

The June Lansford Borough Council meeting was held 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at borough hall, 1 W. Ridge Street. The meeting was called to order by President Jared Soto and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken by secretary treasurer Jill Seigendall. Council persons attending were John Turcmanovich, Joseph Butrie, Jared Soto, Bob Silver, Marie Ondrus, Irma Leibensperger and Mayor James Romankow. Attorney Michael Greek arrived at 6:30 p.m. after executive session. Council man Matthew Walsh and junior council person Isabella Blasko did not attend. This would have been the junior council persons last meeting, as she graduated from Marian High School earlier this month. It is also noted that on May 18, 2018, council man Walsh was arraigned before district magistrate Casmir Kosciolk. Mr. Walsh was charged by the states attorney general's office on four counts each of possession of a controlled substance and possession with intent to deliver controlled substances and 2 counts of corrupt organization. He was released after posting bail.

Executive Session

President Soto called the group into executive session to discuss properties for sale to house the condemned borough garage property on Spring Street. Council also considered the possible sale of parcel 123A-24-H48 (at the south end of Tunnel Street, "Abbott AA" basketball court property).

Retirement Badge Presentation

At 6:30 p.m. the group came out of executive session. Jared Soto turned the program over to Chief Jack Soberick. Chief Soberick called Mayor Romankow and council man John Turcmanovich to the front of the meeting to present a retirement badge to former Police Chief John Turcmanovich for his years of service to the Lansford Police Department. Mr. Turcmanovich served the borough between 1974 and 2014. He also serves the community as a volunteer fireman, former fire chief, and deputy coroner.

CDBG FY 2016 \$20,000.00 Grant PUBLIC HEARING

Jared Soto introduced David Bodnar of the Carbon County Office of Planning and Development. Mr. Bodnar advertised this public hearing to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the use of Funding Year (FY) 2016 CDBG funds for Lansford Borough. The borough was awarded \$20,000.00 to install ADA handicap doors at the Lansford borough building. This project is being cancelled and the funds are being moved to the clearance and demolition project of the former Elks building, 6 E. Ridge Street. The borough will be reimbursed \$13,629.80 for the final two payments (ck# 7403 for \$8,629.80 on 11/2/17 and ck#7459 for \$5,000.00 on 12/18/17) to Northeast Industrial Services for the demolition of the former Elks building. The remaining \$6,370.20 will be used towards fencing and seeding at the 6 E. Ridge Street property. There was only positive feedback from council and the community. Mr. Soto thanked Mr. Bodnar for the help he provides in applying for county funds.

Worker's Compensation Insurance

Mr. Soto introduced Mike Bulino of Seltzer Insurance, the borough's insurance carrier. Mr. Bulino explained the Municipal Risk Management (MRM) Worker's Compensation Pooled Trust Provisional Program as it was outlined in a letter dated May 29, 2018 from MRM Trust. Due to the borough's history of unacceptable incurred claims, the borough will be placed into the provisional program which does not pay any dividends for three years. Claims to date total \$229,286.00 while premiums total \$213,562.00 with cumulative dividends of \$39,993.00. Mr. Bulino recommends the borough accept the invitation of provisional membership as stated in Resolution 2018-07. The alternative is to switch to a state worker's compensation carrier at double the premium cost.
Councilman John Turcmanovich made a motion that the borough approves Resolution 2018-07, accepting the intermediate status of a MRM Provisional Member. During provisional status,

Dividends will be waived for three years. The motion was second by Joseph Butrie. All were in favor, motion passed.

Albertini Manufacturing

The floor was offered to Louis Albertini of Albertini Manufacturing (a.k.a. Tyrolean Enterprises), owner of 22-24-26-28-30 W. Ridge Street & 31 E. Patterson Street (parcels 122A2-24-C27.01, 122A2-24-C27, 122A2-24-C26), regarding construction permits required by Zoning (in a zoned B2 business2 district) and LVIS inspector Paul Jarrett. Mr. Albertini petitioned council for a resolution that would allow him to deal with a different inspection service regarding renovations to his property at 26-28 E. Ridge Street/31 E. Patterson Street, parcel 122A2-24-C27, formerly the Lansford Ambulance building. There are conflicts between Mr. Albertini (and 2 employees also in attendance at the meeting) and the borough's code enforcement firm Lehigh Valley Inspection Services (LVIS) U.C.C. inspector Paul Jarrett. Mr. Albertini obtained a zoning permit on 9/13/17 from the borough, through LVIS, under the premise that the property would house a business office and parts sales. Mr. Jarrett recently issued a stop work order to Mr. Albertini but Mr. Albertini doesn't know what he is doing wrong; Mr. Albertini does not know what he needs to do. Paul Jarrett countered that he is not getting answers from Mr. Albertini about the real intended use for the property and that he asked Mr. Albertini for a plan from an architect (as code requires). Mr. Albertini said he plans to remanufacture/repair and warehouse HVAC compressors (from trucks and trains). This use is not allowed in the B2 District. Paul Jarrett said he has asked Mr. Albertini what he plans to do at the building and has not received an answer and they continued to work without permits. Mr. Albertini must submit a full business plan with engineered stamped architectural plans for the renovations. The issue concluded with Paul Jarrett offering to meet with Mr. Albertini and Jared Soto to work out a resolution to the problem.

Public Courtesy

Joe Genits, 232 W. Front Street, submitted written comments and suggestions for code enforcement. He wonders whether previous letters he submitted to borough council were reviewed by the new council. He made recommendations for the borough website and asked about the whereabouts of a set of International Construction Code books. He filed a code complaint about 220-222 W. Front Street (both have been condemned) and feels not enough action has been taken. He said that property code violations are not being cited by LVIS and that it may be cheaper to hire in-house employees instead of an outside firm as the code official and zoning officer or combines the tasks with local communities to reduce blight.

Sandray Scinicariello, 33 W. Bertsch Street, said a curfew is needed. She said her property is destroyed every day. She picks up condoms & needles near her home and drunks piss on her steps. Kids are the biggest problem. She is awakened at 3:00 a.m. many times a week. Gang wars start out at midnight at the Turkey Hill parking lot. She asked why her rental hasn't been inspected why the public trash cans along Ridge Street in the business district are not out this year. Joe Butrie said they are not set out because residents fill them with their home garbage.

Chris Lukisavich, Jim Thorpe tourism, was seeking support against the proposed wind turbines for Penn Forrest Township. He spoke about the natural beauty of the area and said the Panther Valley area needs to support the Middle Carbon County Comprehensive Plan which protects the area. He asked council to pass a proclamation or resolution to support the Penn Forrest Township's position against the proposed wind turbines. The topic will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Rose Mary Cannon, 242 W. Ridge Street, voiced her support of LVIS employee and borough zoning officer Tracy Herman for her work. Ms. Cannon asked about the status of the former community

garden property 201 W. Bertsch Street, (former Victoria lot sold to Frank Longo, parcel 122A1-25-D24) and asked what the restaurant is going to do with that lot because they are illegally parking on the grassy lot. She was happy to see the ruling in the Hiles Lawsuit, in favor of the borough. She asked Bob Silver about the Route 209 inlet project and specifically about the replacement of an eroded storm water inlet on Cortright Street. Bob said he will look into it further. She asked Jared Soto whether the Ashton Hill Park pool is still holding water and she recommended changing the scope of pool project.

Richard Pavlick, 22 E. Bertsch Street, said there is a sink hole in the alley behind his home, across from 14 E. Kline Street. Bob Silver said he has issued a work order to fill the hole with modified stone, have it packed and refilled.

Robert Dobosh, 383 W. Ridge Street, asked that the grass be cut at Kennedy Park for Sunday's Music in the Park event.

Approval of 5/9/18 Meeting Minutes

The May 9, 2018 minutes were reviewed. John Turcmanovich pointed out a correction that needed to be made in an address; (under Solicitor's Report) 16-18 W. Ridge Street address is incorrect, the address of Mr. Baglino's property is 16-18 E. Ridge Street.

A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to approve the minutes with the correction of Mr. Baglino's address, 16-18 E. Ridge Street. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor except Marie Ondrus who voted no. Motion passed; 5 yes, 1 no.

Correspondence

Special Event application-America Needs Fatima Rosary Group - 1 hr. of prayer at noon at Kennedy Park on 6/23/18. Because Kennedy Park is a public area and reservations are not needed, council did not act on the application. The group may use the area at their own risk of it not being used by another group.

Special Event Application-Terrance McCall, Tax Collector, would like to hold a free picnic event 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in front of borough building on Saturday, 7/14/18.

A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to approve the event as long as a certificate of insurance is received in the borough office before the event. The motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, motion passed.

PA Department of Labor & Industry – An Order to Vacate the borough garage/noncompliance letter dated 5/23/18 was received and reviewed. Public Works Chairman Bob Silver thinks there will be one more letter of non-compliance before it goes to the magistrate and doesn't think a formal response is needed at this time. The borough workers are removing items and equipment from the Spring Street garage to either the borough hall second floor or to the rented garage space at 327 W. Bertsch Street, (Rarick's garage.)

Farmer's Market - In a letter dated 6/3/18, Peter Salerno of Foothill Farm offered to hold a farmer's market on Friday's 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. along Tunnel Street in the borough. The letter explains that Luanne Bachert of Valley Farms, last year's vendor, is unable to hold the market this season.

A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to allow Foothill Farm to hold a Farmer's Market along Tunnel Street, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., beginning this Friday 6/15/18 and continuing throughout the summer until August 31st. Adding that should there be inclement weather, the market could be held on the following Saturday. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.

CC Tax Claim – Council reviewed the list of 17 properties set for Judicial Sale in November.

CC Council of Governments (COG) – Is offering workshops for Road Masters, June 18th; and workshops for municipal secretaries June, 25th

A motion was made by Bob Silver to have secretary treasurer Jill Seigendall and assistant secretary treasurer Wendy Butrie attend the work shop for municipal secretaries on June 25th. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. Joseph Butrie abstained from voting due to the fact that Wendy Butrie is his wife. All were in favor, motion passed. The borough office will be closed June 25th between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

US Postal Inspection Service – letter of gratitude to Lansford Police Department was read by Jared Soto. The letter thanked Sergeant Shawn Nunemacher & Officer Thomas Sabuslsky for their support and assistance with the arrest of Sir James Smith, responsible for passing in excess of sixty counterfeit checks to post offices in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Correspondence not copied to save paper- copy available upon request:

- Keystone Consulting Engineers – Cost estimate \$155,000.00 for bridge replacement to be submitted with 2018 CDBG grant application.
- Beyer Barber - 2017 Police Pension Plan GASB 40
- 2017 Waste Load Management Report – completed by Keystone Consulting Engineers
- CC Council of Governments – Agenda of May 22nd meeting and 4/24/18 minutes
- Carbon Chamber & Economic Development solicitation for membership: \$200.00 fee
- Richard Somach, Esquire - Amended notice of Sheriff Sale property/343 W. Abbott Street, parcel 122A-25-J53, scheduled for 7/13/18 11:00 a.m.
- Portnoff Law Associates – Notice of sheriff sale, 507 E. Patterson St, Parcel 122A-22-K3 on 8/10/18. 11:00 a.m.
- CC Tax Claim – Notification that 803 E. Patterson Street, parcel 122A4-22-G46, (approved for sale at last month's council meeting) was returned to the repository list.

Committee Reports - committee meetings held June 6th :

Jared Soto pointed out that the next committee meeting is scheduled on the July 4th holiday and asked for a motion to cancel or postpone the meeting.

Joseph Butrie made a motion to change the July committee meeting date from Wednesday, July 4th to Monday, July 9th and to advertise the change in the Times News Newspaper . The meetings will be held July 9th as follows: Park & Recreation 6:00 p.m., Public Works 6:30 p.m., Code Zoning & Ordinance 7:00 p.m., and Public Safety 7:30 p.m., Municipal Administration will be cancelled. The motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, motion passed.

Parks & Recreation - report submitted and read by Jared Soto. The Committee recommended an engineer assess the proposed construction of handicap parking spaces and access paths at Kennedy Park. All costs would be paid from the Park & Recreation Fund. Bob Silver felt the project was strongly documented in the 5/1/18 AccessCheck Report done by the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living but it doesn't offer any funding and there are no funds for the project.

A motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to have an engineer access and provide an estimate for the accessibility project at Kennedy Park as outlined in the AccessCheck Accessibility Report. The motion was second by Joe Butrie. All were in favor, motion passed.

Public Works – There was no written report. The cost of the street sweeper and rental of a sweeper was discussed.

Joseph Butrie made a motion to purchase Panther Valley Lumber property from Robert Davidovich, parcel 122A4-22-G71, for \$360,000.00 to house the borough public works department; the borough garage.

Jared Soto said he is not opposed to it but needs more information before making a decision. Mr. Butrie said council keeps dragging its feet, putting it off, and needs to make a decision about where to

put the borough garage. Rose Mary Cannon asked whether Rarick's garage would be for sale in the future. Could a smaller building be built with the \$160,000.00 LSA grant to work in conjunction with Rarick property? **Motion failed due to no second.**

The 2008 Ford dump truck (red) box needs repair. Joseph Butrie will get an estimate from Wentz Auto Body Shop outside Lehighton, Normal Square.

Bob Silver said the project to replace about 18 inlets is about one third complete.

Municipal Administration – There was no written report. Irma Leibensperger is looking into CD rates.

Councilman Joseph Butrie left the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Code, Planning & Ordinance – A written report was submitted by Jared Soto.

A motion was made by John Turcmanovich to approve Ordinance 2018-02 that increases the Time period from 5 days to 30 days for processing zoning applications. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, none opposed, motion passed.

Public Safety – There was no written report. Chairman John Turcmanovich gave verbal report. Chief Soberick attended the committee meeting and explained the changes to Pennsylvania's fireworks laws. He asked the borough engage the services of a state fire inspector to enhance the work of police and code enforcement. Mr. Turcmanovich said so far in 2018 Lansford is ranked second in reported criminal activity in Carbon County (117 incidents in 2018) behind Lehighton Borough (129 incidents in 2018). The chief requested new chairs for the police department; John Turcmanovich signed a purchase order for the chairs from Walmart. Eight portable radios purchased in 2007 need batteries and antennas, cost is \$480.00. Two police vehicles need replacement of the audio wires from the cage to the front cab, \$468.00. Eight radios confiscated from the Lansford Ambulance can be refurbished at an estimated cost of \$1,700.00. The chief recommends approving Ordinance 2018-01, approving one way traffic south on Tunnel Street between Ridge Street and Snyder Avenue.

Mayors Report – read by Mayor Romankow. Police receipts collected in May total \$1,206.70. Year to date total \$8,313.63. The mayor congratulated Sergeant Nunemacher and Officer Sabulsky for a good job with the postal service. He commented on the good work the American Legion is doing erecting the home town hero's banners near the Legion Post 123 along Ridge Street. Seventeen banners have been put up so far. He urged residents to attend the "feed the people" dinners.

Police Report – The report was read by Mayor Romankow. The mayor showed a small stuffed pillow, known as "Gabe to the rescue" pillows donated to give to children involved in police incidents. The pillows are dedicated to Lansford resident Chuck Schoch who worked with police dogs. The police report shows 18 criminal arrests, 20 traffic citations, 5 non-traffic citations and 1 quality of life tickets.

Fire Department – Am. Fire Co. No. 1. May report shows 11 calls: 8 in Lansford, 1 in Summit Hill, 1 in Coaldale and 1 in Tamaqua.

Ambulance – The Lehighton Ambulance May report shows 55 incidents in Lansford with an average of 9.2 minutes from time of dispatch to time on scene.

Code Enforcement – May Report from Zoning Officer Tracey Herman shows eleven renovation permits issued, four rental registration notices were sent for new rentals found, five inspections were performed and six re-inspections performed. Fifteen complaints for property maintenance were investigated and eight files were closed.

Carbon County Council of Governments – Jared Soto attended the May 22nd meeting. COG purchased and Elgin sweeper – there will be training to drive the sweeper, COG wants to build a garage to store the sweeper. Mutual Aid agreement through COG for fire chiefs in the county for unified support, Chief Greco is OK with it. COG is looking into joint bidding for garbage to bring down rates.

Tax Collector's Report – Terrance McCall reported the total collected for May: \$516,137.60. Year to date total \$753,025.10. (Tax amount billed for 2018: \$949,653.83)

Treasurer's Report – Bills to be approved total \$59,418.70. Breakdown: General Fund \$47,785.14; High Way Liquid Fuels \$292.98; Sanitation \$45.00; Sewer Transmission, \$11,295.58. Council reviewed the bills and the monthly activity for all checking accounts.

A motion was made by Bob Silver to pay the bills as presented. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.

2018	End of Month Balances 2018		
	Account Title	April	May
7673	General Acct	\$215,915.37	\$387,629.14
7681	Sanitation Fund	\$120,393.26	\$110,027.46
0283	Investors Money Mkt Acct	\$51,617.31	\$51,626.08
1198	Sewer Transmission(reserve acct)	\$164,431.64	\$164,459.57
7772	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
7780	Escrow for 20 E Kline Ave	\$2,180.11	\$2,180.11
4529	Escrow for 401-405 E Abbott St	\$7,333.33	\$7,333.33
7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,335.85	\$41,339.36
7706	Treasurers Special Hi Way	\$133,261.32	\$135,270.92
7714	Sewage Transmission	\$189,392.95	\$187,623.22
5402	Loan Proceeds Acct(reserve acct)	\$202,739.74	\$202,749.74
7722	Local Service Tax/EIT	\$31,734.96	\$34,322.03
7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,141.24	\$12,142.27
7748	Fire	\$39,283.62	\$44,369.45
7756	Recreation	\$48,051.44	\$53,950.48
7764	Street Lights	\$19,513.46	\$20,476.65
		\$1,282,325.60	\$1,458,499.81
Loans	LOANS Paid from Fund	Est Balance	Est Balance
	Sewer Transm#5537 4/21/15	1,052,065.03	1,037,154.32
	Street Light Fund#6309 11/12/09	146,879.11	138,724.11
	Liquid Fuels #3886 10/28/14	22,256.35	22,256.35
	Gen Fund or LST 1/5/17	36,521.57	36,521.57
2018 Police RAM	Gen Fund or LST 6/1/18	42,073.00	42,073.00
		1,299,795.06	1,276,729.35

Solicitor’s Report – Attorney Greek reviewed the Decision and Verdict in the Jesse Hiles v. Borough of Lansford, civil suit. The nonjury trial was held July 25, 2017 and September 22, 2017 in the Carbon County Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Hiles sought damages for the costs to repair his property, the triangle of land bordered by W. Ridge Street, W. Snyder Avenue and Dock Street, due to storm water runoff causing erosion to that land over a 20 year period, and to recuperate monetary losses incurred in rehabilitating the property over the past 20 years. The verdict states “all claims set forth in the plaintiff’s complaint, we find in favor of the defendant, the Borough of Lansford, and against the Plaintiff, Jesse R. Hiles.”

Attorney Greek wrote Ordinance 2018-01 and its advertisement should council wish to proceed with making Tunnel Street (between Ridges and Snyder Ave) one way south.

A motion was made by John Turcmanovich to advertise proposed ordinance 2018-01 making Tunnel Street one way south for “police vehicles only”. There was discussion about authorized vehicles, traffic visibility at the corners, liquid fuels funding, emergency access, and deliveries along this street.

Motion failed due to no second.

Attorney Greek asked whether any changes were requested in the Ordinance. None were offered at this time. Attorney Greek will have the Request for Proposals (RFP’s) for accountants and engineers for the next committee meetings.

Attorney Greek left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Unfinished Business

- a. **Changes to bus stops** – update from Jared Soto
- b. **Parking Meters in business district** – Easton has meters for sale, there are various types, \$5.00 per meter. Bob Silver asked if we heard anything from Jim Thorpe. Jared Soto answered no.
- c. **CC CDBG Funding year 2018** project pre-application:
 - 1. Dock St. Bridge – There is a possibility of getting 2019 CDBG money for the bridge supplementing the cost with liquid fuels money. John Davis has been contacted to look into this.
 - 2. Clewell/Brimble wall
- d. **Ordinance 2018-01** enclosed, Tunnel Street One Way (discussed earlier, motion failed)
- e. **Ordinance 2018-02** Time period increased for processing zoning applications (was addresses earlier in the meeting.)
- f. **Lansford Code of Ordinances/Codification update:** 2 Quotes were received so far: MUNICOD \$9,250.00 General Code 11,987.00
- g. **Route 902 Slow School 15 mph speed limit sign** - An estimate, \$4,100.00, to remove the sign and a related street sign was received from Telco. John Turcmanovich reminded council that councilman Butrie suggested a letter be sent to the Allentown Catholic Diocese to pay for removal of the sign because the sign was erected because of the Catholic School, Our Lady of the Angels School, now closed. Bob Silver will see whether the public work’s department can remove the sign.
- h. **Tunnel Street Basketball Court, parcel 123A-24-H48** – Attorney Greek sent correspondence with an estimated appraisal of \$5,000.00 for the lot, as requested at the May council meeting. **A motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to auction parcel 123A-24-H48, a borough owned property at the south end of Tunnel Street known as the “Abbott AA” or “basketball court” with a minimum bid of \$2,500.00. The motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, motion passed. Attorney Greek will prepare the advertisement.**
- i. **Route 209 resurfacing project** – Bob Silver thinks the project will start in September.

New Business

The contract for fuel heating Oil with Kattner Oil ends August 1, 2018.

A motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to advertise for fuel oil bids as done in past years, to be opened at the next regular council meeting July 11, 2018. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.

Handicap Parking Request – 623 E. Patterson St – The handicap parking committee; Jill Seigendall, Jared Soto and James Romankow reviewed the request, documentation, and site and recommended the application be approved. There was no motion to approve the request and no discussion. Mary Soberick pointed out that the issue will continue to be on the agenda unless there is a motion to deny the request.

A motion was made by Marie Ondrus to deny the request for handicap parking at 623 E. Patterson Street. The motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor except Jared Soto who voted no. 4 yes, 1 no. Motion passed.

LSA Grant opportunity with Jim Thorpe Borough – An opportunity to apply for LSA Grant funds with Jim Thorpe Borough. Jared Soto will meet with Jim Thorpe Borough Manager Maureen Sterner.

Adjournment

At 8:56 p.m. Irma Leibensperger made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Jared Soto and the group dispersed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Secretary Treasurer