

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

Council members attending: Martin Ditsky, Gwyneth Collevchio, Bruce Markovich, William Chuma, John Turcmanovich, Bob Silver, Mayor Michele Bartek and Solicitor Robert Yurchak. Council woman Marie Ondrus was absent.

Executive Session 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to review status of Silberline land purchase request, police personnel issues, public works personnel issue and TV Franchise contract.

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

Special Guest – Summit Hill Councilman David Wargo – promoting a Resolution for School Tax Reform, endorsing fair funding for Pennsylvania School Districts, as directed in Article 14 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He spoke with Panther Valley School District officials and believes school districts in PA are underfunded because the commonwealth is not following its school funding (formula) laws. (The funding distribution formula established in 2014, there is a court case challenging the current funding, seeking retroactive funds). The Resolution was passed in Summit Hill, Nesquehoning and Coaldale, which make up the PVSD. Mr. Wargo intends to urge all municipalities in the county to pass Resolution. A sample of Resolution 2021-02 was forwarded to council before the meeting.

A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevchio, second by John Turcmanovich, to pass Resolution 2021-02, supporting fair school funding. All were in favor, Motion passed. Letters of support and the resolution will be sent to state senators, representatives and the governor, as well as the Panther Valley School District.

Public Courtesy – Two residents and a Times News Newspaper reporter were in the audience. Rose Mary Cannon, W. Ridge Street, questioned how flow meter charges (from the sewer authority) are being paid.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- February 10, 2021 regular meeting minutes

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to approve the February 10, 2021 regular meeting minutes. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- March 2, 2021 committee meeting minutes

A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by William Chuma, to approve the March 2, 2021 committee meeting minutes. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Correspondence:

PPL – Letter advising residents they may experience interruption in Electric Service on Thursday, March 25, 2021. PPL will be working on electric lines at W. Patterson and Coal Streets.

William Rizzo – Offered to donate property he owns at 209 W. Bertsch Street, the center unit of a three-unit row home. The property is believed to be beyond repair and best be torn down. No decisions were made.

CC Tax Claim Bureau – A \$839.00 bid has been received on repository property, 304 E Snyder Avenue owned by New Univac Realty LLC to JPM Holdings, LLC, Written approval/disapproval is requested.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Bob Silver, to deny the repository sale of 304 E. Snyder Avenue, Lansford. All were in favor, Motion passed.

East Egg Hunt Special Event Application – American Legion Post 123 request to use the concession stand (grill) and grounds at Ashton Park to hold an Easter Egg Hunt 3/27/21, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Gwyneth Collevchio, to approve the American Legion Post 123 request to hold an Easter Egg Hunt at Ashton Park on March 27, 2021, between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Food and Vendor Special Event Application – American Fire Co. No. 1 request to hold a Food and Vendor event on 5/8/21, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the fire company parking lot and on the unit block of W. Bertsch Street.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by William Chuma, to approve the American Fire Co. No. 1 request to hold a Food and Vendor event on May 8, 2021 on the unit block of W. Bertsch Street, blocking off the street during the event. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Carbon County Office of Planning & Development – 2021 CDBG Grant Program – Project Preapplication deadline is 4/30/2021.

Council discussed applying for funds for safety guardrail improvements. Discussed locations: Springgarden Street and Snyder Avenue, Chestnut and E. Ridge Street, Walnut and Front Streets (at the curve), Pardee and Front Streets (at the bottom of the hill.) Bruce Markovich will check with David Bodnar at the planning office whether the project meets funding guidelines.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to apply for 2021 CDBG grant funds for the installation of guardrails at approved locations, approved by ARRO Engineering, and presuming the project meets project guidelines. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Handicap Parking Request – from Adam Gusick, 331 E. Bertsch Street. The application was reviewed by the handicap parking committee. The information on the application did not conform to the handicap ordinance on the following criteria: 1.) the applicant does not own a car; he has a handicap parking placard instead of a handicap plate. 2.) A physician's statement was not attached to the application and 3.) there is already (the limit by ordinance) two handicap parking spaces on each side of the street on the 300 block of E. Bertsch Street.

A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio, second by William Chuma, to deny the handicap parking request by Adam Gusick, 331 E. Bertsch Street. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Correspondence (not enclosed) to conserve paper, copy available on request:

Tommy Vadyak, 2/21/2021, e-mail, distributed in council mailboxes.

Holly Sharp, 4/4/21, letter distributed in council mailboxes.

Coaldale Lansford Summit Hill Sewer Authority – 2/12/20 letter intending to submit flow meter invoices to the borough however it intends to deduct any bills not paid by December 2021 from the 10% commission check at the end of the year.

PA Department of Environmental Protection – 2/23/2021 letter - Environmental Cleanup final approval regarding Silberline.

Committee Reports – 3/2/2021 meeting minutes will be recorded in the minute book.

- **Code/Zoning Committee** – There is confusion about BET Lehigh Real Estate originally requesting condemnation and demolition of collapsing garages on the south side of 400 block of Abbott Street (BET property) but are now objecting to having the properties torn down. More investigation is needed. Martin Ditsky asked about the status of the former St. Michaels Church. The new owner Erica Williams Rodriguez is planning to move into the former rectory building. The possibility of moving monuments from the property will be reviewed.
- **Public Works** – William Chuma reported on street snow removal, cold patch road patching, and equipment repairs. The street sweeper will need servicing and brushes.
- **Municipal Administration** – Chairman Bruce Markovich written report is on file. Downtown streetscape project will be done under the auspices of ARRO Engineering. Tonya Sinclair has been contacted about obtaining a USDA loan for the borough garage. Grants for the pool and borough garage have been extended. The streetscape project should be completed by the end of the summer. Discussion about projects for Local Share Account (LSA) Grant applications.
- **Park & Recreation** – The borough applied for a park consultant grant. No response has been received. Joe Hutta should have all testing for the pool leak done by April 1st.
- **Public Safety** – The borough is accepting applications for part time officers. The committee will meet to review the crossing guard contract which expires August 31, 2022. There was discussion about needed improvements to the police station or moving the police station and borough office to another location.

Municipal Monthly Reports for February

Fire Department – American Fire Co. No 1 responded to 16 incidents in February: 13 in Lansford, 2 in Summit Hill, and 1 in Coaldale.

Ambulance – Leighton Ambulance responded to 51 incidents in February with an average response time of 8.1 minutes from time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Bartek reported \$4,158.59 was received in January and February; breakdown: \$1,913.59 from the magistrate, \$155.00 miscellaneous, and \$2,090.00 in parking violations. Mayor Bartek reviewed police calls handled during the month of February.

Carbon County Council of Governments (COG) – Minutes of the November 24, 2020 meeting are on file. The last meeting was 1/26/2021.

Carbon County Tax Collection Committee – the quarterly meeting was held on ZOOM on 2/24/2021 at 10:00 a.m. Representative Jill Seigendall was not able to access the meeting on her computer.

Code Compliance – Jim Dean investigated 17 code enforcement complaints, issued 10 Notice of Violations, investigated 40 rental complaints, performed 19 rental inspections, and investigated 23 zoning issues. The report is on file.

Tax Collector's Report – Tax Collector Terrance McCall reported the borough real estate tax bills are scheduled to be mailed by Touchpoint on Monday, March 29, 2021. Carbon County real estate tax bills will be mailed by the tax collector on Friday, March 26, 2021.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Yurchak said that Blue Ridge Cable agreed to a Cable TV Franchise Contract

Treasurer's Report - Bills to be approved total \$135,174.72, The breakdown: General Fund \$63,462.10; Park & Recreation \$56.42; Hi Way Liquid Fuels \$35,825.50; Street Light \$4,986.84; Sewer Transmission \$1,771.51; Fire Tax \$845.00; Sanitation \$28,227.35.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by William Chuma, to approve payment of the February bills totaling \$135,174.72. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- Council was emailed The Budget vs. Actual Report and the monthly checking account details. Their meeting packets include bills to be paid, monthly projection and end of month balances for all accounts.
- The annual sewage transmission fee (\$90.00 per unit) was mailed to residents on February 16, 2021, due without penalty by March 19, 2021. Residents were calling the borough office that they are not receiving the bill. The borough office contacted the post office distribution center and found out that it is behind with deliveries and it could be two weeks before the bills are delivered.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to extend the due date for the annual Sewage Transmission Fee from March 19, 2021 to April 1, 2021 because of U.S. postal office delivery delays. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- Auditor Brian Kelly, CPA, will be in the borough office March 18, 2021 to audit 2020 financials and report to DCED.
- COSTARS Salt contract for August 2021-July 2022 season has been filed.

Residential Rental License fee (\$100.00 per rental unit) were mailed to landlords on March 1, 2021. Due date is April 1, 2021.

Bank Account Balances Feb. 28, 2021:

End of month	2021		2021	2021
FUND/Sav & Ck	No.	Account Title	Jan	Feb
General Fund	7673	General Acct	\$484,759.62	\$417,260.19
General Fund	7772	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Sanitation Fund	7681	Sanitation Fund	\$229,858.67	\$226,124.41
Sanitation Fund	0283	Sani-investors' Money Mkt Acct	\$51,887.77	\$51,893.74
Sanitation Fund	7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,046.80	\$12,047.72
Sewer Transmission	7714	Sewage Transmission	\$25,020.30	\$24,686.63
Sewer Transmission	1198	Sewer Transmission(reserve)	\$165,293.23	\$165,312.25
Sewer Transmission	5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct(res)	\$152,998.49	\$153,010.85
Sewer Transmission	1277	Sewer Transm. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$51,308.19	\$51,319.08
Sewer Transmission	3260	400 E Snyder Sewer Project	\$73,692.99	\$73,692.99
LST	7722	Local Service Tax	\$17,413.10	\$19,018.78
Street Light Fund	7764	Streetlights	\$37,481.98	\$32,776.60
Fire Tax Fund	7748	Fire	\$30,136.66	\$29,390.70
Sp HiWay	7706	Treasurers Special HiWay	\$74,200.26	\$73,795.56
Park & Rec Fund	7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,342.68	\$41,345.85
Park & Rec Fund	7756	Recreation	\$36,567.21	\$36,291.10
Total			\$1,487,007.95	\$1,410,966.45
LOANS		LOANS Paid from Fund		
Tax Anticipation Note		1.99% for 1 yr.	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Tunnel St/Storm Sep	\$18,689.23 per mo.		\$530,645.98	\$513,881.12
MEM Debacle	20 yrs./\$14,130 biannual May&Nov		\$95,134.11	\$95,134.11
2018 Police RAM		Gen Fund or LST 6/1/18 - 5 yr.	\$26,440.53	\$26,440.53
2020 Sewer Loan	5 yr	Sewer Fund \$1,320.47 per month	\$72,625.40	\$71,434.84
Total			\$824,846.02	\$806,890.60

Unfinished Business:

Resolution 2021-01, Cable TV Franchise Resolution

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to adopt Resolution 2021-01, extending the current Cable TV Franchise Agreement with Blue Ridge Cable at 2% for a five-year term expiring January 2, 2026. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Ordinance 2021-02, Designating no parking in the unit block of East Water Street; recommended by the Public Safety committee and American Fire Company No. 1.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to adopt Ordinance 2021-02, which eliminates parking in the unit block of East Water Street. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Ordinance 2021-03, to increase fines during snow plowing and state of emergency weather conditions.

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich, second by William Chuma, to adopt Ordinance 2021-03, which increases fines during snow plowing and states of emergency to a minimum of \$75.00. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance – the seven-page ordinance supporting the second amendment of the US constitution and Article 1, Section 21 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, “The right of the citizens to bear arm in defense of themselves and the state shall not be questioned” would need to be advertised before adoption.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Bob Silver, to have Attorney Yurchak rewrite the ordinance as a resolution for the next meeting. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Quotes for Ductless Air Conditioning (4) were reviewed, and the topic was tabled by William Chuma and Bob Silver. Mr. Markovich will get more details to be discussed at the next committee meeting 4/5/21:

- AOK, Shane Kettle \$25,000.00 - 6 “Daikin” Brand SEER mini split units
- ANTZ Energy Systems, Joe Kubeyka, \$16,932.00 – 3 “Carrier” Brand units
- ABC, Todd Dreisbach, \$8,800.00 – 2 “Friedrich” Brand 3-ton mini split units
- Chuck’s HVAC LLC, \$10,67600 – 2 “Fujitsu” Brand units inside and outside

Overwatch – Computer quote from Overwatch Technologies (Joseph Lyons) for three ThinkCentre Tiny-in-one 21.5-inch monitor with speakers and webcams for the police department, \$4,197.00.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by John Turcmanovich, to purchase three computers for the police department from Overwatch Technologies total price \$4,197.00 if funds are available. All were in favor, Motion passed.

PV School District Bus Stops – Changes were discussed but no decisions made. Suggested to contact the school district about the Andrewsville bus stop.

New Business:

Street Materials for 2020 projects

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to advertise for street materials using the same amounts as last year or as advised by Public Works committee chairman William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Chapter 94 Waste Load Report 2020

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Martin Ditsky to appoint Carbon Engineering to complete the annual Chapter 94 Waste Load Report for 2020. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Police Off Duty Employment - Lansford Police Department Standard Operating procedures, Chapter/Section: 4.5

In the purpose of the directive, it allows the borough the right to abolish the program should the Borough Council and Chief of Police find that it negatively impacts the interest of the Borough. Council directed Attorney Yurchak to contact the Fraternal Order of Police and write a policy abolishing the off-duty program.

Motion to adjourn was made by William Chuma, second by Bob Silver at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Secretary Treasurer