

**Lansford Borough Council
Special Meeting with Friends of Lansford Pool
February 24, 2020**

Call to Order

A special meeting of Lansford Borough Council was held 6:00 p.m. February 24, 2020, at borough hall, 1 W. Ridge Street, Lansford, to discuss the future of the Lansford Pool with the nonprofit group for recreation, Friends of the Lansford Pool (FLP). The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Markovich and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following council members were present: Martin Ditsky, John Turcmanovich, William Chuma, Bruce Markovich, Bob Silver, Marie Ondrus, Irma Leibensperger, Mayor Michele Bartek and Solicitor Robert Yurchak. About 40 residents were in audience.

Public Courtesy

President Markovich asked whether the Friends of Lansford Pool had a representative to speak for the group:

Jared Soto, FLP Vice President, gave a brief summary of the groups fund raising since the pool closed at the end of summer 2015. Aquatic Facilities completed a feasibility study (April 4, 2017) for a multi-use facility at Ashton Park. The pool group has raised \$53,898.88.

Bruce Markovich asked whether the group's objective was to open the existing pool or reconstruct a new pool. FLP was open to making the necessary renovations to get the pool open.

Council woman Irma Leibensperger was concerned about handicap accessibility.

Nathan Halenar, FLP President, added that the group is willing to continue supporting and raising funds for the pool after it is reopened

Rose Mary Cannon gave a brief history of the pool and said the pool was self-sufficient during the years it was in operation. She suggested seeking corporate sponsors to get renovation funds and increasing borough tax millage to cover operating costs once the pool is reopened.

Bob Silver spoke in favor of renovating the pool and noted that residents of other municipalities are in attendance. He suggested other municipalities make donations to the project; make it a panther valley project.

Both the FLP and council considered past estimates of expenses and income of the pool during its final years; 2013, 2014, 2015. Many in attendance spoke in favor of reopening the pool; Gwyn Collevchio, May Soto, Nicholas Ritzko, Lenny Kovach, Mayor Bartek, Smokey Krajnak, No one voiced objection to the project and everyone agreed it is a financial problem. There was discussion about volunteers helping; cleaning, painting.

Martin Ditsky pointed out that the leak which led to the pool closing in 2015 was never found. The leak is suspected to be in the skimmers and the cost to repair it must be identified first.

President Markovich had verbal estimates from Belleview Pumps \$10,000.00; Joe Hutta, \$10,000.00 to detect the leak.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to pursue repairing the leak in the Ashton Park Pool. The motion was second by William Chuma. On roll call vote: Martin Ditsky, No; John Turcmanovich, Yes; William Chuma, Yes; Bruce Markovich, Yes, Bob Silver, Yes; Marie Ondrus, No; Irma Leibensperger, No. Motion passes, 4 Yes, 3 No. (to applause and many thanks from the audience.)

At about 6:55 p.m. most members of the Friends of Lansford Pool disbursed from the meeting.

Correspondence

Resolution 2020-02 to update the budget amount \$120,000.00 and rename the signers for the Streetscape II Grant. The grant is for lights along the streetscape project area on Ridge Street between Tunnel and Coal Streets. The original signers are no longer on borough council.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to pass Resolution 2020-02 to redefine the budget and update the signers for the Streetscape Grant. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Special Event Form was received from Kevin Zuercher, manager of the Half Time Bar and Grill at the Sports Zoo. The motorcycle event would be held 5/16/2020. He requests closing W. Ridge Street between Cortright and Dock Street along with the street in front of the Sports Zoo Bar between 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. The mayor and council had questions about whether a nonprofit would benefit from the event and the topic was tabled by William Chuma, second by Bob Silver.

New Business

Two estimates were received for removal of 5 stumps and 2 lamp posts at Ashton Park: Peter Radocha, \$1,200.00 and Daniel Farber, \$1,850.00.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to accept the bid from Peter J. Radocha and Sons for \$1,200.00. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor except Marie Ondrus who was opposed. Motion passed, 6 Yes, 1 No.

An estimate for 2' X 2' X 6' cement blocks from J&R Slaw Inc. , \$50.00 each, to improve the 300 block of E. Ridge Street and Front Street. 18 blocks are needed (\$900.00) plus 2 loads delivery from Peter J. Radocha, at \$300.00 per load = \$600.00.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to purchase the cement blocks (18 blocks @ \$50 = \$900.00) for road repairs and delivery by Peter J. Radocha (2 deliveries at \$300 each = \$600.00) for a total cost of \$1,500.00. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by William Chuma at 7:10 p.m., second by John Turcmanovich and everyone disbursed except for members of the safety committee who met in executive session to review police grievances.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall,
Secretary Treasurer