

Committee Meeting Minutes

September 3rd, 2024

The September 3rd, 2024 Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. by President Bruce Markovich at the Lansford Borough Town Hall, 1 West Ridge Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania. The meeting was attended by President Pro Tempore Michele Bartek, Council Man Joseph Butrie, Council Woman Gwyneth Collevechio, President Bruce Markovich, Council Woman Jennifer Staines, and Code and Ordinance Enforcement Officer Shane Monk.

Council Man Jack Soberick, and Mayor Hugh Vrablic were not in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance had been recited at the Budget Meeting which was prior to the Committee Meeting.

Public Works-

Jay Doyle spoke how one of the borough workers is on vacation for two weeks and how the borough is going to have to ask Dennis Anderson to work more hours due to the borough paving next week.

Jay Doyle stated he spoke with PennDot about the holes in the street on Route 209 and that he waiting to hear back from them for a possible meeting.

Jay Doyle spoke about an incident that happened by Bright's in which a terracotta pipe broke which caused the ground above it to fall in as well. The borough was not responsible for the break and the property owner did fix the problem.

Jay Doyle stated that next week street paving is going to begin.

Jay Doyle spoke about getting the rock up behind St. Mikes so that the manhole behind the building can start to be repaired.

Jay Doyle spoke about how the borough is currently looking to find a new truck due the red truck's condition.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the salt shed and how something needs to be done about the shed due to the shed's condition.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how the Community Development Block Grant can not be used for the salt shed.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the costs of the salt sheds and that it would need to be put out on bid at the next meeting.

Joseph Butrie inquired about the status on the new borough garage.

Bruce Markovich stated the borough is waiting to hear back from the grant.

Martin Ditsky of 330 ½ East Abbott Street inquired about the status of the street sweeper.

Jay Doyle stated that water pump is need and the sweeper is being looked at.

Robert Silver of 17 East Ridge Street inquired about the streets to be paved and if a motion has been made by council to approve the streets to be resurfaced.

Council agreed a list of roads to be paved will be added to the next meeting.

Public Safety-

Michele Bartek stated she is glad for the confidentiality policy for council and borough employees.

Michele Bartek wants a bid for the Zimmerman Building to go into the paper to be added to the agenda.

Michele Bartek spoke about the handicap parking request for Annette White at 627 East Patterson Street that was denied at the previous meeting and that she would like for council to reconsider the request due to a letter that was submitted stating there is no off-street parking at the residence.

Council discussed the handicap parking request and the usage of the side lot that is located next the building.

Joseph Butrie stated that once a handicap parking request was denied once it can not be revisited due to the same circumstances.

Martin Ditsky spoke about how Annette White previously had a handicap parking space when he was on council but due to her moving she can not take the sign with her and she would need a new handicap parking request.

Council discussed the lot next to 627 East Patterson and if the lot was zoned to be a driveway.

Michele Bartek spoke about possibly releasing funds to the Fire Company.

Michele Bartek spoke about how she would like added to the agenda for the part-time officers to receive a raise.

Jay Doyle asked about getting more information about the police body cameras.

Shelly Nunemacher of 31 Andrewsville Street spoke about stairs that are near her house that her child uses to access the bus stop on Route 209 and the condition they are currently in.

Shelly Nunemacher showed council pictures of the stairs and inquired if the borough workers could fix the stairs.

Bruce Markovich stated that the school was informed to pick students up in Andrewsville so they are not on the highway.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how the borough engineering firm did examine those steps a few years ago and the steps can not be fixed to be up to code.

Council discussed removing the steps and telling the school district to pick students up in Andrewsville.

Carol Etheridge a Federal Constituent Advocate in Carbon County spoke about her background and the services she has been offering Carbon County.

Carol Etheridge stated she can give assistance on anything that is government agency related.

Carol Etheridge spoke about the amount of funding that is available for municipalities and if any assistance is needed for filing federal grants, she can provide it.

Michele Bartek inquired about if the testing has been completed by the police candidate applicates.

Municipal Administration-

Bruce Markovich spoke about how the borough applied to have Cortwright Street repaved and have curbing put in on Abbott Street and West Water. Only Seven surveys were returned to the borough due to not enough surveys being submitted the project is not going to be occurring.

Bruce Markovich spoke about having asked the County if the money that was to be used for Cortwright Street could be used for a borough salt shed, the county denied the request.

Bruce Markovich stated that the money that was to go towards the Cortwright Street project could be used to tear down the Koch Building if council would be interested in.

Bruce Markovich spoke about The Brimbles Wall to be started on September 9th, 2024.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the Creative Entrepreneur Program which provides \$2,000 to somebody that has a business and that needs help with the business.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the Pennsylvania Small Business Credit Initiative that provides \$2,000 to anyone that wants to start a business in Lansford.

Bruce Markovich states that he is going to add the above programs to the agenda.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how there currently are programs that will help people fix up their homes to help beautify the borough.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the CRIZ Program which the borough is going to investigate to decide if that were something that would benefit the borough.

Bruce Markovich spoke about a tour of the former Edgemont Lodge that happened with a potential buyer and that the buyer had concerns about his real estate taxes greatly increasing.

Bruce Markovich spoke about a LERP Program which can be adopted by the borough which would reduce the amount real estate taxes go up on improved properties which would help entice people to want to fix up buildings such as Kitty Clouse, and the old middle school.

Parks and Recreation-

Gwyneth Collevecchio spoke about the trash cans and that they must be ordered.

Gwyneth Collevecchio spoke about how Lansford Alive must be notified about the ordering of the cans.

Robert Silver spoke his disagreement with the trash can purchase.

Joe Genits of 210 West Front Street spoke about how Lansford Borough has not provided any information to Lansford Alive on the costs, size, type of trash cans or where the cans are being purchased from.

Joe Genits inquired about why the Lansford Borough has not reached out to Pocono Mountain about having Lansford Alive decal on the trash cans.

Bruce Markovich stated that Pocono Mountain will be reimbursing the Lansford Borough for the purchase of the trash cans being purchased.

Robert Silver stated that Lansford Alive wants their decals included on the trash cans.

Council agreed to providing the information to Lansford Alive about the information of the costs, size, type of trash cans and where the cans are being purchased from.

Gwyneth Collevecchio spoke about the lights being placed on a timer by the football stadium for the football games so that people who park by the stadium can see where they are walking.

Joe Genits spoke about how the lights by the football stadium are set up.

Gwyneth Collevecchio spoke about meeting with Joe Kuczynski for the Christmas program.

Gwyneth Collevecchio spoke about the Sync Recovery event that had previously been taken to council and that the event was not going to be happening in Kennedy Park.

Gwyneth Collevecchio spoke about how the borough is waiting for more information about the Sync Recovery Event to know where the event is going to be happening.

Zoning/Ordinance-

Jennifer Staines stated she spoke with Ryan Eidle and that part of the lot is cleared with the first two buildings to be up in the spring.

Jennifer Staines spoke about the Senior Expo which she is attending and will be bringing information to council about.

Jennifer Staines spoke about the garage ordinance that other boroughs have and how they have extra charges, such as a stamp permit for tires.

Joseph Butrie inquired about how the borough would charge people extra for garbage that went over a certain limit.

Bruce Markovich inquired about the stamp permit and feels that is something the borough should consider.

Jennifer Staines spoke about a potential contractor that the borough may be able to use for the yard maintenance of abandoned properties.

Jennifer Staines stated that she emailed Shane Monk and Ray Swartz to get their opinions on the yard maintenance.

Shane Monk spoke about their needing to be a policy stating what the company would be doing exactly on the properties.

Joseph Butrie spoke about a property that has vines growing up the side of their property.

Shane Monk spoke about what he has seen people doing to improve their properties once a notice has been given to them.

Joe Genits inquired about if Ryan Eidle has ever filled out a zoning application to clear out his property since one is needed for anything done on the property.

Daisy Lopez of 37 South Walnut Street spoke about the St. Michaels near her home that was turned into an Airbnb and how there needs to be more regulations on Airb&b's.

Daisy Lopez spoke about an incident were tenants of the St. Michaels Airb&b were driving three wheelers the wrong way on a one-way road while almost hitting her six-year-old daughter.

Bruce Markovich stated that the owner of the Airb&b would need a rental license to rent out three wheelers to tenants of the Airb&b.

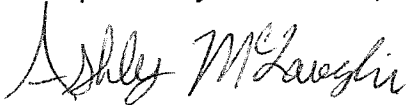
Daisy Lopez spoke about a house near a bus stop that she feels should be moved due to the residents that live in the property watching the children inappropriately.

Joseph Butrie spoke about a lady who would like to park her truck on the borough property behind the water company and the costs that would be charged for the parking.

Council agreed to look at the parking spot and see if that is something they would be interested in issuing a permit for.

The meeting was adjourned by Bruce Markovich at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley McLaughlin

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer