

Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 9th, 2025

The April 9th, 2025 Monthly Meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by President Bruce Markovich at The Lansford Borough Town Hall, 1 West Ridge Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania. The meeting was attended by Council Woman Michele Bartek, Council Man Joseph Butrie, Council Woman Gwyneth Collevecchio, 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 from 6:00p.m. to 6:30p.m.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the executive session where many issues were discussed, and that the council may go back into an executive session after the meeting depending upon what occurs during the meeting.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the large number of people who want to speak and asked that comments be kept to three minutes so everyone has a chance to speak.

Public Courtesy-

Cookie Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street inquired about Jack Soberick's pension and about council considering hiring Shawn Nunemacher as Chief of Police instead of hiring outside of the Police Department.

Erin Soberick of 237 West Ridge Street inquired about whether Jack Soberick is currently receiving a pension check and if the Officer In Charge is listed in the contract with the hourly pay rate.

Erin Soberick inquired about if once the police chief Position is filled what the expectations and job requirements are going to be.

Erin Soberick inquired about whether residents or businesses can opt out of paying for garbage.

Council discussed the garbage ordinance and that there is no opting out of garbage.

Tommy Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street spoke about the oversized parking permit and that he feels the oversized ordinance should be changed to state that only Lansford residents are allowed oversized parking permits.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the enforcement of icy sidewalks and that he feels the zoning committee should not eliminate enforcement of icy sidewalks due to the safety of residents in the borough.

Tommy Vadyak inquired about the Parkway sidewalk that he feels the sidewalk should be cited due to it being a hazard.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the borough garage on Spring Street and inquired about why people are being allowed in the building due to it being deemed unsafe due to violations.

Tommy Vadyak inquired about the bench at the Skate Park that was removed from the park.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the bench being removed due to safety.

Council spoke about getting benches for the park.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the concession stand at the Lansford Pool needing more security with camera's due to people going near the stand.

Nicole Lang of 205 West Abbott Street spoke about a sewage smell she has been dealing with due to her neighbor's at 203 West Abbott Street's sewer problem.

Nicol Lang spoke about how the code officer has been out to the neighbor's property multiple times but the neighbors have done nothing to resolve the sewer problem and that the issue needs to be resolved as it is greatly impacting her quality of life.

George Gilbert of 841 East Ridge Street spoke about items from the last committee meeting that were not on the agenda such the status on the Silberline building with Construction Clearance renting out the building from Silberline.

George Gilbert inquired about if there is an update about the high water bill for the train station and if the bill is included in the bills to be paid.

Bruce Markovich stated the water meter is going to be checked on April 10th, 2025 and that no bill for water at the train station is included in the bills to be paid.

Rosemary Cannon of 242 West Ridge Street inquired about the alarm system for the concession stand and if it will work as a deterrent.

Rosemary Cannon spoke about the agenda item for changing the Standard Operating Procedure for the police commission for the purpose of testing officers and that the Civil Service Commission makes those changes not council.

Council spoke about the current testing for the police officer.

Rosemary Cannon inquired about what motion number 5 on the agenda exactly is.

Bruce Markovich clarified that motion number 5 is to allow the Secretary and Treasurer permission to start or end employee life insurance if the employee begins or ends employment with the borough.

Rosemary Cannon inquired about the executive sessions that council wants to have and if those meetings will be about personnel.

Rosemary Cannon inquired about the 911 Trail Steering Committee and the benefits that would bring Lansford Borough.

Erin Soberick inquired about the hard drive issue and when a statement is going to be provided to the public.

Joe Genits of 210 West Front Street stated that he does not agree with filling in the borough pool.

Joe Genits spoke about if the borough has the actual document of the condemnation that was posted on the Spring Street Borough Garage and that the building should be sold as is with the condemnation on it.

Joe Genits inquired of status of the hiring of a second code official and why that was not included on the meeting agenda.

Joe Genits inquired if any amounts were provided to the borough about what the insurance company will give the borough for the fire on Dock Street at the borough garage.

George Gilbert inquired about if council has heard from the insurance company about paying for a rental street sweeper.

Patrick Walsh of 242 East Abbott Street inquired about if the borough has any planned budget or strategic plan that goes out a year from the budget.

Christopher Ondrus of 10 Edgemont Road inquired about who from council would be present at the train station when the water authority does the meter reading and where the meter is located, along with when the reading is happening.

Christopher Ondrus inquired about the status of the tax collector office audit.

Approval of Meeting Minutes-

Motion to approve the February 24th, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the March 4th, 2025 Workshop Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the March 12th, 2025 Monthly Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence-

No Correspondence.

Committee Reports-

Fire Department Report-

Hugh Vrablic spoke about the Fire Department Report.

The fire department had 24 calls for the month of March. Total incident hours were 28 and ½. Total man hours were 189, volunteer man hours. The responses in town were 16, Summit Hill was 2, Coaldale was 5, and Nesquehoning was 1. Training was a total of 89 hours. Community service, 1 event and activity with the average of 4 individuals. Total man hours were 6 hours. There were a total of 1,583.5 man volunteer hours.

Hugh Vrablic read off paragraph the Fire Chief sent to council, “As you are well aware, our major fire that was a difficult fire during the time of day, the amount of fuel runoff, and the large vehicle fires inside the building. However, I wish to commend the Borough Public Works Group for saving more of the equipment than what was lost. Their quick collective effort in removing as many vehicles as possible saved the Borough Streets Department from total devastation. Losing only two trucks in this fire is not bad in my book. I also believe that the collective effort on the fire departments involved saved the building from further damage. I will admit that controlling the water runoff at this fire was... First in my 35 years. It was very very difficult fire.”

Ambulance Report-

Hugh Vrablic spoke about the Ambulance Report.

The Lehighton ambulance responses were 108 incidents in March of 2025. They had an average response time of 10.84 minutes. Arrival to the scene of the 71 responses,

41 were non-emergency patient services, 67 were emergency response. 80 patients were transported, 8 patients were treated with no transport, 2 standbys and 18 cancellations/no patient found.

Mayor's and Police Report-

Hugh Vrablic spoke about the Police Report.

The police department had 318 calls and complaints handled, 24 cases cleared, 21 arrests made, 43 traffic contacts, 27 parking in borough ordinance tickets issued, and \$725.00 collected in ticket fees.

Magistrate, county fines, and parking violations came out with \$2,274.00.

Code Report and Zoning Report-

Jennifer Staines spoke about the Code Report.

March Report, 15 complaints, 12 walk-ins unannounced, 6 tickets issued, 2 NOV's issued, total properties condemned in Lansford 16. 60 properties inspected, 8 failed inspections, 8 non-rentals found to be a rental. Shane Monk was able to get approval from Carbon County Friends of Animals to go ahead and start working on the stray cat issue in the borough. 15 vehicles were removed from the Kiddie Clothes parking lot.

NOV Report, two citations are filed or to be filed and two scheduled for a court hearing.

Rental Report-

Jennifer Staines spoke about the Rental Report.

April report as of 4-9-2025. Total rentals are 770, total submitted is 229, total completed is 81, total not rental are 155, schedule inspection total is 75, payment requirement is 25, insurance requirement is 26, need application is 22, fees collected \$41,385.00, and late fee collected \$6,735.00.

Bruce Markovich remarked on the fantastic job that Shane Monk is doing on code enforcement and rentals.

Solicitors Report-

Solicitor Robert Yurchak spoke about House Bill 858 and he has three ordinances for council to review.

Tax Collector's Report-

From March 1st, 2025 to March 31st, 2025, taxes collected were \$0.00. (Office Closed until April 2025)

Motion to pay the bills-

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Discussion/Motion to approve changing the Free Community Yard Sale date of May 17th-18th, 2025 to be September 6th -7th, 2025 with a rain date of September 13th-14th, 2025.-request by Jennifer Staines

Jennifer Staines spoke about the conflict with the free yard sale May dates due to the spring clean up dates.

Council discussed the free yard sale dates and if they want dates in September.

Motioned to cancel the Free Community Yard Sale dates of May 17th-May 18th, 2025 by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion was favored by Joseph Butrie, Jack Soberick, Michele Bartek, Gwyneth Collevchio, and Bruce Markovich.

Motion was opposed by Jennifer Staines.

Motion was passed by majority vote.

New Business:

Discussion/Motion to appoint Shawn Nunemacher as the Sergeant Office In Charge at the rate of \$40.14.-request by Michele Bartek

Robert Yurchak stated that no vote is needed because the Police Contract states that the sergeant would automatically become the Sergeant Officer in Charge.

Discussion/Motion to get quotes for an alarm system at the concession stand at Ashton Park-requested by Michele Bartek

Michele Bartek spoke about how she wants to get alarm system quotes for the concession stand at Ashton Park.

Council agreed that the alarm system should have a feature that it alarms the police station when motion is detected.

Discussion/Motion about the oversized parking ordinance and altering the ordinance to state parking to be at Dock Street all year long, along with who can park at the area. -request by Jennifer Staines

Jennifer Staines spoke about the oversized parking lot and the current number of vehicles in the lot.

Jennifer Staines spoke the number of oversized permits, and the number of permits issued to Lansford Residents and Non-Lansford Residents.

Council discussed the oversized parking permit and the issuance of the permit.

Robert Yurchak stated he will create a draft oversized ordinance amendment for council to review.

Discussion/Motion to vote on changing the ordinance for Standard Operating Procedures for the police commission for the purpose of testing officers. -Michele Bartek

Michele Bartek spoke about the Civil Service Commission.

Michele Bartek spoke about the commission wanting to change the number to make a quorum, the requirement of no member of council to sit on the commission, and that they would like to change and adopt different way of giving the oral, physical, and written testing of the officers.

Bruce Markovich stated that the Civil Service Commission should send a letter to council with the changes they would like to make.

Motions:

Discussion/Motion to approve the handicap request from Farrah and Amanda Maurice at 335 West Water Street Apt 2 and 3.

Council spoke about confirming if that property is an apartment building as a resident stated the property is not zoned as an apartment house.

Motioned to table by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to approve the handicap request from Lori A Zonca at 231 West Bertsch Street.

Michele Bartek stated a doctor's note was missing from the application.

Motioned to table by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to go off the agenda.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the handicap request from Lou Ann Greenly at 513 East Ridge Street.

Michele Bartek stated that a doctor's note was missing from the application.

Discussion/Motion to approve to send a letter of support on behalf of the Coaldale-Lansford-Summit Hill Sewer Authority for the grant application for the improvements to the sewer plant under the Pennsylvania Small Water and Sewer Grant Program for the Treatment Plant-Mechanical Bar Screen System Improvements Project.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to fill in the Lansford Pool.-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie stated he would like the Lansford Pool filled in due to it being a liability and because the borough cannot afford to fix the pool.

Joseph Butrie spoke about wanting to fill the pool in and make the area a playground.

Discussion/Motion to approve the Nationwide Certified Corporate Resolution authorizing the secretary and treasurer to execute or deliver any written instrument necessary to effect purchase or redemptions and to transact any other business necessary on the Life Insurance Policies.

Bruce Markovich stated the motion is to allow the secretary and treasurer to stop and start life insurance polices when employees start and quit working for the borough.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to appoint Leonard A Ruggiero and Joseph Mitzen to the planning commission (2 letters received).

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion was favored by Michele Bartek, Jack Soberick, Joseph Butrie, Bruce Markovich, and Jennifer Staines.

Motion was opposed by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed by majority vote.

Bruce Markovich stated that a third letter was submitted to council but that the letter was not submitted within the time frame of the advertisement.

Motion to go off the agenda-

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Robert Yurchak stated that the council can not go off the agenda to appoint the third submission due to it not meeting the advertisement specifications.

Discussion/Motion to approve a special executive session for personnel on April 30th, 2025 and May 21st, 2025.-requested by Michele Bartek

Council agreed to have the meetings on April 30th and May 21st, 2025 at 5:00p.m.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to approve a special meeting with an executive session for code, Civil Service, and Police Department. -request by Jennifer Staines

Council agreed that code could be discussed at either the April 30th or May 21st special meeting.

Discussion/Motion about the old borough garage and voting on the status of the building. - request by Jennifer Staines

Jennifer Staines stated that council has already discussed the motion previously.

Motion to approve ARRO Engineering to prepare demolition bid specifications for 151 and 151 ½ West Ridge Street.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to send a letter to Coaldale Borough to schedule an informal meeting, to discuss the possibility of merging borough street departments.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to designate the installation of handicap accessible doors on the Borough Building as a project under our 2025 Community Development Block Grant Funds.

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to designate all remaining funds from out 2025 Community Development Block Grant Funds to reconstruction and repaving of the 100, 200, and 300 block of West Ridge Street.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to prepare a mixed funds agreement between the Borough of Lansford, Carbon County, and Penn Dot for use of Liquid Fuel Funds and CDBG Funds for the reconstruction and repaving of the 100, 200, and 300 Block of West Ridge Street.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to appoint a representative of Council to attend a meeting tentatively scheduled for May 12th, 2025 with Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau to discuss the plans for a Tourism Development Plan.

Council appointed Gwyneth Collevchio as representative of Council.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to appoint Bruce Markovich to the 911 Trail Steering Committee.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by President Bruce Markovich at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley McLaughlin

Secretary