

LANSFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Monthly Meeting 1 W. Ridge Street August 14, 2019 6:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**: By President Jared Soto at 6:00 p.m. followed by Pledge of Allegiance

2. **Roll Call**: All council members were present: President Jared Soto, Vice President Irma Leibensperger, President Pro Tempore John Turcmanovich, William Chuma, Bruce Markovich, Marie Ondrus, Bob Silver, Mayor James Romankow and Solicitor Michael Greek.

3. **Executive Session**: 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. - To discuss possible property purchase to place the borough public works department. Council met with Gary Karnish, Chief Executive Officer, and Jennifer Mikovich, Vice President of Operations for Silberline Corporation, owners of parcels 122-22-V3.01, V3.02, V3.05, V3.06, V3.09. Council also reviewed part time public work applications and a police personnel issue.

4. Back on the record at 6:30 p.m. - Jared Soto called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to tour the Silberline property.
A Motion was made by Bob Silver to advertise a special meeting as an executive session to tour the Silberline property at 2:00 p.m. September 4, 2019, 201 Dock Street. Rain date is Friday, September 6, 2019. All were in favor, Motion passed.

5. **Public Courtesy**:
Jennifer Staines, 353 W. Abbott Street, handed out the response she received from Department of Environmental Protection regarding blasting by BET Associates IV, LLC-Lehigh Anthracite Bank #7 Operation in February 2019. No violations were found.

Ellen Sargent, 527 E. Ridge Street, asked whether there is any response about the sewer situation at her property at 400 E. Snyder Avenue. She planned an addition to her home and the borough realized there is a borough sewer line located on her property. She is asking for an explanation of the procedure, time line and assurance that the property will be returned to its original condition. Attorney Greek said the borough should pass a resolution to put a temporary condemnation on the property, determine the sewer problem and remediate the problem that exists.

Rose Mary Cannon, 242 W Ridge Street, asked how many buildings are on the Silberline Property. There are 5 buildings.

Warren Balliet, 518 E. Bertsch St., asked for pot holes to be fixed near the intersection of Leisenring & Patterson Streets. And line painting in 500 block of East Kline Avenue. He said newspaper advertisements are needed for regulating legal fireworks.

Irene Hudasky, 427 E Patterson Street, said vehicles are speeding on Patterson Street and more police surveillance is needed.

6. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** :
 - July 10, 2019 Regular Meeting**A Motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to approve the July 10, 2019 meeting minutes as written. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor except for Marie Ondrus who was opposed. Motion passed, Yes-6, No-1.**
 - July 22, 2019 Special Meeting

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve the July 22, 2019 meeting minutes as written. The motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor except for Marie Ondrus who was opposed. Motion passed, Yes-6, No-1.

7. Correspondence (enclosed):

- a. Jason Helmer – Heart & Lung request due to work related injury, read by Jared Soto.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to approve Jason Helmer’s request to receive Heart and Lung Benefit. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- b. Real Estate Tax Exemption request for Walter Achey from PA Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs, due to disability and veteran status.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to approve Walter Achey’s request to be exempt from paying borough real estate taxes. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

c. Handicap Parking Requests:

- i. 209 E. Bertsch Street Apt#1:

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to approve the Handicap Parking Space Request made by Maria White, 209 E. Bertsch Street. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- ii. 244 E. Patterson Street:

The owner does not have a handicap plate as stated in Ordinance 2014-01. The request was not approved.

- iii. 628 E. Bertsch Street:

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to approve the Handicap Parking Space Request made by Richard Stianche, 628 E. Bertsch Street. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- iv. 604 E. Patterson Street:

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve the Handicap Parking Space Request made by Russell Shannon, 604 E. Patterson Street. The Motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- d. Corey Perry – The former Edgemont Lodge is experiencing drainage issues and thinks it is the fault of the borough. Borough insurance carrier will be contacted to see whether there is coverage in this situation.
- e. Daniel Sargent – Sewer issue at 400 W. Snyder (see Public Courtesy and Solicitor’s Report)
- f. Cha’s Gourmet Restaurant – Donation plans. No action was taken.
- g. Christopher Ondrus – Paving request. No action was taken.

8. Correspondence not enclosed to save paper:

- a. **Governor Tom Wolf** – Thank you for submitting Resolution 2019-05 in support of the Governor’s Restore Pennsylvania Infrastructure Program
- b. **Michael Carpenter**, Governor’s office, Local Government Policy Specialist – Met with Jared regarding Strategic Management Plan Program, offered information about a matching grant to perform a study to identify alternatives to help the borough with finances, planning & zoning and codification.
- c. **Girard Pension Services** (formerly UNIVEST) – 2nd Quarter Report 2019 of Police Pension Plan
- d. **Seltzer Insurance** Newsletter, Vol.1 Issue 1
- e. **COSTARS Connection** - newsletter Vol 13, Issue 3
- f. **American Rock Salt** designated as road salt vendor per COSTARS contract

9. **Committee Reports** - from meeting held August 7, 2019 :

Parks & Recreation – The report was written and read by Jared Soto.

A Motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to advertise a joint meeting of Lansford Borough Council and Friends of Lansford Recreation at 6:00 p.m. Monday, September 9, 2019, at Ashton Park Pool. In the event of rain the meeting will be held at the Lansford Borough Office. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Public Works – The report was written and read by Bob Silver.

Municipal Administration – The written report from Bob Silver was read by Irma Leibensperger.

Zoning & Ordinance – The report was written and read by Jared Soto.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to get estimates to construct walls for an office in the southeast corner of borough hall for the Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement. Motion failed due to no second.

Public Safety – A verbal report was given by Chairman John Turcmanovich.

10. **Municipal Reports:**

Mayors Report – July report shows \$1,270.99 collected, year to date totals \$14,501.80. He reported that the Police Department has applied for a grant from Walmart.

Police Report – July report shows 347 calls, 23 criminal arrests, 9 traffic citation, 10 non-traffic citations, 0 parking/ordinance tickets and 3 quality of life tickets

Fire Department – Am. Fire Co. No. 1 – No report was received for July.

Ambulance – Lehighon Ambulance responded to 60 incidents in July with an average response time of 9.00 minutes from the time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

Code Enforcement – Zoning & Code Officer James Dean enclosed his invoice for \$2,378.75 and his committee meeting report.

Carbon County Council of Governments (COG) – No meeting held in July

Tax Collector's Report - \$94,610.24 collected in July; total collected in 2019 \$859,186.73

Treasurer's Report –Total bills to be approved \$79,857.13; Breakdown: General Fund \$42,482.68; High Way Liquid Fuels \$2,394.22; Park & Recreation \$3,774.59; Street Light \$5,055.61; Sanitation \$25,525.34; Sewer Transmission \$624.69. Enclosed is the monthly checking account activity for all accounts, and monthly projection.

* Received fully executed copy of DCED Contract C000041664 for \$40,444.00, streetscape lighting

* Paid \$9,685.20 loan payment from LST Fund for the Police 2018 Dodge RAM truck

A Motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to pay the balance of the 2019 Tax Anticipation Note; \$50,000 plus interest. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

A Motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to renew the Sewer Transmission CD for another year, Account ending 1277, interest rate is 2.23%. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to approve payment of the bills. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.

End of Month Balances 2019			
No.	Account Title	May	July
7673	General Acct	\$352,353.63	\$615,922.82
7780	Escrow for 20 E Kline Ave	\$2,180.11	\$2,180.11
7772	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
4529	Escrow for 401-405 E Abbott St	\$7,333.33	CLOSED

7681	Sanitation Fund	\$143,136.78	\$124,998.31
0283	Sani-investors' Money Mkt Acct	\$51,729.43	\$51,737.93
7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,154.41	\$12,155.34
7714	Sewage Transmission	\$175,556.69	\$172,052.25
1198	Sewer Transmission(reserve acct)	\$164,788.80	\$164,815.89
5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct(res acct)	\$152,850.22	\$152,865.54
1277	Sewer Transm. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$50,843.27	\$50,939.57
7722	Local Service Tax	\$29,304.90	\$29,938.03
7764	Street Lights	\$16,687.16	\$46,179.34
7748	Fire	\$36,663.92	\$48,192.04
7706	Treasurers Special HiWay	\$165,002.70	\$163,453.56
7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,380.70	\$41,383.87
7756	Recreation	\$68,214.66	\$71,422.05
		\$1,473,180.71	\$1,751,236.65
		Est Balance	Est Balance
LOANS	Paid from Fund		
	Tax Anticipation Note	100,000.00	51,500.00
	Tunnel St/Storm Separation	853,986.12	838,374.97
	MEM Debacle	121,859.11	121,859.11
	2017 Police Expedition-Com Leasing	13,204.09	13,204.09
	2018 Police RAM	42,073.00	42,073.00
		1,131,122.32	1,067,011.17

Solicitor Report – 8 Assessment Appeals: 240 E Patterson St; 241 E Patterson St; 406 E Patterson St; 420 E Patterson St; 717 E Patterson St; 139 W Abbott St; 18 E Kline Ave; 352 W Kline Ave.

Regarding vacating borough property at the south end of Tunnel Street, Attorney Greek spoke with Attorney Yurchak, representing a bordering property owner; it appears that another bordering property owner is blocking access to the area vacated by the borough.

Attorney Greek asked for a motion to adopt a resolution for the temporary condemnation of 400 W. Snyder Avenue; to allow the borough to go onto the property at 400 E. Snyder Avenue, to scope the line, come up with a metes and bounds description and repair whatever problem exists.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to adopt a resolution to approve a temporary condemnation of property at 400 E. Snyder Avenue to investigate a sewer line problem. The Motion was second by Bruce Markovich. All were in favor except for John Turcmanovich who was opposed, Motion passed, Yes-6, No-1.

11. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Health/Food Inspector position** – The position was left vacant due to the resignation of Richard Tower. Two letters of interest were received for the advertised position. Council discussed whether to hire another inspector or turn the responsibility over to the state department of agriculture.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to shift jurisdiction of retail food facilities inspections from Lansford Borough to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. The Motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- b. **Edgemont Sewer Project update** – William Chuma said Peter Radocha could get the road surface ready for paving (by the borough) for \$4,200.00.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to have Peter J. Radocha & Sons prepare the road at Edgemont, excavate and grade, at an estimated cost of \$4,200.00. The Motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- c. **Street Paving 2019 - William Chuma identified the following for repair:**
- An area in the 200 block of E. Ridge Street
 - An area in the 500 block of E. Ridge Street
 - An area about 300 ft. near the intersection of Ridge St & Dock Street
- d. **CDBG Dock Street Bridge & Brimble's Wall survey status** – Jared Soto will take the Income survey responses to the Carbon County Planning Office for grant funding consideration.
- e. **Resolution 2017-19** – to consider changes to the Fee Schedule
- f. **Elk's Lot** – DP Fence was awarded the bid to erect a 6' fence around the Elk's lot by Carbon County Commissioners on 8/8/19 using CDBG Grant funds.
- g. **LSA Grant 2020 for Streetscape Lighting \$40,044.00.** To consider applying for additional funds for this project or apply for another project?
A Motion was made by Bob Silver to apply for LSA Grant Funds for Streetscape lighting. The Motion was second by Bruce Markovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.
- h. **Part Time officers - A Motion was made by Bob Silver to advertise for part time police officers in the Times News Newspaper and if price is feasible, advertise in the Hazleton Standard Speaker or the Pottsville Republican Newspapers. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.**
- i. **Lansford/Coaldale/Summit Hill - inter-municipal meeting report from Jared Soto, to have the public works departments of all three boroughs work together to accomplish projects. The borough's plan to purchase a piece of equipment to be shared. Attorney Greek said a Resolution for the purchase will need to be drafted and approved by all three boroughs.**

12. New Business:

- a. **Tractor Trailer Parking** – There was discussion about tractor trailers parked on Cortright Street during Music in the Park events.
- b. **Removal of trees at borough parks** - Matt Dunn estimate \$3,000.00 to remove 9 trees.
A Motion was made by Bob Silver to accept the estimate of \$3,000.00 to remove 9 trees at borough parks. The Motion was second by William Chuma. Jared Soto and Bruce Markovich were opposed. Motion passed, Yes - 5, No - 2.
- c. **Loader Warranty - William Chuma made a motion to have the warranty on the (Public Work's Department) 2014 John Deere Loader extended for 1 year (October 30, 2019 to October 30, 2020) at the cost \$1,117.00. The Motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor except for Jared Soto. Motion passed, Yes - 6, No - 1.**

- 13. Motion to adjourn was made at 8:16 p.m. by Bob Silver, second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor and dispersed.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Secretary Treasurer