

Zoning and Ordinance Committee Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2024

Call to Order-

Attending Council Roll Call- Jack Soberick, Joesph Butrie, Michele Bartek,

Absent- Bruce Markovich, Jennifer Staines, Gwyneth Collevecchio, and Jay Doyle

Pledge of Allegiance.

Zoning and Ordinance-

Jack Soberick-

States that he wants to fix the problems that exist under Code and Zoning. That the meeting is a committee meeting which is for the purpose of borough council to discuss topics and then bring the topics back up for review and approval with the approval of the full borough council. The meeting will be concluding at 7 o'clock and there will be a quick wrap-out so the meeting is complete by 7:10 p.m. Addresses to the audience that by the rules of the state, everyone is supposed to stand, say their name and address, and that this should be implemented in every meeting.

Public Comment-

Martin Ditsky- 330 ½ East Abbott Street, Lansford, PA

States that he was going over the handout and that he knows that there is a limit on the number of dogs which would be listed on Section 109 of Ordinance 2020. The last council was going over the ordinances and were going to revise the number of animals to be limited to a combination of five. Inquired if anything has been done pertaining to that ordinance due to the number of cats roaming the neighborhood and the animals defecating and urinating on his front porch rug.

Jack Soberick responded that prior to him being elected the council was doing that but he needs to see the ordinance book that has not been provided to him. Joesph Butrie responded to that Mr. Ditsky can use eight ounces of dawn dish soap, gallatin water, and castor oil, mix them with a gallon of water this should stop the animals from urinating on his porch.

Joe Genits- 232 West Front Street, Lansford, PA

States that he handed out a packet for everyone and that he can review the pages within three to five minutes. The cover page is Kelly's article about Lansford looking for a code enforcement officer, on the back is legislature that passed. Senate Bill 940 became Act 101, 2020 the law allows for the borough to place condemnation orders on thieves. The only one the borough ever did was the Kidder Building which is next to Bob Silver. He would like to see council attach a condemnation order to all the condemned buildings in Lansford. Would like to see this new law that passed in 2021 to put condemnation proceedings on building deeds, so that if the property is sold the condemnation order stands. States that

even if the property is sold privately the condemnation note would stand does not matter who buys it. The condemnation order can be removed once it is resolved.

States he has submitted letters to council as far back as 2016 that have recommendations on them. Some of the recommendations have been taken such as the update to the property maintenance code. Others have not been taken. One of the letters previously submitted to council was about the borough website and how the website needs to be updated to include current ordinance information due to the difficulty of finding the information on the website.

The ordinance books should be in blue binders with them being located in the borough office and in the Police Department. So he does not understand why Jack Soberick does not have copies of the ordinance because the borough has them. In order for ordinances to be passed there must be a rescind of the ordinance.

Michele Bartek-

States that a lot of the ordinances were not voted on and the costs for the ordinance books was \$15,000 and that she was the one who did the ordinances for almost a year and half until Bruce Markovich would not allow her to anymore.

Joe Genits-

States that the website needs to be updated for the committee meetings and who is currently on the committees. Inquired about the \$64,000 the Lansford Borough acquired for 1% transfer of realty tax and where the money goes since it comes on a monthly basis. States the secretary should be receiving an electronic copy of all the properties that are transferred. Talks about how the council can appoint a code enforcement officer that can specifically work with the police department on enforcing the quality of life to allow for no problems with taking away work from the police. Discusses the ordinance pertaining to occupancy of vacant structures. States that all the resolutions over the years should be on the website so that everyone can see them. Discusses moving permits and how the ordinance for them needs to be more specific.

Jack Soberick-

States that landlords should be tied into ordinance with moving permits. States that many ordinances need to be revised and updated.

Joesph Butrie-

States that when a landlord buys a property there should be a packet that informs them of what they are and are not allowed to do.

Joe Genits-

Discusses the rental ordinance and the issues he has with the zoning application. He feels the zoning officer should be an in-house person. Talks about the zoning ordinance and how certain applications were approved dispute what the ordinance states.

Jack Soberick

States that an in-house code enforcement officer needs to be hired to handle the property maintenance code and that the police department has to do their share so the two can work together to enforce quality of life. Feels that a separate as needed zoning officer should be hired, because zoning does not happen as often and the zoning and code should be separate.

Joseph Butrie-

States that Jack Soberick and himself have discussed what they want in a code enforcement officer. The code enforcement officer would be working Monday- Friday, 9a.m. to 4p.m. between \$20-\$25 and council needs to vote on what they want. States about them carrying a weapon, not being in the office alone only in it when it is open, and about them getting overtime for going to court.

Michele Bartek-

States that the code enforcement officer does not need his own office. Since most code officers are independent.

Jack Soberick-

States that employee should be in house so that borough has more say. Says that all the codes are in place there just needs to be education and that the codes in place are being enforced. Feels that there needs to be a stronger enforcement on things such as no parking and snow ordinance.

Joe Genits-

States to enforce property management code is the only code that a person does not need to be certified to enforce.

Rose Mary-

Inquires about Jennifer Staines being on the committee and if Jay Doyle is still in the committee because he is listed on the paper.

Joe Genits-

Feels a resolution should be passed about who the right-to-know official is. States that the council appointed the borough secretary as the right to know official and that documents should be sent into the AORO to take Wendy off and put the new person on. The resolution says what the council is to do pertaining to the right-to-knows.

Michele Bartek-

States the right-to-knows are out of hands.

Rose Mary-

States there are so many right-to-knows because of lack of transparency. Talks about how long it takes ARRO to handle a complaint.

Maria Ahner- Borough Secretary-

States that when complaints are submitted they are emailed over to Ray and currently a spreadsheet is being put together that will include the results from the complaint. States that the website will be double checked and all information is being updated.

Michele Bartek-

States that code enforcement officer needs to be hired to handle the small stuff.

Jack Soberick-

States that there needs to be advertisement to get companies that will come in to address a property that needs to be chopped down and then the borough will establish what the company is paid.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00p.m by Jack Soberick.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley McLaughlin

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer