

**Lansford Borough Council
Special Meeting
February 20, 2019**

Call to Order

A special meeting of Lansford Borough Council was held 6:00 p.m. February 20, 2019, at borough hall, 1 W. Ridge Street, Lansford, to resolve tie votes from the February 13, 2019 meeting and for general purposes. The meeting was called to order by President Jared Soto and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Rollcall was taken by secretary treasurer Jill Seigendall with the following council members present: John Turcmanovich, Bruce Markovich, Joseph Butrie, Jared Soto, Bob Silver, Marie Ondrus, Irma Leibensperger, and Mayor James Romankow. Solicitor Michael Greek did not attend. Three residents were in audience as well as a camera man from Channel 13 News.

Public Courtesy

Mary Soberick, 109 W. Abbott Street, questioned why there were six items on the agenda under New Business. President Soto explained that the topics were for information only. None of the topics would be acted on at this meeting.

Rose Mary Cannon, 242 W. Ridge Street, asked whether an appointment was set with the gentleman that applied for the code enforcement position. Mr. Soto explained that no interviews have been set, that applications are still being sought and accepted. Ms. Cannon spoke in support of extending the Solid Waste and Recycling contract with Tamaqua Transfer.

Martin Ditsky, 330 1/2 E. Abbott Street, also supported extending the contract with Tamaqua Transfer and mentioned the "Green Deal" currently being reviewed by U.S. Congress.

Unfinished Business

President Jared Soto reviewed the procedure when breaking a tie vote and all were in agreement that it is the mayor's duty to cast the deciding vote; in the current situation the mayor was absent from the February 13th meeting and would make the single vote to break the ties.

- 1) At the February 13, 2019 meeting Bob Silver volunteered to serve as code enforcement officer. A Motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to appoint Councilman Bob Silver as a volunteer code enforcement officer for Lansford Borough. The Motion was second by Marie Ondrus. On roll call vote: Bruce Markovich, no; John Turcmanovich, no; Jared Soto, no; Bob Silver, yes; Marie Ondrus, yes; Irma Leibensperger, yes. Councilman Joseph Butrie and Mayor Romankow were not present at the time of the vote resulting in a tie vote: 3 yes, 3 no. **At tonight's meeting Mayor James Romankow voted yes. The motion passed: 4 yes, 3 no.**

Councilman Joseph Butrie made a Motion to vote on the issue again because he was not in attendance at the February 13th tie vote meeting and he wanted to vote against Bob Silver as code enforcement officer; asking for a "revote." Jared Soto asked Mr. Butrie to clarify his Motion. Mr. Butrie made a Motion to appoint Bob Silver as a volunteer code enforcement officer for Lansford Borough now that there was full council present at the meeting. Jared Soto asked whether there is a second to the motion. The Motion was second by Bruce Markovich. On rollcall vote: Bruce Markovich-no; John Turcmanovich-no; Joseph Butrie-no; Jared Soto-no; Bob Silver-yes; Marie Ondrus-yes; Irma Leibensperger-yes. The Motion failed: 3 yes, 4 no.

Note: Mr. Butrie's Motion should have been, "to remove Bob Silver from the position of code enforcement officer", however all in attendance were following the intention of Mr. Butrie's motion and there were no objections to the intended meaning of the "revote".

- 2) At the February 13, 2019 meeting council considered the adoption of Resolution 2019-01-Salary Schedule. A Motion was made by Bruce Markovich to approve Resolution 2019-01, the Salary Schedule for nonunion employees. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. On roll call vote: Bruce Markovich, yes; John Turcmanovich, yes; Jared Soto, yes; Bob Silver, no; Marie Ondrus, no; Irma Leibensperger, no. Councilman Joseph Butrie abstained from voting because his wife is a nonunion borough employee. Mayor Romankow was absent at the time of the vote resulting in a tie vote: 3 yes, 3 no. **At tonight's meeting Mayor James Romankow voted yes. The Motion passed: 4 yes, 3 no.**

New Business

- 1) Larry Wittig said he will renew the borough's contract with Tamaqua Transfer Sanitation & Recycling for another year at the same rate however nothing in writing has been received yet.
- 2) Lehigh Engineering has offered a proposal for code enforcement.
- 3) A computer repair and reconfiguration quote was received for the Police Department. Total cost \$2,668.00. Breakdown: \$1,300.00 gear & network changes; \$682.00 for network upgrade; \$686.00 for file storage. A configuration for the borough office can be obtained.
- 4) A request was received from the Tax Office to remove the restroom partition at borough hall. Bob Silver will check whether the public works employees can remove the partition.
- 5) A letter was received from Attorney Greek that Jesse Hiles has appealed his civil suit against the borough to the Superior Court.
- 6) A PPL pole needs to be relocated from the corner of Cortright and W. Patterson Streets (near the former Geisinger/Kiddie Klothes building) across W. Patterson Street to Kennedy Park. Bob Silver, Marie Ondrus and Irma Leibensperger volunteered to meet with PPL at the site of the pole sometime next week.

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Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Joseph Butrie at 6:25 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, second by Jared Soto and everyone disbursed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Seigendall,
Secretary Treasurer