

Call to Order – At 6:00 p.m. by President Bruce Markovich followed by Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

One thing I want to talk about first is Joe Genits here claimed we didn't make a motion to pave streets last year and that the Borough is irresponsible. With further review we have found that we did make a Motion to pave streets. Bruce asked Joe considering this information now what the Borough is not irresponsible is that correct? Joe Genits stated the Borough is not irresponsible. Bruce thanked him.

Council members attending: Gwyneth Collevecchio, Bruce Markovich, William Chuma, Jennifer Staines, Martin Ditsky, Jay Doyle, Solicitor Robert Yurchak, John Turcmanovich Mayor Hugh Vrablic.

Executive Session 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Back on the record at 6:30 p.m.

Public Courtesy –

Rita Klekamp– 300 W. Snyder Ave. – Rita stated that the property at 300 W. Snyder Ave. was her homestead and that she is residing in Coaldale now and stated that the rear of her home is on Snyder Ave. and the entrance is on Sharpe St. Rita said that she has talked to everybody about these people there is a lease for 1 person and several children and there are 15-20 people coming and going at this property every day. Mr. Benevy is the landlord of the property. There are a lot of Quality-of-Life issues they are destroying the two properties, loud, garbage all over the place they have broken my windows. I would like something done or I will go to the State Police.

Bob Gaughan – 348 W. Patterson St. – Has an RV he came home on Sunday we were given a heads-up ticket for the RV stating we could not have it parked on the street. There is a Borough parking lot across from Kennedy Park. There were lots of vehicles and they were all illegal could not figure out why they did nothing about those vehicles. In the rear of his property, it looks like someone took carpets cut them up and placed them on the vegetation to stop it from growing. 345 W. Bertsch St is a neighboring property that is a rental and I do not believe that it has ever been inspected.

Rose Mary Cannon– 242 W. Ridge St.– Stated that we have no one for Code. 301 W. Patterson St. is also a Benevy property the hedges reach the telephone lines there are tires laying there.

Samantha Rose – 40 Coal St. – Wanted to know if John Turcmanovich oversaw Public Safety and said that COVID money could pay for the advertising for part-time and full-time police. Also stated was the fact that the officers still do not have body cams or plate readers lets use COVID money for that as well.

Denise Leibensperger –164 W. Ridge St- Stated again about the bus stop that is at the back of the Friendly market. She said that Council told her last month that we would get it moved for her and they still have not done that for her.

Michele Bartek – wanted to know if there was any word on the hard drives yet. Asked the Mayor if he has the police report on each officer.

Erin Soberick- 237 W. Ridge St – Asked William Chuma what his biggest accomplishment was.

Joe Genits – 210 W. Front St. – Stated that he saw the new web site was up and mentioned that it is sharp, good job. Also wanted to know about putting the General Code on the website for everyone to view.

Joe also stated that he saw on the agenda that there is Old Business and that we are going to discuss ownership of what roads in Edgemont.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- July 12, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes.

A Motion was made by William Chuma and the second by Jay Doyle. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- August 1, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes.

A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio, and the second by William Chuma. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Correspondence Received but no action needed.

- Letter of Notice to vacate – Julia Atiyeh – vacating the warehouse on Dock St.
- Audit for Magisterial District 56-3-03

Correspondence enclosed

- Handicap Parking – 337 W. Bertsch St.

A Motion was made by Jennifer Staines, and the second by Jay Doyle to table the decision on the handicap parking space. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- Special Event Form – Lansford Alive- Music in the Park – following dates Sept. 10,17,24, and Oct. 1 from 5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. Due to cancelled shows from the rain.

A Motion was made by Jay Doyle, and the second by John Turcmanovich to approve the Special Event Form for Music in the park on Sept 10,17,24, and Oct 1. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- Special Event Form – Lansford Halloween Special Event Group – October 29,2023 – 2:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.- in Ashton Park.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, and the second by John Turcmanovich to approve the Special Event form for Lansford Halloween in the Park. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Committee Reports –

1. Zoning & Ordinance
2. Public Works
3. Municipal Administration
4. Park & Recreation
5. Public Safety

Municipal Monthly Reports for December

Fire Department – American Fire Co. #1 responded to 20 incidents in July: 11 in Lansford, 3 in Summit Hill, 3 in Coaldale, 1 in Nesquehoning, 1 in Tamaqua and 1 other calls.

Ambulance – Lehighon Ambulance responded to 49 calls for June with a response time of 9.0 minutes from the time of dispatch until time of arrival.

Lehighon Ambulance also responded to 59 incidents in July with a response time of 9.7 minutes from the time of dispatch until time of arrival.

Mayor’s Report – \$1,845.72 was deposited for the month of July.

Police Report – There were 366 calls they were either assist or domestics. 21 arrests and 71 violations.

Code Compliance – Jim Dean investigated 28 code enforcement complaints, issued 6 Notice of Violations, investigated 10 rental complaints, performed 28 rental inspections/ re-inspections, and received 21 zoning complaints. The report is on file.

Tax Collector’s Report – July 1- July 31- \$61,877.92 was collected.

Solicitor’s Report – No Report

Treasurer’s Report –

Bills to Approve

- GENERAL FUND - \$119,994.82
- STREET LIGHT FUND - \$5,287.64
- SANITATION FUND - \$28,271.17
- SEWER TRANSMISSION FUND - \$4,593.96
- PARKS & RECREATION - \$5,935.63
- HIGHWAY – LIQUID FUELS - \$10,412.65
- DELINQUENT TAX - \$1,825.76
- FIRE TAX - \$4,825.50
- ARPA - \$4,202.50

A Motion was made to pay the bills by William Chuma, and the second by Gwyneth Collevchio. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Account Balances July 2023:

No.	Account Title	June	July
6496	General Acct	\$1,047,090.63	\$934,551.32
6488	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
2823	Fire Escrow – 334 W. Bertsch St	\$4,517.88	\$4,518.26
7013	Fire Escrow – 268 E. Patterson St	\$9,858.51	\$9,863.51
7755	Fire Escrow – 161 W. Ridge St	\$5,590.14	\$5,590.14
2153	ARPA Grant Acct	\$236,946.40	\$236,966.52
1394	Railroad Proceeds Account	\$563,191.17	\$563,239.00
8929	Portnoff Account	\$92,239.12	\$95,765.15
8448	Diversified	\$1,490.18	\$1,495.31
6438	Sanitation Fund	\$305,441.36	\$350,406.41
7373	Sani-investors’ Money Mkt Acct	\$52,140.69	\$52,140.69
6454	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$14,113.42	\$14,114.62

6446	Sewage Transmission	\$272,945.25	\$252,683.22
7360	Sewer Transmission	\$55,084.88	\$55,084.88
5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct	\$53,077.89	\$53,082.25
1277	Sewer Trans. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$51,574.31	\$51,580.67
6470	400 E Snyder Sewer Project	\$32,442.77	\$32,439.26
6462	Local Service Tax	\$38,144.84	\$38,630.48
6412	Streetlights	\$73,536.44	\$70,580.33
6371	Fire	\$49,108.35	\$48,923.50
6420	Treasurers Special Highway	\$110,752.31	\$94,621.32
6363	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,442.71	\$41,446.22
6404	Recreation	\$59,675.38	\$58,387.21
		\$3,173,404.62	\$3,069,110.27
	LOANS Paid from Fund		
	1.99% for 1 yr.		
	20 yrs./\$14,130 biannual May & Nov	\$46,474.11	\$46,474.11
3591	\$49,644.00	\$38,486.76	\$35,984.55
5 Yr.	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
		\$143,960.87	\$142,458.66

Old Business:

Ownership of roads in Edgemont section in Lansford

Big controversy up in the Edgemont about who owns what roads. People are talking about putting gates up there and succeeding from the Borough. So, Bruce contacted John Davis from PA DOT and asked him to send the road docket sheets for Edgemont. The roads were added to Liquid Fuels in 1965, so he got out the minute books and found three resolutions in there passed by the Borough accepting ownership of the roads in Edgemont from there he took the info from the Resolutions and went to the Court House and got the deeds from the Court House there is no doubt we own the roads on the West side of Edgemont. The East side the people handed in a letter to Council the minutes do not say what was in the letter we must research a little more. We do have the deeds for the West side of Edgemont they are ours.

New Business:

Advertise Heating oil bids – Sealed bids for #2 heating oil.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, and the second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Advertise for Part-time Utility Employee for Public Works

A Motion was made by William Chuma, and the second by Jennifer Staines. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to convert tennis courts into pickle ball courts.

A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio and the second by William Chuma. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Free Yard Sale on September 2nd and 3rd.

A Motion was made by Jennifer Staines, and the second by Jay Doyle. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to accept the Resignation from James Dean the Code Officer

A Motion was made by Jay Doyle, and the second by Jennifer Staines. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to release the fire escrow money on 161 W. Ridge St. in the amount of \$5,590.14.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, and the second by Martin Distky. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Ratify advertisement placed by ARRO Engineering for handicap ramp project at Ashton Park.

We got the first bids in for \$128,000.00 for 128 days and have cut back.

A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio, and the second was made by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to allow ARRO Engineering to readvertise the Powell Street Sewer Project.

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich, and the second by William Chuma. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Ratify a change in the Brimble's Wall Grant from a LSA Grant (Monroe) to a Multimodal Grant.

With the LSA grant we must put out \$212,360.00 so with a Multimodal we only need \$38,918.00. We have applied for the Multimodal grant already.

A Motion was made by Jay Doyle, with a second by William Chuma. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to open the Train Station for tours on August 26th from noon until 4:00 p.m. in connection with the Tamaqua Rail Fest Festival.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, with a second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to hire Andress Appraisal Services to provide appraised value of lot #122-22-V3.02 located on the Silberline Property at a cost not to exceed \$950.00.

A Motion was made by Jay Doyle, with a second by Jennifer Staines. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the advertisement for the position of Police Chief with the Chiefs of Police Association and the local papers.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, with a second by John Turcmanovich. Jennifer Staines was opposed. Motion passed.

A Motion to go off the agenda was made by Jay Doyle, with a second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Movement of the school bus stop located behind the Friendly Market to Coal St. and W. Ridge St.

A Motion was made to move the school bus stop by Jay Doyle, with a second by Gwyneth Collevecchio. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Advertising for Full and Part- time Police Officers to run in the Times News, Pottsville Republican, Standard Speaker, and the Morning Call and to run the ads for two weeks running them on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

A Motion was made to advertise by John Turcmanovich, with a second by Jay Doyle. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion was made at advertise for a Full – time Code Enforcement Officer running the ad for three weeks upon approval of a job description at the Committee Meetings on the 5th of September by William Chuma, with a second by Jay Doyle. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion to adjourn was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio, with a second by Jay Doyle. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Butrie

Secretary Treasurer