

The May meeting of Lansford Borough Council was held 6:00 p.m. May 13, 2020 at borough hall. Face masks were worn due to COVID 19 guidelines and social distancing observed.

Call to Order - by President Bruce Markovich.

Roll Call: Attending council persons: Martin Ditsky, Bruce Markovich, John Turcmanovich, William Chuma, Bob Silver, Marie Ondrus, Irma Leibensperger telecommunicated via the Mayor's iPhone, Mayor Michele Bartek, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak.

Executive Session: Held 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to discuss acquiring the Silberline property.

Public Courtesy: **Five residents were in the audience.**

Kevin Zuercher, manager of the Halftime Bar and Grill at the Sports Zoo, 390 W. Snyder Avenue, asked whether Council would waive the restrictions of the open container law on the Sports Zoo property, so he may place picnic benches on the property and allow patrons to have food and alcoholic beverages at the tables (in promoting safe distancing). The picnic area is across Cortright Street, which runs in front of the Sports Zoo. Mr. Zuercher plans to put temporary fencing around the picnic area.

Rose Mary Cannon, 223 W. Ridge Street, in honor of Police Week, gave statistics about police fatalities in the line of duty in 2019 and thanked Lansford Police Department for its service to the community.

A Motion was made by Martin Ditsky to have President Markovich extend an invitation from Lansford Borough Council to Coaldale Borough Council to hold a public meeting regarding the Lansford Coaldale Joint Water Authority. The Motion was second by Marie Ondrus. All were in favor, Motion passed. Martin Ditsky asked it be put on the record that he is not in favor of terminating the Water Authority.

Approval of Minutes: **March 11, 2020 and April 21, 2020**

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to approve the March 11, 2020 meeting minutes with one correction: on the vote to reject the bid from Peter J. Radocha & Sons for the sewer project at 400 W Snyder Avenue, the Motion passed with a vote of 5 yes, 2 no, (not unanimous agreement as stated in the draft version of the minutes.) On roll call vote to accept the March 11, 2020 minutes with this change: Martin Ditsky, Yes; Bruce Markovich, Yes; John Turcmanovich, Yes; William Chuma, Yes; Bob Silver, No; Marie Ondrus, No; Irma Leibensperger, No; Motion passed; 4 Yes, 3 No.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2020 meeting as written. On roll call vote: Martin Ditsky, Yes; Bruce Markovich, Yes; John Turcmanovich, Yes; William Chuma, Yes; Bob Silver, Yes; Marie Ondrus, No; Irma Leibensperger, No; Motion passed; 5 Yes, 2 No.

Correspondence:

CC Tax Claim Bureau – Approval/Disapproval Tax Claim Sale of repository property, 436 E. Kline Avenue, parcel 122A3-22-M20.03.

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich to approve the sale of repository property at 436 E. Kline Avenue, parcel #122A3-22-M20.03 for \$950.00, reputed owner Nadine Miller estate, to Samantha &

Francis Lockwood, 238 East Street, Coaldale, PA. The motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Gazebo at Kennedy Park – A letter dated April 22, 2020 to borough council from Lansford Alive asking council to accept the gazebo at Kennedy Park.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver for borough council to accept responsibility and maintenance of the gazebo at Kennedy Park. The Motion was second by Marie Ondrus. On roll call vote: Martin Ditsky, Yes; Bruce Markovich, Yes; John Turcmanovich, No; William Chuma, No; Bob Silver, Yes; Marie Ondrus, Yes; Irma Leibensperger, Yes. Motion passed; 5 Yes, 2 No.

Correspondence received but no action needed:

CC Board of Elections – notification of general primary date change from April 28 to June 2, 2020

PLIGIT – Pa. Local Government Investment Trust Annual Report

Office of Open Records Final Determination Brian Bush vs. Lansford - request for employee information; on appeal, The Office of Open Records ruled with the borough.

McNeil & Co (Fire Co. insurance) property claim coverage change

Carbon County Workforce Training - Public Works department is asking for 4 summer youth workers.

Municipal Monthly Reports:

American Fire Co. No. 1 – Answered ten fire calls in April, six in Lansford, one in Summit Hill, two in Coaldale, and one in Nesquehoning.

Lehighon Ambulance Report – The ambulance responded to 46 incidents in April with an average response time of 8.5 minutes from time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Bartek reported monthly total of \$1,726.35 with the following breakdown: magistrate \$751.35, miscellaneous reports \$85.00, parking violations \$890.00.

The Mayor referred to a letter dated 4/27/2020 from Officer Jarrod Bulger requesting \$300.00 reimbursement for a class he is scheduled to take "Individual Close Quarters Battle Class" in Alliance, Ohio, on June 5-7, 2020. The mayor asked council to reimburse the officer for the class, mileage (367.4 miles one way), hotel room, and meals (which Officer Bulger intended to pay in his letter).

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich to reimburse mileage at the current IRS rate \$.545 per mile and reimburse the class fee \$300.00 to Officer Bulger after attending the Individual Close Quarters Battle Class in Alliance, Ohio. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Police Week Proclamation - The mayor presented the Lansford Police Proclamation to recognize May 10-16, 2020 as National Police Week 2020.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to adopt the Proclamation recognizing May 10-16, 2020, as Police Week. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Police Report – No Police Report was received, verbal report by Mayor Bartek.

Carbon County Tax Collection Committee – May 20, 2020 meeting cancelled due to COVID-19 virus. The next meeting is September 16, 2020, 10:00 a.m. at the Lehighon School District administration building.

Carbon County Council of Governments – March 31, 2020 meeting minutes are on file.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Yurchak sent Civil Service Rules and Regulations to the Civil Service Commission for updating. The commission will reorganize on 5/15/20, 10:00 a.m., at borough hall.

Tax Collector's Report – April collections total \$230,807.58.

Treasurer's Report – Bills to be approved total \$83,659.56; General Fund \$39,326.94; Park & Recreation \$994.78; Hi Way Liquid Fuels \$4,766.32; Street Light \$4,684.08; Sewer Transmission \$5,069.44; Fire Tax \$706.00; Sanitation \$28,112.00.

A Motion to pay the bills was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich. On roll call vote: Martin Ditsky, No; Bruce Markovich, Yes; John Turcmanovich, Yes; William Chuma, Yes; Bob Silver, Yes; Marie Ondrus, No; Irma Leibensperger, Yes; Motion passed; 5 Yes, 2 No.

FUND/Saving & Check	No.	Account Title	March	April
General Fund	7673	General Acct	\$298,508.09	\$278,417.90
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
Sanitation Fund	7681	Sanitation Fund	\$158,174.08	\$202,221.24
Sanitation Fund	0283	Sani-investors Money Mkt Acct	\$51,815.88	\$51,824.37
Sanitation Fund	7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,164.56	\$12,165.56
Sewer Transmission	7714	Sewage Transmission	\$135,614.87	\$126,043.17
Sewer Transmission	1198	Sewer Transmission(reserve acct)	\$165,064.19	\$165,091.25
Sewer Transmission	5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct	\$152,926.87	\$152,934.66
Sewer Transmission	1277	Sewer Transm. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$51,201.40	\$51,212.24
LST	7722	Local Service Tax	\$13,221.41	\$13,221.95
Street Light Fund	7764	Street Lights	\$16,620.50	\$22,818.28
Fire Tax Fund	7748	Fire	\$25,047.75	\$28,261.31
Sp HI Way Liquid Fuels	7706	Treasurers Special HI Way	\$50,344.36	\$44,116.99
Park & Rec Fund	7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,415.27	\$41,418.66
Park & Rec Fund	7756	Recreation	\$57,859.11	\$57,337.51
Total			\$1,235,158.45	\$1,252,265.20
LOANS		LOANS Paid from Fund		
Tax Anticipation Note		1.99% for 1 yr.	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Tunnel St/Storm		\$18,689.23 per mo.	\$695,217.68	\$679,025.42
MEM Debacle		20 yrs./\$14,130 bi annual May&Nov	\$113,144.11	\$113,144.11
2018 Police RAM		Gen Fund or LST 6/1/18 - 5 yr. loan	\$32,351.80	\$32,351.80
			\$940,713.59	\$924,521.33

Losses to borough income due to COVID-19 are expected to be seen in property taxes and earned income taxes. Property taxes are on track so far however earned income tax collections is about \$10,000.00 less than in previous years.

Unfinished Business:

- **Public Works chairman William Chuma gave an update on projects in April:** Swept borough streets, cleaned 12 inlets, spread millings on Silberline property to flush out sewer line running through that property and install new gate, previous gate was illegal. Repaired drainage ditch in 800 block E. Bertsch Street, cleaned sewer trunk line at Silberline and Edgemont, dug 2 ditches off

Walnut Street. As part of shared services, Lansford swept streets in Coaldale. Took 2 days to clean the north side of sewer drainage ditch at W Ridge and Dock Street, last time cleaned 1997.

- **Resolution 2020-08** to change the borough property tax penalty period from beginning on August 1 to beginning on November 1; same as Carbon County had done by its Resolution 20-017.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to keep the borough property tax penalty date as originally planned; against adopting Draft Resolution 2020-08 which would have changed the property tax penalty date from August 1 to November 1, 2020. The Motion was second by Bob Silver. On roll call vote: Martin Ditsky, No; Bruce Markovich, Yes; John Turcmanovich, Yes; William Chuma, Yes; Bob Silver, Yes; Marie Ondrus, No; Irma Leibensperger, No; Motion passed; 4 Yes, 3 No.

- **Carbon County CDBG Funding Year 2020 projects** - The application deadline for projects is May 29, 2020. Bruce Markovich said he is waiting for an estimate from Lehigh Engineering for the Brimble’s Wall project. The Kennedy & Ashton Parks accessibility project will be submitted for CDBG county funding in 2021. The accessibility project will also be submitted in a PA DCED Multimodal Grant application. The application will cost \$100.00 to file.

- **Gazebo roof** – Specifications will be written and more estimates obtained to replace the roof .

- **Fire Escrow, regarding 2 E. Ridge Street Fire**, \$40,000.00 check received from Miller Insurance due to the fire, Edward Kanick building. The funds were deposited into a noninterest bearing account at Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank. The lot has been cleared, sewer exposed, and graded to borough specifications. New sidewalks have been installed and inspected by the borough.

A Motion was made to release the funds to Edward Kanick upon completion and inspection by the borough of repaving and sealing the west side gutter along Tunnel Street, (currently filled with exposed stones along the curb where the new sidewalks were installed). The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **Streetscape Phase II Grant** – (Downtown Lighting Options) Bruce Markovich explained that PPL will replace the 18 streetlight poles on the unit block of W. Ridge Street with tapered green fiberglass poles. It will cost of \$350.00 per pole for a Christmas light receptacle on each for a total of \$6,300.00. The LSA Grant totaling \$120,000.—would be used to install 8 additional new streetlights, with 16 ft. poles and wiring; removing 5 existing poles under the borough’s L.E.D. light replacement contract with PPL.
- **Borough Garage LSA Grant C000065218 activity period extension** – an amendment is expected from DCED

New Business:

- **Street paving** - Public works chairman William Chuma listed the Street paving projects for 2020. He contacted Penn DOT representative John Davis to approve the following projects. Due to COVID-19 restrictions Mr. Davis cannot visit the sites until the red phase of COVID-19 quarantine is lifted by the governor.

<u>Immediate need</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>
600 & 700 block of E. Front Street	\$ 7,500.00
400 & 500 Blocks of E. Front Street	\$ 8,100.00
Jones & E. Bertsch Street intersection	\$ 930.00
W. Water Street between Tunnel & Cummings Road	<u>\$ 2,100.00</u>
	<u>\$ 18,630.00</u>

Other possible Streets

E. Ridge St. from Springgarden St. to Albertini Mfg.	\$ 2,190.00
W. Ridge Street from Center St to Klock's Hill	\$ 2,190.00
100 Block W. Kline Ave.	\$ 4,146.00
100 Block W. Bertsch St.	<u>\$ 13,770.00</u>
	<u>\$ 22,296.00</u>

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich, second by Bob Silver, to approve the street paving projects as listed for 2020 after approval by John Davis of Penn DOT. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **Resolution 2020-09** – updated fee schedule adding the fee for Boarding Houses as in Residential Rental License Ordinance 2007-13, from \$20.00 per room to \$60.00 per room. There are two homes in Lansford offering boarding rooms.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to adopt Resolution 2020-09, updating the Fee Schedule, to raise the yearly rate for rooms in boarding houses from \$20.00 to \$60.00 each. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **IPad purchases** for council due to COVID-19. No interest unless assured reimbursement.
- **Free community yard sale weekend** - No decision at this time.
- **Sanitation** - Whether to begin the process of placing liens on properties with delinquent sanitation accounts with the help of Attorney Yurchak. The list totals \$27,102.90.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to begin the process of placing liens on properties with delinquent sanitation accounts, those owing during the period October 1, 2018 to January 1, 2020, with the assistance of Attorney Robert Yurchak. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **Civil Service Commission**

A Motion was made by William Chuma to notify the Civil Service Commission to hold testing and prepare a list of Full Time Officers for borough council should it need to consider hiring in the future. The Motion was second by Martin Ditsky. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Mary Soto, 335 E. Patterson Street, said she read in the Times News Newspaper that only 39% of residents have responded to the 2020 US Census. Efforts will be made to urge residents to respond.

Motion to adjourn was made William Chuma, at 8:00 p.m. and everyone dispersed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Seigendall

Secretary Treasurer