

Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 10th, 2024

The April 10th, 2024 Monthly Meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by President Bruce Markovich. The meeting was attended by Council Woman Michele Bartek, Council Man Joesph Butrie, Council Woman Gwyneth Collevchio, President Bruce Markovich, Council Man Jack Soberick, Council Woman Jennifer Staines, Mayor Hugh Vrablic, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak. Council Man Jay Doyle was absent.

Executive session was held from 6:00p.m. to 6:30p.m.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Bruce Markovich-

States that during the whole executive session police personnel matters were discussed. Bruce Markovich then proceeds to open the floor to public comment for any items on the agenda.

Public Comment-

Rosemary Cannon-

States how even though she understands the large amount of minutes that needed to be approved and added to the website, yet the previous minutes were an embarrassment that could have been written better. Rosemary Cannon goes on to talk about how the first meeting minutes pertain to the reorganization meeting, yet nothing stating about it being a reorganization. The minutes do not say who the president, vice president, or who would hold what seat. States that the minutes were a combination of a council meeting and committee meeting. Talks about how she feels that in the future all of council should be reading the minutes ahead of

time before they are put into permanent record. Inquires about why Assistant Secretary Ashley Mclaughlin is doing the minutes and not the borough secretary.

Joe Genits-

States that in a previous meeting that council made a motion and seconded for Jennifer Staines to take the meeting minutes in the absence of a borough secretary. Talks about how because Jennifer Staines was taking the notes of previous meetings, she should have been the one signing the meeting minutes for the minutes she took. Discusses how the minutes can be better and that he is willing to offer help for the minutes. States how the terminology that is used in the minutes needs to be changed.

Julia Atiyeh-

States that she is here because she saw on the agenda that there is an eviction for construction clearance and that she wants to ensure that council has all the information that she has sent in. Talks about how this is the second time construction clearance has been on the agenda and wants to know if council has received the letters she has sent in. States how she feels there should have been a discussion with her about construction clearance before it was placed on the meeting agenda. Asks for the eviction of construction clearance to be removed from the agenda.

Bob Silver- Address 17 East Ridge Street

Inquired about the motion to reinvest the over \$1,500,000 railroad account money in a 4.7%CD as offered by Community Bank. Bob Silver inquires about how long it will take the council to invest the over \$1,000,000 into investments. States that the

borough should not be waiting any longer to start investing the money.

Council responds that they are trying to get a group of investments plans and then they will review them and make a proper investment.

Mary Soberick-

Inquired about Fiscal Year 2023 Intermodal Grant and if the borough must do any bids.

Joe Genits-

Inquires if Bruce Markovich informs all the council about everything that is shared with the public.

Bruce Markovich responds that he sends out emails to all council.

Motion to approve March 13th, 2024, Monthly Meeting Minutes-

Motion to approve March 13th, 2024, Monthly Meeting Minutes with Corrections. Both Michele Bartek and Joesph Butrie state that corrections need to be made to the minutes.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Joesph Butrie.
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve March 21st, 2024, Zoning and Code Committee Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Jack Soberick and Michele Bartek. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve April 2nd, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Michele Bartek. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports-

Municipal Monthly Reports-

Fire Department-

Michele Bartek-

Call volume for the fire department was total incident and time hours was 14.5 hours, with a year to date of 36.75 hours. Total man hours were 140.5 and year to date were 379.25 hours.

In house work, the total man hours were 181.5, with a year to date 524.5 hours. 58 hours were served from their personnel, and year to date a 140.5 in house. Total fundraising hours were 27 with a year to date of 55 hours, that is with 8 events. Total man hours were 304, with a year to date of 629.5. Responding in town calls were 10 this month, Summit Hill assisted with 6, and Coaldale was 5, Nesquehoning was 0, and Tamaqua was 1. Year to date in town calls were 30, Summit Hill assisted with 10, Coaldale was 14, Nesquehoning was 2, and Tamaqua was 1.

Trainings there were 9 trainings, with a total of 26 year to date, 45 this month, and a total of 122 year to date. Total man hours for the month were 182 and year to date were 645.5. the committee service community service was one event that had a total of 7 people involved. The total hours served were 1.5 hours with total man hours being 10.5. The administrative duties, there were 4 officers 4 activities, for a total of 20 administrative hours for the month. Year to date there were 60, with a total of 80 man hours for the month and a year to date of 240. Total man hours for the month for the report were 898.5 and total man hours year to date being 2,429.25.

Ambulance Report-

Michele Bartek-

The Lehigh Ambulance responded to 85 incidents in the month of March. The average response time was 11.3 minutes from time of dispatch to the arrival on scene. Of the 85 responses, 16 were non-emergent assists with a time of 13.2 minutes, 36 were non-emergent patient services with a time of 10.9 minutes, and 33 emergent response with a time of 10.8 minutes.

Police Report-

Huge Vrablic-

The Police had a total of 168 calls. 11 cases assigned, and 7 arrests. There was an armed robbery, a home invasion, some warrants were served, and a burglary case. Tasks force operations occurred that involved serving warrants, and in doing so the police picked up almost 700 bags of Fentanyl and just over 5 grams of Cocaine, along with some firearms. Total accident report fees that were collected with 225 and there were some other citations.

Tax Collectors Report-

Solicitors Report-

Robert Yurchak-

Will have a written report to submit to council on or before next meeting regarding the hard drive issues that have come up on the computers.

Bruce Markovich-

No Report for April. Report will be included in the May Meeting.

Motion to pay the bills-

Motion to pay the bills for the month of April.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Genits-

Inquires about when the bills will be passed to the website for the public to view, such they should have been included with the agenda.

Motion to Advertisement for the Code Enforcement Officer Position-

Motion to advertise for the position of Code Enforcement Officer Position.

Motioned by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Jack Soberick. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to open a fire escrow account of \$31,337.49 for property owned by Sarah Troxell at 504 East Kline Avenue-

Motion to approve the opening of a fire escrow account for \$31,337.49 for the property owned by Sarah Troxell at the address 504 East Kline Avenue.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Joesph Butrie. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve Bob Kresge as a regular employee of the borough street Department-

Motion to approve Bob Kresge as a regular full-Time employee of the street department.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion to approve Free Community Wide Yard Sale Dates-

Motion to approve the dates that the free community wide yard sale will be occurring on. During the yard sale dates, everyone living within the Lansford Borough will be allowed to have a yard sale without having to obtain a permit for those dates. The dates to be approved are May 4th, 2024, May 5th, 2024 , August 10th, 2024, and August 11th, 2024.

Motioned by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to hire James Bonner as a Full-Time Police Officer

Motion to hire James Bonner as a Full-Time Police Officer for the Lansford Borough.

Motioned tabled by Jack Soberick and Gwyneth Collevchio. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to hire Christopher Cordes as a Part-Time Police Officer

Motion to hire Christopher Cordes as a Part-Time Police Officer for the Lansford Borough.

Motioned tabled by Jack Soberick and Gwyneth Collevchio. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve letters of support for PVSD- Included in Packet-

Motion to approve letters of support for Panther Valley School District.

Approved letters of support to be used for Panther Valley School District to attach with grant applications.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Michele Bartek. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to evict Construction Clearance From the Silberline Property-

Motion to evict the business Construction Clearance from the Silberline Property located on Dock Street.

Motion was rescinded by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek. Motion to rescind passed unanimously.

Motion to approve a payment of \$450 to PSAB Association of Boroughs for membership-

Motion to approve the payment of \$450 to Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs for a year membership (PSAB) for the purpose of taking classes. All training webinars are free, and all in person trainings are half price and there is no limit to the amount of classes per person.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jennifer Staines. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Pay Carbon Engineering the following for sewer grant applications:

Motion to pay Carbon Engineering \$1,000 for the 2023 Fiscal Grant Application-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Jack Soberick.
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to pay Carbon Engineering \$1,000 for the Fiscal 2024 Grant Application Fees-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Jack Soberick.
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to pay Carbon Engineering \$188.50 for Miscellaneous Fees associated with sewer grant.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Jack Soberick.
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve final subdivision plans for the sale of apportion of the Borough Property-

Motion to approve the final subdivision plan for the sale of apportion of the Borough Property. The Borough Property to be sold to Ryan Idle with a county filing cost of \$450.00. Ryan idle to eventually reimburse the money to the borough.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jack Soberick. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve a new water line and hot water heater for the concession stand under our Greenways Trails and Recreation Program-

Motion to approve a new water line and hot water heater for the concession stand under our Greenways Trails and Recreation Program. The new water line and hot water heater is to allow the concession stand located at the Lansford Pool to have hot water all year round. The costs should be no more than \$1,200 added to the grand total, due to the water company installing the new water line at no additional costs. The borough would be paying for only the hot water heater.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Jack Soberick.
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept Fiscal year 2023 Intermodal Grant for Brimbles Wall in the amount of \$313,000

Motion to accept the Fiscal year 2023 Intermodal Grant for Brimbles Wall in the amount of \$313,000.

Motioned by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote on the new fee schedule-

Motion to vote on approving the new fee schedule.

Council discussed the various prices that are listed on the fee schedule.

Motion tabled by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Joesph Butrie. Motion to table passed unanimously.

Motion to approve a Special Event request from Lansford Alive to have concerts at Kennedy Park

Motion to approve a Special Event Request from Lansford Alive to have concerts at Kennedy Park. The concerts would be held every Sunday in the months of June, July, August, and September of 2024.

Motioned Joesph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment-

Joesph Butrie-

Inquired about when Halloween decorations are going to be taken down at the pool.

Bruce Markovich responded that they were taken down today by the borough street crew.

Rosemary Cannon-

Inquires about the water for the concession stand and if the council is going to consider putting some kind of security

system at the stand as well. Asks about if the signature cards were changed so the borough secretaries can be on the bank cards.

Bruce Markovich says about putting a motion security system at the concession stand due to it being the cheapest.

Julia Atiyeh-

States that she feels that with the increase in the fee schedule for the residential rental license that the increase just provides Arro with more money. She states she would rather give the borough the extra money instead of Arro because the extra money going to Arro could instead be going to the borough.

Robert Gaughan – Address 348 West Patterson Street

States he would like clarification on the information that we are hiring for a code enforcement officer. Inquires about if the code enforcement officer that is to be hired, is going to be handling the quality of life issues within the borough.

Council responded that the code enforcement officer would be handling the quality of life issues.

Bob Greenall-

Inquires about if there was any discussion on changing the yield sign by Boyers Supermarket into a stop sign.

Bruce Markovich responded that council currently is working to get an ordinance together, advertise it, and have a public inspection, this taking about 60 days.

Lu Daddy-

Inquires about fixing up the skatepark. Would like to put the skatepark in the enclosed fenced area and use the area where the skatepark currently is and put up a basketball court there.

States his group, Nuttin but Luv, and himself have been working to clean the park up and have been helping to reduce crime that occurs there. Says he would like to change the name of the skatepark.

Audience Member-

Inquiries about the police report and if the tasks force has a signed contract.

Chief Police Kyle Woodward responded that there is a signed contract.

Meeting ended at 8:15 p.m. due to three council members leaving resulting in the quorum not being met.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley McLaughlin

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer