

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

Council members attending: Gwyneth Collevecchio, Bruce Markovich, William Chuma, Jennifer Staines, Martin Ditsky, Jay Doyle, Solicitor Robert Yurchak, Mayor Hugh Vrablic. John Turcmanovich was not in attendance.

Executive Session 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. litigation was discussed.

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

Public Courtesy –

Michelle Bartek – 333 E. Abbott St. – Mentioned the compromising of one of the computer’s hard drives from 2 years ago. Michelle also asked about the guns that the Borough was to purchase for the police dept.

Denise Leibensperger– 164 W. Ridge St. – Talked about the bus stop that is located to the rear of MAA LAXMI Property LLC. Denise would like the bus stop moved. Also mentioned was the parallel parking on the South side of Ridge St. in the Business district and says the cars are blocking her driveway

Bruce Markovich mentioned that 2 years ago we applied for a grant for a Park Project Designer his name is Ed Black he is from Harrisburg he will be coming to do a park design on sidewalks, lighting system, and electrical system on Kennedy Park, and Ashton Park and to do an upgrade on the Skate Park. The amount of the grant was for \$2,000.00 and they added another \$5,000.00 to make it \$7,500.00.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- December 13, 2022, Special Municipal Administration Meeting Minutes.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Gwyneth Collevecchio to approve the December 13, 2022, Special Municipal Administration Meeting Minutes. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- December 14,2022, Meeting Minutes

A Motion was made by Jay Doyle, second by William Chuma to approve the December 14, 2022, Meeting Minutes. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- January 3, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes

A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio, second by William Chuma to approve the January 3, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Committee Reports – On the table out front

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 24 incidents in December: 12 in Lansford, 3 in Summit Hill, 4 in Coaldale, 2 in Nesquehoning and 1 in Jim Thorpe and 2 others.

Ambulance – Lehighon Ambulance responded to 85 incidents in December with an average response time of 9 minutes from time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

Mayor's Report \$574.69 was deposited for the month of December.

Police Report – There were 292 calls, 30 parking tickets, and 1 QOL. They also made 16 arrests.

Code Compliance – Jim Dean investigated 26 code enforcement complaints, issued 15 Notice of Violations, investigated 38 rental complaints, performed 31 rental inspections, and received 11 zoning complaints. The report is on file.

Tax Collector's Report – From December 1, 2023 – December 31, 2022, \$41,361.89 was collected.

Solicitor's Report – There are two properties in Lansford going up for Repository Sale and there were bids put in on the properties and they need Council's approval.

118 W. Ridge St.- The person who put the bid in was someone who gave Jim Dean a hard time about another property that he purchased which was condemned. The roof is also caving in on the building that he was bidding on.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Jay Doyle to deny the bid from Conor Rodgers and CR2 Services LLC on 118 W. Ridge St. All were in favor. Motion passed.

512 E. Kline Ave.- This LLC is from Long beach California what chances do you think we have to enforce this from California.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Jay Doyle to deny the bid from Vance Hymes on 512 E. Kline Ave. All were in favor. Motion passed.

There was an order against Wenzelberger dated in August giving 30 days it is way past it. I would like to ask Council to proceed with a contempt action on Mr. Wenzelberger.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Jay Doyle to put a contempt order on Mr. Wenzelberger for the property at 151 W. Ridge St. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The Solicitor also mentioned that he had the Ordinance ready for the new Sewage Transmission fee. Lowering the fee from \$90.00 to \$60.00 a year and asked if we would like to advertise the Ordinance.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Jay Doyle to advertise the Sewage Transmission Ordinance lowering the fee from \$90.00 a year to \$60.00 a year. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report –

Bills to Approve

- GENERAL FUND - \$119,213.71
- ARPA FUNDING - \$5,379.00
- STREET LIGHT FUND - \$5,479.91
- SANITATION FUND - \$29,020.99
- SEWER TRANSMISSION FUND - \$2,223.99
- PARKS & RECREATION - \$61.99
- HIGHWAY – LIQUID FUELS - \$743.03

- FIRE TAX - \$0.00
- DELINQUENT TAX ACCOUNT - \$432.33

A Motion was made by Jay Doyle, second by William Chuma, to approve payment of the December bills. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Account Balances December 31, 2022:

FUND/ Checking	No.	Account Title	November	December
General Fund	6496	General Acct	\$795,785.25	\$746,631.36
General Fund	6488	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
General Fund	2823	Fire Escrow – 334 W. Bertsch St	\$4,514.88	\$4,515.62
General Fund	2823	Fire Escrow – 339 E. Bertsch St	\$11,220.00	\$0.00
General Fund	7013	Fire Escrow – 268 E. Patterson St	\$9,863.51	\$9863.51
General Fund	2153	ARPA Grant Acct	\$345,337.91	\$303,461.09
General Fund	1394	Railroad Proceeds Account	\$531,628.88	\$531,672.58
General Fund	8929	Portnoff Account	\$70,388.85	\$73,377.63
Sanitation Fund	6438	Sanitation Fund	\$304,018.24	\$283,734.55
Sanitation Fund	7373	Sani-investors' Money Mkt Acct	\$52,004.61	\$52,024.49
Sanitation Fund	6454	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$14,105.22	\$14,106.38
Sewer Transmission	6446	Sewage Transmission	\$65,858.93	\$90,220.36
Sewer Transmission	7360	Sewer Transmission	\$54,941.12	\$54,962.12
Sewer Transmission	5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct	\$53,047.07	\$53,051.43
Sewer Transmission	1277	Sewer Trans. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$51,529.39	\$51,542.31
Sewer Transmission	6470	400 E Snyder Sewer Project	\$32,417.68	\$32,420.34
LST	6462	Local Service Tax	\$30,122.98	\$30,125.46
Street Light Fund	6412	Streetlights	\$64,569.41	\$49,194.89
Fire Tax Fund	6371	Fire	\$25,490.27	\$21,464.29
Sp. Hi-Way	6420	Treasurers Special Highway	\$45,662.38	\$46,633.58
Park & Rec Fund	6363	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,418.63	\$41,422.03
Park & Rec Fund	6404	Recreation	\$45,820.57	\$45,663.28
Total			\$2,652,745.78	\$2,539,087.30
LOANS		LOANS Paid from Fund		
Tax Anticipation Note		1.99% for 1 yr.		
MEM Debacle		20 yrs./\$14,130 biannual May & Nov	\$56,639.11	\$56,639.11
2018 Police RAM				
2020 Sewer Loan	3591	\$49,644.00	\$45,943.83	\$44,706.42
2022 Ford F 550	5 Yr.	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Total			\$159,582.94	\$161,345.53

New Business:

Engagement Letter from Auditors – the fee for the audit is \$8,250.00.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Gwyneth Collevecchio to approve the Engagement letter for the auditors. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Engagement Letter from LGH Tax & Accounting

A Roll Call Vote was taken Jennifer Staines- yes, William Chuma – yes, Bruce Markovich – yes, Jay Doyle – yes, Martin Ditsky – no, Gwyneth Collevecchio – yes. Yes 5, No 1.

Table payment of Fire Company Invoices – The American Fire Company #1 turned in receipts for the second half of last year totaling \$11,331.37.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Jay Doyle to table their bills of \$11,331.37 and set up a meeting with the Fire Company to go over their bills and their budget. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to change the employment status of Shantel Lauer from part time to full time effective 1/15/23. Rate of pay to be \$20.23.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Jay Doyle to change the employment status of Shantel Lauer from part time to full time and change the pay rate to \$20.23 an hour. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion to go off the agenda. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Jennifer Staines to give Wendy Butrie a 3% raise. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to begin the preliminary application process to determine the feasibility of moving the police pension fund from Girard Management to the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System.

A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio, second by Jay Doyle to start the preliminary process of moving the police pension fund. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion was made to go off the agenda by William Chuma, second by Jennifer Staines. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Martin Ditsky mentioned that Jennifer Staines, Jay Doyle and himself attended a meeting in Nesquehoning with Nesquehoning Council about Regionalizing the police force.

A Motion was made by Martin Ditsky, second by Jay Doyle to pass a Resolution for DCED to do a study on Regionalization of the police force. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to hire ARRO as a 2nd Code Enforcement.

A Motion was made by Jay Doyle, second by William Chuma to hire ARRO as the 2nd Code Enforcement. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The hourly rate would be \$68.00 an hour and they would be working on the bigger projects.

A Motion to adjourn was made by William Chuma, second by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

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Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Butrie

Secretary Treasurer