

The July meeting of Lansford Borough Council was held 6:00 p.m. July 8, 2020 at borough hall.

Call to Order - by President Bruce Markovich.

Roll Call: Attending council persons: Martin Ditsky, John Turcmanovich, Bruce Markovich, William Chuma, Bob (Robert) Silver, Marie Ondrus, Mayor Michele Bartek, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak. Irma Leibensperger attended on Marie Ondrus iPhone.

Executive Session: Held 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to discuss acquiring the Silberline property for the borough garage and police grievances.

Public Courtesy:

Kevin Zuercher, 380 W. Snyder Avenue, Half Time Bar & Grill at the Sports Zoo, presented a Special Event Form asking to hold a benefit/free music on 9/7/2020 to benefit the American Cancer Society. He requested closure of W. Ridge Street between Cortright and Dock Streets.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve the free music event to benefit the American Cancer society 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Sports Zoo on 9/7/2020 pending receipt of the Sports Zoo proof of insurance. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Mr. Zuercher asked about erecting a sign to advertise the Sports Zoo at the intersection of Dock Street and Route 209 (must see Zoning Officer) and holding a motorcycle run between Northampton (Fish & Game Assoc.) and Lansford to benefit law enforcement "Backing the Blue at the Zoo" to be held August 8, 2020.

Approval of Minutes: June 10, 2020 monthly meeting

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Bob Silver, to approve the June 10, 2020 meeting minutes. All were in favor except for Marie Ondrus who was opposed. Motion passed 6-Yes, 1-No.

Correspondence:

- Handicap Parking Application – 125 E. Bertsch Street, Melanie White. There is off street parking at this residence.
A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to approve the handicap parking at 125 E. Bertsch Street. No one was in favor of the Motion. Motion failed.
- Council reviewed the letter from Lansford Borough to Angela Krapf, Coaldale Borough Council President, initiating a meeting between the two councils regarding the Lansford Coaldale Joint Water Authority. There has been no response from Coaldale Borough.
- PA Dept of Environmental Protection Letter dated 6/30/2020 to Ms. Jennifer Milkovich regarding Silberline and the Risk Assessment Plan Review, 65 more days until the review is final.
- PA Liquor Control Board, liquor license pending for 533 E. Patterson Street (most recently Citarelli's Bar)
- C.C. Tax Claim Bureau – Request for Repository Sales, Approval or Disapproval of parcels 122A2-24-C9.01 (for \$844.00) and Parcel 122-24-P2.12, (for \$844.00) current owner Andrew Kidada, sale to Robert Silver.
A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to approve the repository sale of parcel 122A2-24-C9.01 for \$844.00, to Robert Silver. Robert Silver abstained from voting. All were in favor, Motion passed.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to approve the repository sale of parcel 122-24-P2.12 for \$844.00, to Robert Silver. Robert Silver abstained from voting. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Correspondence received in June, but no action needed:

- Girard Benefits quarterly report, Police pension Plan
- PennDOT - Letter to minimize the risk of traffic signal pole failures
- Rules and Regulations for the Lansford Civil Service Commission (74 pages)
- Project approval from PennDOT, John Davis, for Street projects ID# 20-13402-001

Committee Reports: Held July 1, 2020

Zoning & Ordinance – No quorum for a meeting, Bob Silver spoke about considering changes and enforcement of Ordinance 2007-13, Residential Rental Licensing Ordinance.

Public Works – William Chuma said John Davis approved street projects for 2020. The borough workers have been cleaning ditches on the back roads, cutting grass, and replacing sewer inlets. Shared services in Summit Hill is being scheduled.

Municipal Administration – Bruce Markovich gave update on grant projects.

Park & Recreation – Martin Ditsky will order mulch for Ashton Park and East End playground. Friends of the pool have painted primer on the buildings at Ashton Park pool.

Public Safety – Chairman Turcmanovich said the Civil Service Commission received three applicants for full time police testing. Two were disqualified and the third is working full time under an emergency provisional appointment. He will be tested by the commission. Mr. Turcmanovich asked council whether more advertising for applicants is needed. Estimated advertising costs: The Times News (\$320), Pottsville Republic and/or Hazleton Standard Speaker newspapers (\$385 each). Full time advertisements are also posted on the PA Chiefs webpage (\$100/month) and on Lackawanna College (Police Act 120 training site) website for free. No action taken at this time.

Municipal Monthly Reports:

American Fire Co. No. 1 – Answered 13 fire calls in June: 7 in Lansford, 4 in Summit Hill, 2 in Coaldale.

Leighton Ambulance Report – The ambulance responded to 67 incidents in June with an average response time of 9 minutes from time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Bartek reported monthly total of \$565.00 with the following breakdown: miscellaneous reports \$100.00, parking violations \$465.00.

Police Report – Mayor Bartek read the June police incident report. She said the police department received numerous complaints about loud fireworks and requested council research existing fireworks ordinances and issue permits for fireworks.

Solicitor's Report – No written report

Tax Collector’s Report – June collections total \$22,262.05. Year to date total is \$787,711.01.

Treasurer’s Report – Bills were offered for approval totaling \$94,514.86; Breakdown: General Fund, \$45,221.60, Street Light, \$4,644.05; Sewer Transmission, \$13,687.88; Park & Recreation, \$280.57; Liquid Fuels, \$1,811.76; Sanitation, \$28,172.00, Fire, \$697.00.

A Motion to pay the bills totaling \$94,514.86 was made by Bob Silver, second by William Chuma. All were in favor except for Marie Ondrus who was opposed, Motion passed, 6-Yes, 1-No.

Bank Accounts		2020		
End of month balances			2020	2020
FUND/Saving & Ckg	No.	Account Title	May	June
General Fund	7673	General Acct	\$451,726.64	\$640,541.90
General Fund	7780	Escrow for 20 E Kline Ave	\$2,180.11	\$2,180.11
General Fund	7772	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
General Fund	5725	Escrow for 2 E Ridge St	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Sanitation Fund	7681	Sanitation Fund	\$192,465.13	\$170,203.50
Sanitation Fund	0283	Sani-investors’ Money Mkt Acct	\$51,833.15	\$51,841.65
Sanitation Fund	7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,166.52	\$12,167.58
Sewer Transmission	7714	Sewage Transmission	\$116,772.27	\$119,064.39
Sewer Transmission	1198	Sewer Transmission	\$165,119.22	\$165,146.29
Sewer Transmission	5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct	\$152,942.20	\$152,950.00
Sewer Transmission	1277	Sewer Transm. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$51,222.73	\$51,233.58
LST	7722	Local Service Tax	\$16,299.63	\$16,379.16
Street Light Fund	7764	Streetlights	\$26,815.42	\$56,084.08
Fire Tax Fund	7748	Fire	\$34,694.07	\$46,072.74
Sp HiWay LiquidFuels	7706	Treasurers Special HiWay	\$159,365.57	\$159,066.21
Park & Rec Fund	7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,421.94	\$41,425.56
Park & Rec Fund	7756	Recreation	\$58,285.04	\$60,572.56
Total			\$1,576,309.64	\$1,787,929.31
LOANS		LOANS Paid from Fund		
Tax Anticipation Note	1.99% for 1yr	General Fund	\$100,000.00	\$50,000.00
Tunnel St/Storm Sep	\$18,689.23	Sewer Transm#5537	\$662,774.85	\$646,457.96
MEM Debacle	20 yrs.	Street Light Fund#6309	\$104,239.11	\$104,239.11
2018 Police RAM		Gen Fund or LST 6/1/18 - 5 yr.	\$32,351.80	\$32,351.80
			\$899,365.76	\$833,048.87

Losses to borough income due to COVID-19 are expected to be seen in property taxes and earned income taxes. Tracking these costs below:

TAX	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Jan					
Feb					
Mar					

Apr	\$200,237.03	\$229,781.84	\$230,256.54	\$223,883.35	
May	\$299,120.09	\$500,652.47	\$500,955.51	\$518,602.17	
June	\$195,688.06	\$17,534.89	\$10,427.14	\$22,262.05	
Jul	\$102,427.60	\$78,997.77	\$91,771.93		
Aug	\$8,284.86	\$12,129.84	\$11,626.83		
Sep	\$5,345.85	\$9,377.21	\$14,341.08		
Oct	\$9,862.58	\$5,780.05	\$22,725.62		
Nov	\$12,569.98	\$11,266.91	\$7,088.47		
Dec					
TOTAL	\$833,536.05	\$865,520.98	\$889,193.12	\$742,485.52	

EIT	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Jan	\$10,665.02	\$11,488.73	\$10,616.37	\$7,879.02	
Feb	\$37,343.58	\$40,402.48	\$39,633.82	\$48,189.09	
Mar	\$9,637.62	\$6,138.95	\$10,305.22	\$6,490.94	
Apr	\$12,444.68	\$9,772.01	\$10,564.40	\$2,955.38	
May	\$36,286.58	\$42,222.04	\$43,919.14	\$45,852.60	
June	\$7,865.58	\$6,940.57	\$6,091.01	\$8,050.31	
Jul	\$8,993.25	\$2,963.02	\$6,106.10		
Aug	\$41,130.34	\$46,203.90	\$46,664.74		
Sep	\$6,377.46	\$7,997.43	\$4,399.49		
Oct	\$6,178.71	\$9,057.97	\$10,033.90		
Nov	\$42,571.74	\$40,050.03	\$46,365.18		
Dec	\$7,214.63	\$10,361.74	\$8,350.96		
TOTAL	\$226,709.19	\$233,598.87	\$243,050.33	\$111,367.03	

Unfinished Business:

Civil Service Rules & Regulations – The rules were reviewed by Lansford Civil Service Commission and Attorney Yurchak and submitted to council for adoption.

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich, second by William Chuma, to adopt the updated Civil Service Rules and Regulations. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Heart & Lung Benefits – The updated procedure for claiming Heart & Lung Benefits was reviewed by the Civil Service & Public Safety Committee and presented to borough council.

A Motion to adopt the updated Procedure for Claiming Heart & Lung Benefits was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Resolution 2020-10 to apply for \$125,000, PA Department of Community and Economic Development for remediation of blight. Specifically, to demolish 316 W. Patterson Street, 612 E. Patterson Street and the former Borough Garage, 200 W. Water Street.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to adopt Resolution 2020-10 and appoint Bruce Markovich and Jill Seigendall to execute all documents in the blight remediation grant to PA DCED. All were in favor except Marie Ondrus who was opposed. Motion passed, 6-Yes, 1-No.

Resolution 2020-11 to apply for \$150,000.00 grant, PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant program for repairs to sidewalks and handicap ramps at JFK Park and Ashton Park.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to adopt Resolution 2020-11 and appoint Bruce Markovich and Jill Seigendall to execute all documents in the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Grant. All were in favor except Marie Ondrus who was opposed. Motion passed, 6-Yes, 1-No.

New Business:

Uniform Construction Code Inspector:

A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by William Chuma, to hire Arro Consulting, Inc., Orwigsburg, as the borough's UCC Inspector. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Borough Engineer:

A Motion was made by William Chuma to appoint Arro Engineering, Orwigsburg, as the borough's engineer. The Motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Committee Meetings: Due to poor attendance at committee meetings

A Motion was made by William Chuma to cancel all scheduled monthly committee meetings in 2020 and hold special committee meetings as needed. An advertisement of the cancellation to be published in the Times News. The Motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor except Martin Ditsky who was opposed. Motion passed, 6-Yes, 1-No.

Heating Oil Bids

A Motion was made by William Chuma to advertise for Heating Oil bids, fuel oil, approximately 9,000 gallons more or less, for borough buildings for the term August 15, 2020 through July 31, 2021. The Motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Special Event Application -

Half Time Sports Bar at the Sports Zoo, August 8, 2020, "Black and Blue Ride" Band 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to approve the "Black and Blue" Ride, pending proof of insurance, to be held August 8, 2020, at the Sports Zoo to benefit Police Departments. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn was made by William Chuma, at 7:40 p.m. and everyone dispersed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Seigendall

Secretary Treasurer