

Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 12th, 2024

The June 12th, 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 Woman Jennifer Staines, Mayor Hugh Vrablic, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak.

Council Man Jack Soberick was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Public Courtesy-

Tommy Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street spoke about how he agrees with council adding to the agenda about getting bids from contractors for maintenance on condemned properties and yards that have not been maintained.

Tommy Vadyak stated that he feels council should consider a snow plowing ordinance and that an ordinance should be written about cars that are sitting on the street with expired inspection stickers.

Bob Silver of 17 East Ridge Street read aloud to council a memorandum from Lansford Alive. The memorandum was about Lansford Alive wanting to contribute 50% of the costs of new trash receptacles payable upon their arrival, in exchange for Lansford Borough to allow for Lansford Alive weatherproof decals to be placed on the new receptacles.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how an organization is going to be paying for all the trash receptacles, which is not going to cost the borough anything.

Robert Stefanick spoke about a property on the 300 block of West Bertsch Street having garbage that is beginning to come out into the street and that something needs to be done about the condition of the property.

Robert Stefanick spoke about multiple properties that he feels should be given to the Code Enforcement Officer in order to make Lansford look better.

Joseph Butrie spoke about a vehicle that has been parked with cement blocks underneath it on the 200 Block of Ridge.

Robert Stefanick spoke about how he feels more enforcement needs to be given on the quality-of-life.

Rosemary Cannon of 242 West Ridge Street inquired about the format of the bills to be paid that was provided to the public.

Rosemary Cannon inquired about the Civil Service Commission.

Rosemary Cannon inquired about the motion pertaining to reoccurring bill payment.

Rosemary Cannon inquired about the motion to finalize the sale of the property on Dock Street and how the sale of the property needs to have a resolution written.

Joe Genits of 210 West Front Street inquired about when council is going to eliminate paying LPH Tax Consultants.

Bruce Markovich responded that once Borough Secretary Maria Ahner is properly trained in QuickBooks the borough will evaluate getting rid of the LPH Tax Consultants.

Joesph Genits spoke about if council will advertise asking for Planning Commission members for the Lansford Planning Commission.

Joesph Genits spoke about the motion to finalize the sale of the property on Dock Street.

Approval of Meeting Minutes-

Motion to approve the May 7th, 2024 Monthly Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Joesph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the May 8th, 2024 Code and Zoning Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the May 13th, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the May 16th, 2024 Code and Zoning Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the June 4th, 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded Jay Doyle.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the June 4th, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded Joesph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Genits inquired about if council will go back and review January's and February's meeting minutes.

Joe Genits spoke about how no minutes for the month of December 2023 are available on the website.

Committee Reports-

Fire Department Report-

Michele Bartek spoke about the Fire Department Report.

For the month of May. The call volume, total man hours was 193.7. In-house work, total man-hours was 119 for the month, year-to-date was 732.5 hours.

Fundraising for the month was 204, year-to-date was 833.5.

Response by area. In-town calls, there were 8 for the month, year-to-date there were 47. They helped up at Summit Hill, there was 5. Year-to-date, there was 18. When they ate at Coaldale, there was 1 Year-to-date, there was 18. Nesquehoning there was 1. Year-to-date, there was 4. Tamaqua was 0. Year-to-date was 3. Jim Thorpe was 0, 0. And there was another, and that was year-to-date was 1. Training hours, total man-hours. Man hours were 176.5, year-to-date it was 974.

Community service, man hours were 68, year-to-date were 99.5.

Administrative duties, total man hours were 80 for the month, year-to-date was 400. Total man hours for the year-to-date were 3,796 hours

Ambulance Report-

Michele Bartek spoke about the ambulance report.

The ambulance responded to 64 incidents in May. This was an average response time of 9.8 minutes for a time of dispatch until arrival on the scene. Of 64 responses for 10 minutes. 17 were non-emergency assistance, including standby, et cetera, at the time of 12.4 minutes. 17 were non-emergency patient services with a time of 10.2 minutes. 47 emergency responses with a time of 8.8 minutes.

Mayor's Report-

Mayor Hugh Vrablic spoke the mayor's report.

As of January 1st, until June 2nd, Leighton had 1,950 calls. Lansford had 1,836 calls. Summit Hill only had 802 calls.

Summit Hill has six full-time officers, two part-time officers. Nesquehoning has six full-time officers, two part-time officers, and one of those part-time officers works 32 hours. Jim Thorpe has seven full-time officers, two part-time officers, and one civilian. Lansford has five officers. Two part-time officers and one officer that doesn't really work that many shifts but picks up one occasionally.

Leighton has 11 full-time officers and two civilian employees. Last meeting it was discussed about increasing Amey from part-time to full-time. Hugh Vrablic would like for Amey to be increased to full-time because she is already in the police system.

Bruce Markovich stated the process must go through the civil service commission.

Michele Bartek stated she will call the members of the commission and find out when they are going to be prepared to get the applications, to start the interviews for the police officers.

Police Report-

Mayor Hugh Vrablic spoke the police report.

There were 338 calls and complaints, 26 cases were cleared, 20 arrests, 11 non-traffic citations filed, 25 traffic contacts, 2 DWIs, and 2 search warrants were served.

One fatal accident. 67 parking and ordinance tickets issued. Total ticket fees collected were \$1,265. Total miles driven were 1,462.

Code and Zoning Report-

Council members confirmed they had copies of the report.

Solicitors Report-

Solicitor Robert Yurchak spoke the solicitors report.

The ordinance about changing the yield sign to a stop sign that is located at Parkway by Boyers is ready to proceed to advertising.

Joesph Butrie motioned, and Jennifer Staines seconded to advertise the changing of the yield sign to a stop sign at Parkway by Boyers.

Motion passed unanimously.

Tax Collector's Report-

Bruce Markovich communicated the tax report.

From May 1st,2024 to May 30th,2024, total tax collected was \$536,885.43.

Motion to pay the bills-

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business-

Discussion about reviewing nuisance Claims against dilapidated Properties-

The council agreed to skip this discussion due to Jack Soberick not being present.

Discussion about changing the method of Code Complaints-

The council agreed to skip this discussion due to Jack Soberick not being present.

Discussion about having companies send in Bids for costs and then choosing to hire one or more companies to provide maintenance services on properties that are condemned and have yards that are not maintained.-

Motion to come up with specs to advertise for a lawn and clean up service for Lansford properties.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Joesph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion about the number of rental properties in Lansford and how to address the possibility of an increase in rentals-

Jennifer Staines inquired to Bob Yurchak about if something can be done to decrease the number of rental properties.

Michele Bartek spoke about the number of blighted properties.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the borough should enforce landlords having to take care of their properties.

Jennifer Stains spoke about how there needs to be more enforcement on landlords to pass inspections.

Motions-

Motion to approve Maria Ahner's 90-day probation period that ended as of May 18th, 2024-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Jay Doyle.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve Ashley McLaughlin's 90-day probation period that ended as of May 18th, 2024-

Motioned by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve reoccurring borough monthly bills. Bills such as PP&L-

Motion to Table by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

Motion to change Shane Monk's Job Title from Code Enforcement to Code and Ordinance Enforcement Officer-

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve special event request from Lansford Halloween Special Event for the 5th Year Halloween Festival on October 27th, 2024 at Ashton Park-

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve special event request from Lansford Halloween Special Event for a Flea Market on September 7th, 2024 at Ashton Park-

Michele Bartek spoke about the event and how the money made from the flea market will be used to fund the Halloween Festival and Lansford Alive's insurance will be used to insure the event.

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the Handicap Parking request from Tommy Vadyak at 334 West Abbott Street-

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the Handicap Parking request from Joesph M Kupec Sr. at 337 West Bertsch Street-

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jay Doyle.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve Free Community Yard Sale dates June 22,2024 and June 23,2024-

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion was favored by Jennifer Staines, Michele Bartek, Bruce Markovich, Gwyneth Collevichio, and Jay Doyle.

Motion was opposed by Joesph Butrie.

Motion was passed by majority.

Motion to approve the changing of the Sanitation and Sewage Transmission billing statement format. Cost being \$600.00 for the diversified system-

The bill format will be similar to the current water billing format and will lists all the properties owned by the owner, reducing the amount of bills being sent out. The billing format will be more detailed regarding payment methods, while also providing privacy to residents' through not allowing anyone to see the amount owed. The cost for changing the bill in both the diversified billing system and the website will be a one-time cost of \$600.00.

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Joesph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve additional costs for billing change-

One time purchase of Paper folder costing \$354.70 and the purchase of the billing envelopes. The cost is to be divided equally between the Sanitation and Sewage Transmission Fund.

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the refund for the deposit taken of \$750.00 to Tom Ponting for satisfactory completion of street excavation at 245 W Bertsch Street-

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Joesph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve a transfer from general funds to ARRO Consulting for \$990.24 the amount to cover rental fee credits paid previously to the borough-

Motion to transfer the rental fee credit the amount of \$990.24 to Arro Consulting for the rental fee credits that have previously been prepaid to the Lansford borough.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept letters of interest and or resumes for the position of Tax Collector, the applicant must be a resident of the Borough of Lansford for a period of one year, Act 48 Certified at the time of appointment, must be bonded prior to the start of duties-

Advertisement for the open Tax Collector Position to run for two weeks in the newspaper. The third week all candidates would be interviewed. A special meeting will then be held that will appoint a new Tax Collector.

Motioned by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Jay Doyle.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to advertise for sale the 1991 Eligin Street Sweeper and the 1994 Ford Dump Truck as is, where is.-

Motion to advertise the 1991 Eligin Street Sweeper and 1994 Ford Dump Truck for sale as is, where is, for a minimum bid sale of \$3,500 per vehicle.

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Joesph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to pay Borough Employee Robert Kresge \$2,542.24 in back pay to settle a contract grievance.

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Gwyneth Collevechio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to finalize sale of 2.34 acres of Borough Property located along Dock Street to Ryan Idle of Lansford for a bid price of \$20,000, survey costs of \$3,900 legal fees and closing costs to be added at time of settlement.

Resolution to be written approving all the total fees.

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Gwyneth Collevechio.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by President Bruce Markovich at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley McLaughlin

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer