passed.

CC Tax Claim Bureau – The county received a bid from ERH Capital Holdings, LLC, Collegeville, PA to purchase from repository Parcel 122A-22-J34; 512 E. Kline Ave. formerly owned by Rawie Ramsay, \$1,019.00 Bid.

A motion to approve the repository sale of 512 E. Kline Avenue to ERH Capital Holdings LLC was made by Bob Silver, second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.

Lansford Historical Society – invitation to annual open house, Sunday June 3, 2018 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Lansford Historical Society – request to post 3' X 5' signs commemorating the 250th anniversary of anthracite coal at Kennedy Park and at the vacant lot at the northwest corner of Center and W. Patterson Street.

A motion to allow the posting of signs located on borough property, on the northeast corner of Kennedy Park (the property on the northwest corner of Center and W. Patterson Street is not a borough owned property) pending approval of the placement from the zoning office. The motion was second by Bob Silver, all were in favor, motion passed.

Lansford Alive – The organization plans to submit a beautification grant (due May 31st) and want to include the planting of 10 street side trees at Kennedy Park. Jared Soto explained that the two existing (dead) cherry trees are being removed. The topic will be discussed later in the meeting.

Lansford Alive - Special Event Request– Ethnic Day Festival, July 7, 2018 at Kennedy Park.

A motion to approve the Ethnic Day Festival on July 7th at Kennedy Park was made by Bob Silver, second by John Turcmanovich, all were in favor, motion passed.

Lansford Alive - Special Event Request – to hold Music in the Park on Sundays, June 3rd through Aug. 26th.

Motion to approve the Music in the Park special event was made by Joseph Butrie, second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, motion passed.

Correspondence not copied to save paper- copy available upon request

Pa. Board of Finance & Revenue - \$4,419.10 gas and diesel fuel use refund check, will be deposited into Liquid Fuels Fund.

Portnoff Law Associates-Order of Court relative to the Petition for Rule to show cause why property should not be sold in the PV School District vs. Richard & Johanna Schein. Sheriff Sale to be held May 10, 2018.

April MRM Trust notes –Workers Compensation flier

Notification from Pa Labor Relations Board and Attorney Greek- Order of Withdrawal – unfair labor practices charge withdrawn due to council's passing police collective bargaining agreement.

UNIVEST first quarter investment report of the Police Pension Plan

Fire at 401-405 E. Abbott Street - E-mail complaint from neighbor about the condition of 401-405 E. Abbott Street after fire.(response sent &Fire Escrow account has been opened)

Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences - Research project about water quality in the Delaware Basin

Committee Reports

Parks & Recreation –Jared Soto said the committee will approach the American Legion about landscaping around the veterans memorial in Kennedy Park and the possibility of putting a portable toilet at Ashton Park. Joseph Butrie spoke about possibly moving the skate park onto one of the two tennis courts which would save on the cost to pave the tennis court and upgrade the skate park. More information on cost will be available at the next meeting.

Marie Ondrus plans to pile the sticks (accumulated over the winter) at Kennedy Park. She requested the public works department pick up the piles of sticks at Kennedy Park.

Joseph Butrie made a motion to sell borough property at the south end of Tunnel Street, the basketball court known as “Abbott AA”, parcel 123A-24-H48. After some discussion Mr. Butrie rescinded his motion and made a motion to have parcel 123A-24-H48 appraised. The motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, motion passed.

Brian Rogers from the Lehigh Valley Council on Independent Living (LVCIL) spoke about its assessment of Ashton Park and Kennedy Park for handicap accessibility. (The publication is on file in the borough office)The report highlights specific areas and provides recommendations on ways to improve overall accessibility for persons with all types of disabilities. He also explained the handicap parking recommendation for handicap accessibility for Kennedy Park.

Solicitor Michael Greek entered the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Public Works – Bob Silver gave the committee report:

Street Sweeping - There are mechanical problems with the street sweeper. It is currently out of service and may be out of service for the remainder of the year.

Inlet replacements - The public works department is currently using an excavator from Coaldale under shared services to replace (possibly 18) inlets on Patterson Street. He presented the rates to rent an excavator for inlet replacements if the shared services excavator is not available. Estimates were from Radocha's \$86.00 per hour with an operator, Krajcirik's \$175.00 a day without an operator, Stoney Lonesome \$120.00 per day without an operator but weekly rental was required and Bradco \$200.00 a day without an operator. There was concern about bidding requirements if the equipment included an operator; the borough employees are undertaking the project.

Bob Silver made a motion to rent a mini excavator at \$175.00 a day from Krajcirik's on the days that the shared services excavator is not available. The motion was second by Joseph Butrie. All were in favor, motion passed.

Borough Garage - Regarding the construction of a new pole building to serve as the borough garage, Mr. Silver explained that the total project cost would be about \$750,000.00 and the committee does not want that burden on the taxpayers. Other avenues will be considered and will be presented at future meetings.

Dumpsters – There are complaints about dumpsters along Route 209 (overflowing in some instances) that are visible from the street. Code enforcement is working to enforce the 2003 Zoning Ordinance for commercial businesses, requiring these dumpsters be enclosed and emptied on a weekly basis.

Municipal Administration – No written report. Irma Leibensperger suggested looking into investing some funds in CD's.

Joseph Butrie made a motion to appoint Keystone Consulting Engineers as the borough's engineer. The motion died for lack of a second.

Bob Silver spoke about a previous motion, at the January 2nd reorganization meeting, to advertise a request for proposals (RFP) from engineers. The committee was provided a "sample" RFP at its committee meeting to be fashioned to meet Lansford's needs however no further action was taken. Attorney Greek said he will provide a RFP by the end of the week and reiterated that because borough projects are sporadic, engineering work can be appointed on a case by case basis.

Code, Zoning and Ordinance – A written report was reviewed by Jared Soto. Jared will copy the borough ordinances on discs to send to four codification companies: MUNICODE, General Code, American Legal Publishing Corp. and Code Publishing. The committee recommended increasing Zoning/Code Officer Tracy Herman's hours to 28 hours per week for the months of June, July and August. Mrs. Herman is employed by Lehigh Valley Inspection Services. The LVIS hourly rate is \$40.00.

Joseph Butrie made a motion to increase the code administration hours to 28 hours a week for June July and August this year. The motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, motion passed.

Public Safety – No written report was submitted however John Turcmanovich spoke about the dumpster issue, the intersection of Center and W. Ridge Street, and the possibility of changing Tunnel Street, currently designated as one way north being changed to one way south for police vehicles only. Attorney Greek will send a sample ordinance for advertising changing the street one way direction for the June meeting.

Mayors Report – Mayor Romankow reported receipts totaling \$1,482.96 for the month of April. Year to date total \$7,106.93.

Police Report – The April report enclosed shows 29 criminal arrests, 16 traffic citations, 6 non-traffic citations, 20 parking/ordinance tickets, and 8 quality of life tickets.

Fire Department – Joseph Butrie read the Am. Fire Co. No. 1 report: 11 total calls, 8 in Lansford, 3 in Summit Hill, 1 in Nesquehoning and 1 other.

Ambulance – In April the Lehighon Ambulance responded to 60 incidents with an average response time of 8.22 minutes from time of dispatch to the arrival on scene. The former Lansford Ambulance obtained by the Lehighon department has been mechanically cleared, re lettered, inspected by the Department of Health and currently is in service and stationed at the Summit Hill station.

Code Enforcement – April report from Tracy Herman shows permits were issued for 7 renovations, 3 notices were sent for new rentals, 19 inspections were performed with 9 re-inspections, 3 re-inspection notices were sent, 12 property maintenance complaints were investigated and 4 files were closed.

Carbon County Council of Governments – Jared Soto reminded council of the invitation to the groups Spring Fling, May 22, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Stoney Ridge P.A.R.C. in Palmerton. The COG purchased a street sweeper for \$400,000.00. It will be available for rent next year. There will be a maintenance agreement, check list and fees associated with the rental.

Tax Collector's Report – The current real estate taxes collected during April total \$236,888.50.

Treasurers Report – Total bills to be approved \$34,859.57. Breakdown: General Fund \$ 9,031.73; High Way Liquid Fuels \$2,290.00; Street Light \$16,820.54, Sanitation \$45.00, Sewer Transmission \$6,672.30. Council received the monthly checking account activity for all funds and Profit/ Loss Budget vs Actual for all funds.

A motion was made by Bob Silver to pay the bills. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.

- **Residential Rental Licensing** - On March 1st 558 landlords were billed totaling \$27,900.00 To date, \$23,870.00 has been received.
- **Sewage Transmission Fee** – February 15th 1,888 units were billed totaling \$169,920.00 Receipts to date total \$151,903.54 Water shutoffs for delinquent accounts was May 8th. Water to Thirty homes was shut off.

- **Sanitation** – Quarterly bills were mailed to residents April 1, 2018, billing \$92,180.00. Receipts to date are \$67,154.76.

2018		End of Month Balances 2018	
	Account Title	March	April
73	General Acct	\$82,182.79	\$215,915.37
81	Sanitation Fund	\$80,152.47	\$120,393.26
83	Investors Money Mkt Acct	\$51,608.83	\$51,617.31
98	Sewer Transmission(reserve acct)	\$164,404.61	\$164,431.64
72	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
80	Escrow for 20 E Kline Ave	\$2,180.11	\$2,180.11
29	Escrow for 401-405 E Abbott St	\$7,333.00	\$7,333.00
99	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,332.34	\$41,335.85
06	Treasurers Special Hi Way	\$137,006.56	\$133,261.32
14	Sewage Transmission	\$167,403.90	\$189,392.95
02	Loan Proceeds Acct(reserve acct)	\$202,729.41	\$202,739.74
22	Local Service Tax/EIT	\$31,266.94	\$31,734.96
30	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,140.21	\$12,141.24
48	Fire	\$32,953.28	\$39,283.62
56	Recreation	\$40,893.26	\$48,051.44
64	Street Lights	\$3,460.38	\$19,513.46
		\$1,060,048.09	\$1,282,325.27
Loans	LOANS Paid from Fund	Est Balance	Est Balance
	Sewer Transm#5537 4/21/15	1,066,915.14	1,052,065.03
	Street Light Fund#6309 11/12/09	138,724.11	138,724.11
	Liquid Fuels #3886 10/28/14	22,256.35	22,256.35
	Gen Fund or LST 1/5/17	36,521.57	36,521.57
		1,264,417.17	1,249,567.06

Solicitor's Report: Bob Silver asked about the result of the magistrate's hearing about the Patrick Baglino property, 16-18 W. Ridge Street, where roofing was falling from the building. Mr. Baglino was found in violation (to pay a fine) and code enforcement gave him a time period to repair the roof. This is a citation and fine, it does not guarantee repairs. If the repairs required by the borough are not made, the borough can file against him criminally, as a misdemeanor. If council chooses, Attorney Greek can bring an action in equity to compel Mr. Baglino to fix it. Then again, this could produce a situation like the Elks; if Mr. Baglino has no money the borough could be required to make the repairs.

Unfinished Business

Changes to Panther Valley School Bus Stops- Jared Soto provided three options regarding bus stop changes:

(1) Removing the (former middle school) bus stop in the unit block of W. Bertsch Street and adding the following 4 bus stops:

- (1) The SE corner of Springgarden and E. Ridge Streets (former UCC Church)
- (2) The area of W. Ridge Street (south side) between Coal and Center Streets behind the Citgo station/ next to Dr. Mussoline's office
- (3) The SE corner of E. Abbott and Walnut Streets (St Michael's rectory) OR 200 block of E. Abbott Street in front of the open field where St. Peter and Paul's church once was
- (4) The corner of W. Abbott and Coal Streets, the corner of W. Bertsch and Coal Streets OR the corner of W. Bertsch and Center Streets.

2) Change all bus stops; have the bus stops every two or three blocks along Route 209 with no side street drop offs other than the Panther Valley Stadium on Cortright Street.

3) Combination of highway and side street drop off points.

A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to approve Option #1 and have a letter written to the school district with those recommendations. The motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. On a roll call vote, all voted “yes” except for Bob Silver who voted “no”. Motion passed.

Parking Meters in business district - Jared Soto offered three options for meters in the business district:

- 1) Keep all meters on both sides of the street and make inquiries to see what it would cost to replace all current meters.
- 2) Keep meters on both sides of the street, but remove meters from certain sections which are not heavily occupied with traffic throughout the day.
- 3) Develop a parking policy where all meters on the north side of Ridge Street and meters on the side streets of Coal and Tunnel are removed. All meters on the south side of Ridge Street will remain and be replaced with the removed working meters from the north side of the street.

Joe Butrie made a motion to remove all meters in the business district. After discussion, the motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to approve option #1. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. After discussion, on rollcall vote: John Turcmanovich, yes, Joseph Butrie, no, Jared Soto, no, Bob Silver, no, Marie Ondrus, yes, Irma Leibensperger, yes. Due to tie: 3 yes & 3 no votes, Mayor Romankow cast a vote “no”. Result: 3 yes, 4 no. Motion failed.

A motion was made by Bob Silver to approve option #2. The motion was second by Jared Soto. After discussion, on roll call vote: John Turcmanovich, no, Joseph Butrie, no, Jared Soto, yes, Bob Silver, yes, Marie Ondrus, no, Irma Leibensperger, no. Result: 2 yes, 4 no. Motion failed.

Bob Silver said more information is needed before making a decision. The cost of repairing and replacing meters is unknown. There are no qualified workers for inspecting the meters and is it unknown whether there is a cost for training & calibration. More information will sought before the next meeting in June.

Resolution 2018-04 Salary Schedule was offered for consideration. It changes part time CDL driver hourly rate from \$13.50. to \$15.50 per motion at April’s meeting.

A motion was made by John Turcmanovich to adopt Resolution 2018-04 which changes the part time CDL hourly rate from \$13.50 to \$15.50. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor except Joseph Butrie who was opposed. Motion passed.

Resolution 2018-05 for the lease of 2018 RAM Truck for Police department.

A motion was made by John Turcmanovich to adopt Resolution 2018-05 which approves the lease of 2018 RAM Truck for the police department through Master Lease with Fulton Bank for \$42,073.00. The motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, motion passed.

Resolution 2018-06 – TEAM Program - to establish points of contact for correspondence regarding labor and employment issues with The Employment Alliance of Municipalities (TEAM) Program.

A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to adopt Resolution 2018-06 naming the president, vice president and secretary treasurer as contacts with the TEAM program. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.

Kennedy Park Trees – Two estimates were reviewed for trees to be cut and trimmed at Kennedy Park: JMS Treeworks, Tamaqua \$4,750.00 and Dunn’s Tree Service, Summit Hill, \$2,800.00.

A motion was made by Bob Silver to accept the bid from Dunn’s Tree Service for \$2,800.00. The motion was second by Marie Ondrus. All were in favor, motion passed.

CC CDBG (Carbon County Community Development Block Grant) Funding year 2018 project pre-applications are due May 18th. Eligible projects such as but not limited to: water/sewer improvements, public facilities improvements, park & recreation, parking, street improvements, sidewalks, demolition, handicap accessibility, blight elimination.

Project ideas need a cost estimate from a certified engineer: Ideas submitted to date:

1. Edgemont/Dock St. Bridge
2. Clewell/Brimble wall
3. LVCIL accessibility for persons with disabilities at Kennedy Park and Ashton Playground
4. Guiderail replacement along Edgemont Road & Snyder Ave.

Joseph Butrie made a motion to apply for CDBG funding for the Edgemont/Dock Street Bridge and Brimble's Wall projects. The motion was second by Bob Silver, all were in favor, motion passed.

To apply for funding a cost estimate for Edgemont/Dock Street Bridge is still needed. Joseph Butrie made a motion to get the cost estimate from Keystone Engineering. The motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, motion passed.

CC Office on Aging line painting request - Bob Silver will visit the midrise and review the request from the Carbon County Office on Aging regarding line painting at the exit on Powell Street.

New Business

National Police Week - Mayor's Proclamation of National Police Week, May 13-19, 2018. Mayor Romankow read the proclamation and thanked neighboring municipalities; Nesquehoning, Summit Hall and Coaldale for its help throughout the year. The proclamation was approved on a motion by John Turcmanovich and second by Joseph Butrie. All were in favor.

Ashton park facilities – A request was received from a resident to use the Ashton park pavilion and picnic area for a birthday party. Due to the pool closure and no portable toilet the office staff did not know how to respond. In the past reservations were made to reserve the pool picnic shelter. After some discussion it was decided that no reservations for the park will be accepted and residents may use the park at their own risk (of someone else using it). The borough does not have a policy of rental use for Ashton Park or Kennedy Park. Both are for public use.

UNIVERSAL Gas Card – John Turcmanovich proposed the borough get the Sunoco Universal Gas Card which is accepted at all gas stations - unlike the borough's current gas card that is accepted at Citgo stations only. The application asks whether the borough prefers the gas and service option or gas and road service option.

A motion was made by John Turcmanovich to choose the fuel and service option of the Universal service card. The motion was second by Bob Silver. On roll call vote, John Turcmanovich, Jared Soto, Bob Silver, voted yes. Irma Leibensperger, Marie Ondrus and Joseph Butrie voted no. Leaving a 3-3 tie. Mayor Romankow broke the tie voting yes. Result: 4 yes and 2 no. Motion passed.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Joseph Butrie, second by John Turcmanovich and the group dispersed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Secretary Treasurer