

Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 8th, 2024

The May 8th, 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 Man Jack Soberick, Council Woman Jennifer Staines, Mayor Hugh Vrablic, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak.

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-

The American Legion Posts 123 will be having their annual Memorial Day Program at Kennedy Park at 9 a.m. on May 27th, 2024. The event is open to the public to attend. The American Legion would like the council to approve the Special Event Form they have submitted for Carbon County Veteran's Day Parade which would be happening on November 17th, 2024.

Kevin Zucker spoke about the current problem he is having with getting his zoning permit. Would like the council to get involved in helping him be granted his building permit so he can begin repairs on his building.

Mary Soberick inquired about if Wendy Butrie was aware of the change to her final salary pay due to a different amount having been approved in a previous council meeting and if that would be a cause for a lawsuit.

Mary Soberick inquired about if there was a book in the office that would have the borough resolutions in them.

Rosemary Cannon recited police statistics for National Police Week and spoke about how she would like to give her thanks to the Detective Josh Tom's for his good police work in recovering puppies.

Rosemary Cannon inquired about the necessity of a new computer and what the minimum bid would be on the Zimmerman Building.

Joe Genits inquired about the amending of the garbage ordinance. Inquired about the steps that occur when a property owner does not pay their sanitation bill.

Rosemary Cannon spoke about the number of animals that are in the house next to her.

Approval of Meeting Minutes-

Motion to approve the April 10th, 2024 Monthly Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Gwyneth Collevechio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the April 18th, 2024 Code and Zoning Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports-

Michele Bartek communicated the Fire Department Report and Ambulance Report.

The call volume for the fire department. The total man hours were 183.5. Total incident times, there were 21 at 57.75 year to date. Total calls were 19 for the

month, 76 for the year to date. In-house work details, there was a total survey, 20.5 hours this month for a year to date of 161. Total man hours were 89 this month for a total of 613.5. Total fundraising hours were 55. Total man hours on the fundraising was 629.5.

Training hours, there were seven training sessions, 33 to date. Total training hours were 26, total for the year was 148. Total man hours were 152 for the month, and year to date it was 797.5. Community service, total hours served were 4.5, year to date was 6. Total man hours were 21, and year to date. The administrative duties, total administrative hours were 20 for the month, year-to-date were 80. Total man hours were 80 for the month, and year-to-date were 320. Total hours for all activities year-to-date were 507.75, total hours for all activities, to report were 92, total man hours for the month were 525.5, and total man hours year-to-date, were 2,954.75.

The ambulance responded to 86 incidents. In April, there was an average response time of 9.45 minutes, from the time of dispatch until arrival on the scene. Of the 86 responses, 10 were non-emergency assistance, including standby, etc., with a time of 13.2 minutes. 52 were non-emergency patient services, with a time of 9.94 minutes. And 34 emergency responses, with a time of 9.09 minutes.

Mayor Hugh Vrablic communicated the Mayors Report.

The total calls were 198 calls. 14 cases were assigned according to arrest. There was a home invasion. Some warrants were issued. There were some sex abuse cases for children that were cleared. Stolen property was recovered. There were three overdoses. Two are under investigation. All three overdoses resulted in death. 26 parking borough ordinance tickets issued. 1735 miles were patrolled.

Michele Bartek spoke about a grant she is going to be filing that has a due date of June 26th, 2024 for the hiring of three extra police officers.

Joseph Butrie inquired about why with five officers there is not 24-hour police coverage.

Michele Bartek spoke she feels the police should be on eight hour shifts because she feels it is healthier for them and would help with the needs of the borough more since they are currently not being met.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the status of the police contract and that once the contract is agreed upon the borough will sign it.

Code and Zoning Report-

Council members confirmed they had copies of the report.

Solicitors Report-

Robert Yurchak spoke about the hard drive that he reviewed, and how he wants council to review it in an executive session, to decide what should be released to the public.

House bill 1632 which is proposed and supposed to have been voted on today to expand workers compensation for, First responders, including police, volunteer, fire, and EMS to cover post-traumatic stress injury. That's going to affect the insurance rates for the borough. The other bill reflects right-to-no requests. Senate Bill 525, which is right here, has been coming forward from the legislature indicating, that if the municipality gets overwhelmed with what they call vexatious requests, which, could be duplicative to a lot of number, that the municipality could apply to the Office of Open Records for relief from those requests. So then there

would be a decision by the Office of Open Records as to whether those requests, would have to be answered any further.

Jack Soberick spoke about the animal ordinance.

Tax Collector's Report-

Borough Secretary Maria Ahner communicated the tax report.

From April 1st,2024 to April 30th,2024, total collected \$286,878.24

Motion to pay the bills-

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

New Business-

American Legion Post 123 submitted a Special Event Application to hold the Carbon County Annual Veteran's Day Parade in Lansford on November 10th, 2024 with a rain date of November 17th, 2024. Post members will organize the event and get the highway closing permit from PennDot. The borough hoses and cones will be needed, and borough workers may be needed to help prepare. The proposed parade route will begin at the Panter Valley Stadium Cortright Street Entrance and travel East for seven blocks on East Bertsch Street to Chestnut Street, turn north onto Chestnut Street for one Block to Springgarden Street where it turns north onto Springgarden Street for one block to West Ridge Street. The route turns west onto East Ridge Street for two blocks to Coal Street where the parade will disband.

Motion to approve American Legion Post 123 Special Event Form-

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Joesph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to hire Dennis Anderson of Lansford as a part-time employee in the street department for the summer months or as needed not to exceed 400 hours. Rate of pay set at \$19.99 per hour.

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to appoint Denise Leibensperger to the Lansford Zoning Hearing Board (only applicant)

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion was favored by Jay Doyle, Jennifer Staines, Michele Bartek, Gwyneth Collevchio, Jack Soberick, and Bruce Markovich. Motion was opposed by Joesph Butrie.

Motion passed by the majority vote.

Motion to appoint either Denise Leibensperger, Joesph Pavlis, or Thomas L Dahl as a Member of Lansford Borough Civil Service Board (three applicants received).-

Council stated that Denise Leibensperger cannot serve on two boards.

Motion to appoint Joesph Pavlis as a member of the Civil Service Board-

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Jay Doyle.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to appoint Thomas L Dahl as the Alternate Member of the Lansford Borough Civil Service Board-

Motioned by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to advertise the ordinance changing the yield sign on the west side of Parkway Road to a stop sign.

Motioned by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Hire Dunn Tree Service to remove 27 trees to allow access to a manhole located in the woods west of Walnut Street. In order to repair the manhole. Costs being \$2,700.

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to dedicate our Fiscal 2024 CDBG funds to install curbing and paving on Courtwright Street between Abbott Street and West Water Street.

Motioned by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to apply for a 2024 LSA Monroe grant of approximately \$100,000 for a new excavator and trailer.

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to purchase a new riding lawn mower from M&S Hardware in Tamaqua. Costs being \$8,899.00.

Motioned by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to purchase a new computer from Cloud Services for online training and zoom meetings.

Motion to purchase a new computer from Cloud Services for the purpose of online trainings and zoom meetings. The costs being \$1,969.94, the money to be taken from the COVID Funds.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jay Doyle.

Motion was favored by Michele Bartek, Jay Doyle, Gwyneth Collevecchio, Jack Soberick, and Bruce Markovich. Motion was opposed by Joesph Butrie and Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed by the majority.

Motion to institute a NO CASH POLICY for the payment of borough bills-

Motion to institute a NO CASH Policy for the payment of borough bills beginning July 1st, 2024.

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion was favored by Michele Bartek, Gwyneth Collevchio, Jennifer Staines, and Bruce Markovich. Motion was opposed by Joeph Butrie, Jay Doyle, and Jack Soberick.

Motion passed by majority vote.

Motion to authorize a final benefit payment of Wendy Butrie in the amount of \$7,469.44 minus appropriate local and state taxes.

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Joesph Butrie abstained due to conflict of interest.

Motion favored by Bruce Markovich, Jay Doyle, and Jack Soberick.

Motion was opposed by Jennifer Staines, Gwyneth Collevchio, and Michele Bartek. Mayor Hugh Vrablic voted in favor of the motion resulting in the motion being passed.

Motion to approve sending Ashley McLaughlin to a two-day training course on May 29th and May 30th for Borough Secretaries in Wilkes Barre costs would be \$75.00 for the course. Sponsored by the PA Borough Association.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve refunding Irene Swiatek, \$49.98 for non-usage of oversized vehicle permit.

Motioned by Jay Doyle and seconded by Joesph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve refunding Joesph Creazzo \$500.00 deposit for completion of street excavation.

Jay Doyle inspected the street excavation which was not completed to satisfaction.

Motioned to table by Joesph Butrie and Jack Soberick.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

Motion to get bids for a new camera system inside the borough office and the outside of the building.

Motioned by Joesph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to vote on getting a commercial appraisal for Silberline for the purpose of putting it up for bid.

Motion to vote on getting the cost for the appraisal on the Silberline properties.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to get an appraisal for the 32 acres at the end of Lansford for the purpose of putting that up for sealed bids.

Motion to table by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jack Soberick. Motion to table passed unanimously.

Motion to vote on putting the handicapped signs and retail signs for parking and businesses up in cost.

Motion to table by Jay Doyle and Gwyneth Collevechio.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

Motion to vote on amending the garbage ordinance-

Motion to table by Michele Bartek and Jay Doyle.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

Motion to vote on amending the animal ordinance-

Motion to table by Michele Bartek and Jay Doyle.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by President Bruce Markovich at 7:57p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley McLaughlin

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer