

Monthly Meeting Minutes

July 10th, 2024

The July 10th, 2024 Monthly Meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by President Bruce Markovich at The Lansford Borough Town Hall, 1 West Ridge Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania. The meeting was attended by Council Woman Michele Bartek, Council Man Joesph Butrie, Council Woman Gwyneth Collevchio, Council Man Jay Doyle, President Bruce Markovich, Council Man Jack Soberick, Council Woman Jennifer Staines, Mayor Hugh Vrablic, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Bruce Markovich spoke briefly about the executive meeting which was about personnel issues. The executive session meeting was from 6:00p.m. to 6:30p.m.

Public Courtesy-

Tommy Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street spoke about ordinances changes and how an ordinance is needed to remove cars that do not have valid vehicle inspections or are inoperable.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about how he disagrees with increasing the handicap parking costs and how the council should consider the people of the town when making decisions.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the agenda motions pertaining to dumpsters for businesses.

Michele Bartek spoke about how each business should be treated the same pertaining to dumpsters due to Marcos Pizzeria having been forced to get a dumpster.

Joseph Butrie stated that he is against the dumpsters, due to garbage that is not the owners being found in them, which had occurred for the Family Dollar Dumpster which had building materials in it.

Bob Greenall of 420 West Bertsch Street spoke about a property on West Bertsch Street that has a green bag dumpster on the sidewalk that has been there for a while with garbage in it.

Leonard Sniscak stated that he is a volunteer for the Grace Community Church thrift store and that a lot of items donated need to be thrown away, but that he is not going to be hauling multiple bags of garbage to a dumpster behind the church.

Mary Soberick of 109 West Abbott inquired about the motion on the agenda to purchase QuickBooks and if that is a yearly subscription cost.

Mary Soberick inquired about the motion on the agenda to invest in CDS.

Robert Stanek of 334 East Patterson Street stated that he disagrees with the convenience store located on the 300 Block of East Bertsch having driveway access near the intersection of Patterson Street and Powell Street due to safety.

Diane Pugh of 107 West Patterson Street spoke about how she needs to get in contact with previous Code Officer Jim Dean to testify in a court case and that she has attempted to get in contact with him but does not have his contact information.

John Williams of 238 East Ridge Street inquired about how the borough is going to determine which businesses will need dumpsters.

John Williams spoke about the crossing flights and how they need to be changed to have a delay before the light changes color so that people can more safely cross the street.

Peggy Kassak of 41 Leisenring Street spoke about advertising one or two ordinances a month that are going to be enforced so that people of the town are aware of the ordinances.

Rosemary Cannon of 242 West Ridge Street spoke about previous committee meeting minutes that she could not find online.

Rosemary Cannon spoke about how flowers for Terrence McCall's Funeral is not an allowable expense for the borough.

Rosemary Cannon spoke about the motion to advertise for two Civil Service Commission positions and how Tom Dahl was not officially notified of his position.

Rosemary Cannon spoke about the downtown area of the borough and how she would like to see the area cleaned up before the Veteran's Day Parade.

Approval of Meeting Minutes-

Motion to approve the June 12th, 2024 Monthly Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the July 2nd, 2024 Committee Meeting-

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Joesph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the July 2nd, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Joesph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports-

Fire Department Report-

Michele Bartek spoke about the Fire Department Report.

Total man hours were 196. Year-to-date is 952.5. Total incident hours were 25.25 for the month. 98 for the year-to-date. The in-house work, total hours served were 24. The total man hours were 18. Year-to-date was 812.5.

Fundraising was 11 hours. Year-to-date is 78 hours. Total man hours was 99 for a total of 932.5.

Training hours. Total training hours were 10. Year-to-date is 299.5. Total man hours were 160. Year-to-date is 1,134.

Community service. Total hours served was 6. Year-to-date is 17. Total man hours for community service was 30 hours for a total of 129.5.

The administrative duties were 20 hours. Year-to-date, 120 hours. Total man hours for that were 80. Year-to-date were 480. So, for a total man hours per day, up to date was 645 for the month. Total man hours per year are 4,441 hours. Total hours for all activities year to date are 821.5 hours. And total hours for all activities were 96.25 hours.

Ambulance Report-

Michele Bartek spoke about the ambulance report.

There was an average response time of 10.5 minutes from the time of dispatch until arrival on scene. Of 59 responses, 9 were not emergency assistance, including standby, etc. with a time of 13.2 minutes, 12 were for non-emergency patient services with a time of 12.9 minutes, and 38 were responses with a time of 9.1 minutes for urgency.

Mayor's and Police Report-

Mayor Hugh Vrablic spoke the mayor's and Police report.

The police had responded to 314 calls and complaints. 19 cases were cleared, 13 arrests were made, 5 non-traffic citations filed, 14 traffic contacts, 2 DWIs, 2 search warrants served, 20 parking and ordinance tickets issued. The total parking ticket fees collected were \$390.

Total action report fees collected were \$135. With a total of 1,756 miles.

Rental Report-

Maria Ahner spoke the rental report.

The borough requested a report from ARRO Consulting. From April 01, 2024 to June 21, 2024 the borough received 45 approved licenses per property unit.

Code Report-

Maria Ahner spoke the code report.

There are many properties in the report. Ray Swartz is still working on sending the borough a summary report on how many properties are being cited and how many are still under the magistrate. Some properties cited are from 2023. The process for these properties is lengthy.

Solicitors Report-

Solicitor Robert Yurchak spoke the solicitors report.

The ordinance changing the signs by Boyer's Supermarket and Parkway from a yield sign to a stop sign has been advertised and ready for adoption.

Motion to approve the ordinance which would change the yield sign to a stop sign.

Motioned by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Jay Doyle.

Motion passed unanimously.

The council needs to vote on the approval of the resolution for the transfer of the property on Dock Street to Ryan Eidle. The total amount to be reimbursed to the borough being \$25,700.00.

Motion to approve the resolution which specifies costs of \$25,700.00 to be paid from Ryan Eidle to the Lansford Borough.

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Tax Collector's Report-

Maria Ahner communicated the tax report.

From June 1st, 2024 to June 30th, 2024, the total tax collected was \$16,211.71.

Motion to pay the bills-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Jay Doyle.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept Gwyneth Collevchio offer to donate her July Salary to pay for the flowers for Terrence McCall.

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Jay Doyle.

Bruce Markovich stated he will pay the remaining balance on the bill if Gwyneth Collevchio's salary does not cover the whole bill.

New Business-

PowerPoint presentation from John Zym about Lansford Rentals-Requested by Jennifer Staines-

Jennifer Staines stated that the PowerPoint has been cancelled and moved to occur at the July 23rd, 2024 Special Meeting.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the special meeting that is going to occur on July 23rd, 2024 which is going to have ARRO discussing with council the rental issues that the borough is currently facing.

Motions-

Motion to approve a special event application from Lansford Alive for a Fall Festival on September 28th, 2024.-

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve a refund of \$81.20 (601 E Bertsch) to Kathlal Realty LLC due to overpayment on her sanitation and sewage transmission bill and her property having already been sold.-

Motion to table by Jack Soberick and seconded by Joesph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the opening of a Fire Escrow in the amount of \$8,839.46 for Slakoper Rentals at 292 East Snyder Avenue.-

Motioned by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Jay Doyle.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve a refund of \$192.00 (14 W. Abbott) to Willaim Hamersly due to the overpayment on his sanitation bill and his property having been sold.-

Motion to table by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve changing the Complaint Form Format- Requested by the Borough Office-

Maria Ahner spoke about the complaint form format. The form is going to be uploaded digitally on the website, allowing for people to fill in the form, click one of the choices

provided, and then the office will direct the submitted complaint form to either the code officer or Lansford police.

The form once submitted will be assigned a complaint number.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$3,839.59 from the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau to be used for the purchase of twenty-four trash cans with lids to be placed in the Borough Parks and Playgrounds.-

Motioned by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to pay the additional costs for new radios for the fire company not covered by the grant using covid funds in the amount of \$1,857.62. The original grant for portable radios and turnout gear was amended to purchase new truck radios, resulting in the additional costs.-

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve a resolution requesting \$78,993.41 in grant funding from DCED Local Share Account (Monroe) for the purchase of a portable excavator.-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevechio and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve a pass-through agreement between the Borough of Lansford, Grace Community Church, and Second Harvest Food Bank in the amount of \$252,466. For work on the Grace Community Center.-

Bruce Markovich stated that the pass-through agreement allows for liability to be taken off the borough if the contractor overspends on the work for the Grace Community Center at 47 West Ridge Street.

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Gwyneth Collevechio.

Motion to approve the purchase of the 2024 Version of QuickBooks Desktop at a cost of \$849.00. Currently the borough office is using the 2011 QuickBooks version.-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to amend the garbage ordinance to include dumpsters for businesses in the business district.-

Michele Bartek spoke about wanting to ask businesses that have space to get a dumpster or for businesses to have multiple garbage pickups.

Motion to table by Jay Doyle and seconded by Joesph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve sending out letters to businesses and multi-apartment properties notifying them that the borough is going to be requiring them to have dumpsters.-

Motion to table Joesph Butrie and seconded by Jay Doyle.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to advertise in the newspaper for two available seats on the Civil Service Commission.-

Bruce Markovich stated that the motion is going to be changed due to one seat being available on the Civil Service Commission.

Motion to advertise in the newspaper for one available seat on the Civil Service Commission.

Motioned by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to invest in CDs with Railroad and Pool Funds.-

Motion to table by Michele Bartek. No member of council seconded the motion to table.

Motion to adjourn the meeting-

Motioned by Jack Soberick and Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by President Bruce Markovich at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Ashley McLaughlin

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer