

**Lansford Borough Council
Special Meeting
March 25, 2020**

Call to Order

A special meeting of Lansford Borough Council was held 4:30 p.m. March 25, 2020, at borough hall, 1 W. Ridge Street, Lansford, PA, for the purpose of extending the Declaration of Disaster Emergency and other matters needing decisions due to the social distancing requirements of the COVID 19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Markovich and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following council members were present: Martin Ditsky, President Pro Tem John Turcmanovich, William Chuma, President Bruce Markovich, Vice President Bob Silver, Marie Ondrus, and Mayor Michele Bartek. Council woman Irma Leibensperger attended via Facetime on Michele Bartek's iPhone. Solicitor Robert Yurchak did not attend.

Public Courtesy: No residents attended.

New Business

Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, declared a novel coronavirus by the World Health Organization and Center for Disease Control, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf proclaimed the existence of a disaster emergency throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and ordered residents to stay at home for counties bordering Carbon County, and announced closure of all non-essential workers to commence on March 23, 2020. An Emergency Declaration of Disaster was declared by Mayor Bartek on March 16, 2020. The borough office and tax office have been closed to the public since March 16, 2020.

Declaration of Disaster Emergency – To extend the Declaration of Disaster period per Emergency Management Agency Title 35 Pa. C.S. 7501(b) due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to extend the Declaration of Disaster, originally declared by the Mayor on March 16, 2020, for an additional 90 days. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Resolution 2020-05 – To extend the Declaration of Disaster period per Borough Code B.C. Section 10A06 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to adopt Resolution 2020-05, extending the term of the Disaster Declaration, originally declared by the Mayor on March 16, 2020, to meet the restriction as defined in the Borough Code, extending it to an additional ninety days by Resolution. The Motion was second John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

A mailbox, mail slot, or drop box to receive utility payments in the borough office. Charles Polete Glass & Aluminum Co. was contacted about putting a mail slot in the existing door. Mr. Polete gave a verbal quote of \$1,500.00 to change the existing door from all glass to half glass and half aluminum with a mail slot on the bottom aluminum half of the door.

A base estimate of \$1,535.00 (plus extra for options - paint, extra keys, expedite shipping, etc.) was received for a stainless steel pedestal payment drop box from Covenant Security Equipment.

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A Motion was made by Bob Silver to purchase a pedestal payment drop box from Covenant Security Equipment at a base cost of \$1,535.00 to be placed outside the borough office door or located as close as possible to the door. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

President Markovich said a member of the American Legion contacted him about a manhole buried on Snyder Avenue behind the Legion (3 W. Ridge Street). The sunken manhole was found while the Legion was repairing its sewer line by contractor Peter J. Radocha. Bruce Markovich recommended Lehigh Engineering inspect the manhole for repair; to raise it up.

Bob Silver made a Motion for the borough to raise the manhole as recommended by Lehigh Engineering. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Mayor Bartek reported there was meeting of Panther Valley area police chiefs; Nesquehoning, Lansford, Summit Hill and Coaldale, to plan for coverage should police officers be incapacitated by CORVID-19 virus. She said FEMA provided basic Personal Protective Equipment for officers.

Executive Session

President Markovich called for an executive session at 4:55 p.m. to review police department grievances, Step 3 of the grievance procedure, and to discuss purchase of Silberline property.

Back on the record at 5:00 p.m.:

A Motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to reject all previously filed police grievances, all those filed up to today's date 3/25/2020, four grievances received, and have Attorney Yurchak send letters advising the officers of council's decision. The Motion was second by Martin Ditsky. All were in favor, except John Turcmanovich who abstained from voting. Motion passed: 6 Yes, 1Abstention.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Silver at 5:10 p.m., second by Martin Ditsky and everyone disbursed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Seigendall
Secretary Treasurer