

## LANSFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

Secretary Treasurer Jill Seigendall did not attend this meeting. The meeting minutes were taken by President Jared Soto and Councilman Bob Silver.

Date: December 12, 2018

Meeting called to order by Borough Council President, Jared Soto, at 6:00 P.M. Recited the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call (in attendance): Jared Soto, Bruce Markovich, John Turcmanovich, Joe Butrie, Bob Silver, Marie Ondrus, Irma Leibensperger

Not in attendance: Mayor James Romankow, Solicitor Michael Greek

Adjourned to executive session at 6:02 P.M.

Meeting back in session at 6:30 P.M.

### Public Courtesy:

Rose Mary Cannon 242 W. Ridge St.: What was discussed in executive session. Stated personnel issues were discussed which would be made motion on later in the meeting

Tommy Vadyak 330 W. Abbott St.: Stated borough workers are socializing and not working. Does not believe there should be part-time workers during winter hours. Feels police not doing proper vehicle violation. Doesn't believe we don't need more police: the code is the same, nothing being done.

Robert Clewell: discussed concerns with properties at 229 W. Water St., 306 W. Abbott St. and 362 Snyder Ave.

Jennifer Stannes 353 W. Abbott St.: provided comments and showed pictures related to feral cats and loose dogs abandoned

Jennifer DeSella 235 W. Kline Ave.: stated to look at moving permits to bring charges against persons abandoning animals

Martin Ditsky 330 1/2 E. Abbott St.: handicap application what is required (placard or license plate?)

Robert Dobosh 383 W. Ridge St.: thanked borough workers for relighting the trees in Kennedy Park

Joe Butrie 443 E. Ridge St.: Asked if borough garage is still being used and if it was condemned. Being used for storage only right now. Tired of people on council saying code enforcement agency, LVIS, is not doing their job. Feels members on council should focus on their own roles instead of interfering with the roles of others.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 28, 2018

1) **Motion: Bob Silver 2nd: Jared Soto. Motion passed. All approved.**

- November 14th meeting minutes were not enclosed and will need approval at a future meeting

### Correspondence Notes:

- Will contact USDA Rural Development for more information on federal loan and grant programs for community development. Carbon County Representative is Tonya St. Clair- [Tonya.Stclair@pa.usda.gov](mailto:Tonya.Stclair@pa.usda.gov), 484-795-7614
- Will contact Blackboard Connect to find out more information on how much it would cost the borough to use the automated system for snow emergency purposes which the Lansford/Coaldale Joint Water Authority uses for their outreach to the community
- Public Safety committee will view Senate Resolution 6 Report and set up a meeting in January or February 2019 with Fire Chief, Joe Greco, to discuss concerns.

### Committee Reports:

- Parks and Recreation- report enclosed and on file. Will reduce parks millage by .75 mils and have roughly \$65,000 carryover to complete parks projects in 2019.
- Public works- report enclosed and on file.  
Councilman Butrie asked if public works is fully out of the Spring St. garage. Councilman Silver replied "no". Councilman Butrie requested the water and power be turned off at the Spring St. garage.  
Motions to hire 4 part-time CDL drivers were made individually.

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1) Motion to hire Raymond Howard Nice made by Bob Silver. 2nd: Irma Leibensperger. Motion passed. All approved

2) Motion to hire Richard Marek by Bob Silver. 2nd: Joe Butrie. Motion passed. All approved

3) Motion to hire David Kerr by Bob Silver. 2nd: Irma Leibensperger. Motion passed. All approved

4) Motion to hire Rickie Curtis Ruch by Bob Silver. 2nd: Jared Soto. Motion passed. All approved

- Municipal Administration- no report enclosed. Made mention of budget items to be discussed later in meeting
- Code, Zoning, Planning- report enclosed and on file. Discussion of code enforcement software. Will bring recommendations to January meeting.
- Public Safety- report enclosed and on file. Report for NIMS and ICS classes on file in the office. Mark Nalesnik, from Carbon County Emergency Management Services, is willing to come to the borough to do a training for council members so the borough can become compliant and increase chances of receiving grant funding for public safety concerns.

1) Motion to start interviews with current part-time police officer candidates. Motion: John Turcmanovich, 2nd: Irma Leibensperger. Motion passed. All approved.

### Municipal Administration:

- Fire Department- report enclosed and on file.
- Ambulance- report enclosed and on file.
- Mayor's Report- report enclosed and on file.
- Police Report- report enclosed and on file.
- Carbon County Council of Governments- Jared attended November 27th meeting
  - Received October 23rd minutes- report enclosed and on file. Report mentions to contact Tom Steinbach of Smart Start Lighting (2017 PPL Contractor of the Year) to discuss ways to save money on LED lighting for large and small businesses (includes streetlights, garages, buildings and police stations) [www.smartstartlighting.com](http://www.smartstartlighting.com)
  - COG street sweeper training date will be the first week of March in 2019. Will have to decide in January or February meeting to see if we want to send a borough worker to attend the training. It will cost \$500/day for each borough to rent the sweeper (most places charge over \$100/hour). There will be a checklist developed in order to verify the condition of the sweeper when picked up and returned
  - The COG is working with a solid waste company to come up with a waste collection program which includes multiple boroughs on the contract in order to drive prices down.
- Tax Collector Report- report enclosed and on file.
- Code Compliance- report enclosed on file. Zoning Hearing Board to meet Dec.18, 2018, for a variance requested by Joe Bennett (St. Luke's).
- Treasurer's Report- Bills to be approved totaled \$68,492.22. Motion: Bob Silver 2nd: Jared Soto. Motion passed. All approved.
- Solicitor's Report- No report

### Unfinished Business:

- 2019 Proposed Lansford Borough Budget. Motion to advertise proposed 2019 Budget. Motion: Bob Silver 2nd: John Turcmanovich. Motion passed. All approved. Budget is located on the wall at the borough office. Jared Soto will provide a short-form summary report to be posted and put on file with regards to the budget.
- Motion to Advertise Ordinance 2018-02 in order to adopt 2019 Tax Levy Ordinance. Motion: Bruce Markovich 2nd: John Turcmanovich. Motion passed. All approved.
- Motion to pass Resolution 2018-11 Tax Anticipation Loan in the amount of \$100,000. Motion: Irma Leibensperger 2nd: Jared Soto. Motion is contingent upon verification of bank which will be confirmed by Jill Seigendall. Terms of the loan are a 3.6% interest rate. Motion passed. All approved.
- Approval of 2018 Annual Audit. Motion to appoint Brian T. Kelly CPA to conduct 2018 audit for the amount of \$7,200. Any additional service requirement outside of the scope of the audit is billed at

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\$150/hr. Proposal enclosed and on file. **Motion: Bob Silver 2nd: Marie Ondrus. Motion passed 5 to 2. Approved- John Turcmanovich, Bruce Markovich, Bob Silver, Irma Leibensperger, Marie Ondrus. Opposed- Jared Soto, Joe Butrie**

- Sanitation Delinquent Accounts. Discussed with Coaldale Treasurer, Anissa Nunemacher, about the services they receive from Portnoff. Anissa stated delinquent sanitation collection is going well with Portnoff and they are considering contracting Portnoff for sewer maintenance fees and delinquent property tax collection. Anissa stated to contact Suzanne at the Coaldale Borough to find out more information. Lansford is currently using Powell, Rogers and Speaks. **Motion made by Joe Butrie to remove Powell, Rogers and Speaks as the delinquent sanitation collection agency for the Lansford Borough. No 2nd to the motion. Motion failed.**
- To keep pool lights on at Ashton Hill playground parking lot or to turn off the lights. Keeping the lights on currently costs the borough \$108.00/month on average. **Motion made by Joe Butrie to turn the lights on as needed 2nd: Irma Leibensperger. Motion passed 6 to 1. Approved- Irma Leibensperger, Marie Ondrus, Bob Silver, Jared Soto, Joe Butrie, John Turcmanovich. Opposed- Bruce Markovich.**
- Parking meters. Referenced Chief Soberick statement regarding meters which cannot be enforced until we come up with a uniform policy and make sure all the meters are in working condition. **Motion made by Joe Butrie to remove all parking meters. No 2nd to the motion. Motion failed.**

### New Business:

- PPL cutting brush and herbicide on borough property beneath power lines. Council requested that more information is found out about the herbicide being sprayed
- Board Vacancies to be advertised. **Motion by Joe Butrie to advertise open board vacancies. 2nd: Irma Leibensperger. Motion passed. All approved.**
- Fee Schedule (Resolution 2017-19). Encouraged council to bring recommendations to adjust the fee schedule to the January Municipal Administration meeting so a motion could be made at the January general meeting to amend the current resolution.
- Motion to advertise special meeting on December 27, 2018 at 6:00 PM to approve the budget. **Motion by Joe Butrie 2nd: Irma Leibensperger. Motion passed. All approved.**

**Motion to adjourn made by Joe Butrie. 2nd: Jared Soto. Motion passed. All approved.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jill Seigendall*

Secretary Treasurer