

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m. by President Jared Soto followed by The Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Council persons present: John Turcmanovich, William Chuma, Jared Soto, Marie Ondrus, and Mayor James Romankow. Bruce Markovich and Solicitor Michael Greek arrived at 6:15 p.m. during Executive Session. Council persons Irma Leibensperger and Bob Silver were absent.

Executive Session: 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to discuss possible purchase of Silberline property and a personnel situation in the public works department.

Public Courtesy:

Rose Mary Cannon, 242 W. Ridge Street, congratulated those in attendance who were successfully elected in the November 5th election. She asked whether there are any lawsuits pending against the borough. Attorney Greek said the Hiles suit against the borough is in the appeal timeframe.

Christopher Ondrus, 10 Edgemont Road, spoke on his behalf as a candidate for appointment to the Lansford Coaldale Water Authority.

Donald Gildea, 107 W. Kline Ave., spoke about the recent vacancy on the CLSH Sewer Authority due to the death of Joseph (Jay) Gallagher. Mr. Gildea recommended Mr. Gallagher's wife be considered to fill that vacancy.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2019 Special Budget Meeting:

A Motion was made by Bruce Markovich to accept the October 21, 2019 Budget Meeting Minutes as written. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Correspondence:

- **Water Authority Appointment** – Due to the resignation of Joseph Horvat. Letters of interest were received from: Steven J. Foster, Nicholas J. Vavro, Charles Whitehead, Douglas Knauss Sr, Edward Kanick, Christopher Ondrus and George "Smokey" Krajnak Jr.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to table the appointment until the January meeting, due to the fact that Mr. Horvat's term would have ended at the end of 2019 and another appointment will need to be made at that time. Additionally, the letters of interest already received are to be held for reconsideration in January. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **Special Event Application** – Lansford Alive Tree Lighting and Santa's arrival at Kennedy Park on 11/30/19.

A Motion was made by Marie Ondrus to approve Lansford Alive's Tree Lighting and Santa arrival at Kennedy Park on 11/30/19. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **Handicap Parking Application** – 330 W. Bertsch Street, Joseph Serfass.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve the Handicap Parking Request for Joseph Serfass, 330 W. Bertsch Street. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **Edgemont Lodge** – sewer problem in the Lodge was referred to the borough’s insurance carrier Philadelphia Insurance. A Letter dated 11/7/19 from Philadelphia Insurance acknowledging investigation of the claim and determination that there was no negligence or legal liability on the part of the borough and denial of all claims for damages.
- **Correspondence not enclosed to save paper** - copy available upon request
 - Girard** – Third Quarter investment report for the Police Pension Plan
 - Sheriff Sale** – from Attorney Greek, 144 W. Abbott Street, Michelle Lucas Parcel 123A-24-J8
 - Reassessment Appeals** – 10 – forwarded to Attorney Greek: 234 ½ E Kline Ave; 600 E. Front St; 224 E Ridge St; 313 E. Bertsch St; 112 E Bertsch St.; 4 W. Bertsch St; 377 W. Kline Ave; 230 W. Kline Ave; 225 W. Kline Ave; 340 W Snyder Ave.
 - Portnoff Law Associates** - Petition for Rule to show cause why the property should not be sold free and clear ... on behalf of Panther Valley School District, Sheriff Sale 12/13/19: 380 W. Snyder Ave; 144 W. Abbott St; 645 E. Bertsch St.
 - Grant Program** - Wolf Administration New Food Recovery Infrastructure Grant Program
 - US Census Bureau** – letter of participation in the Local Update of Census Addresses Operation

Committee Reports: From committee meetings held November 6, 2019

Park & Recreation – written report from Jared Soto is on file

Public Works – written report from William Chuma is on file

Municipal Administration – No written report

Code, Zoning & Planning – written report from Jared Soto is on file

Public Safety – No written report

Municipal Monthly Reports:

Mayors Report: shows a total of \$1,600.51 collected in October with a year to date total of \$20,207.64

Police Report: Received 421 calls, made 12 Criminal arrests, issued 5 traffic citations, 17 non-traffic citation, 33 Parking/Ordinance tickets and 2 quality of life tickets.

Fire Company: American Fire Co. No. 1 responded to 21 calls; 14 in Lansford, 2 in summit Hill, 3 in Coaldale, 1 in Nesquehoning; held 3 fundraising events and 6 training session.

Ambulance Report: Lehighon Ambulance responded to 62 incidents in October with an average response time of 8.8 minutes from time of dispatch to the arrival on scene.

Zoning/Code Enforcement: Council reviewed Zoning officer Jim Dean’s monthly bill

Uniform Construction Code: No activity during October, no bill from NEIC

Tax Collectors Report: From Terrance McCall - \$23,428.47 was collected in October, total collected in 2019 \$909,385.65.

Treasurer’s Report: Total bills to be approved \$93,696.91; Breakdown: General Fund \$42,352.63; Highway Liquid Fuels \$16,022.21; Street Light \$5,086.48; Sanitation \$26,667.09; Sewer Transmission \$3,362.92; Park & Recreation \$205.58. Council received Budget vs Actual Reports and checking account registers for all funds. Employee health insurance rates with Benecon, PMHIC, will increase 4.9% in 2020.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve payment of the bills totaling \$93,696.91. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.

End of Month Balances 2019			
No.	Account Title	Sept	Oct
7673	General Acct	\$456,614.82	\$387,559.70
7780	Escrow for 20 E Kline Ave	\$2,180.11	\$2,180.11
7772	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
4529	Escrow for 401-405 E Abbott St	CLOSED	CLOSED
7681	Sanitation Fund	\$138,399.54	\$169,525.60
0283	Sani-investors Money Mkt Acct	\$51,764.02	\$51,772.81
7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,158.47	\$12,159.50
7714	Sewage Transmission	\$94,552.55	\$69,756.45
1198	Sewer Transmission(reserve acct)	\$164,898.99	\$164,927.00
5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct(res acct)	\$152,880.87	\$152,888.66
1277	Sewer Transm. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$51,137.69	\$51,148.20
7722	Local Service Tax	\$23,277.65	\$23,553.50
7764	Street Lights	\$44,217.29	\$42,249.02
7748	Fire	\$38,897.61	\$39,329.64
7706	Treasurers Special Hi Way	\$149,332.63	\$93,857.87
7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,394.53	\$41,398.05
7756	Recreation	\$69,088.92	\$66,754.88
		\$1,493,795.69	\$1,372,060.99
Loans	LOANS Paid from Fund	Est Balance	Est Balance
	Tax Anticipation Note	0.00	0.00
	Sewer Transmission Loan	791,182.85	775,326.72
	Street Light Loan	121,859.11	121,859.11
	Police Car Loan	13,204.09	13,204.09
	Police Truck Loan	32,351.80	32,351.80
		958,597.85	942,741.72

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Greek sent a letter to Silberline requesting that the Sales Agreement being drafted include remediation of any existing or future environmental problems on the Silberline property being offered to the borough.

Unfinished Business:

2020 Budget - meeting scheduled for 11/18/19, 6:00 p.m. hopefully the 2020 proposed budget will be approved for adoption and advertising.

Strategic Management Planning Programs (STMP) update – Jared Soto met with SMTP representatives. Six financial management consultants were contacted to see if interested in offering proposals. Two Requests for Proposals were sent: to Gerald Cross, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Economy League, Central PA LLC, Wilkes-Barre, PA and John Espenshade, A Stevens & Lee/Griffin Company, Lancaster, PA. The proposals will be opened and reviewed at the December 12, 2019 regular council meeting.

400 E. Snyder Avenue Sewer Project: Bruce Markovich reported that Lehigh Engineering hopes to get a cost estimate to the borough by Thanksgiving. William Chuma said the project plan has changed; eliminated 1 manhole. PA water and sewer grant application is due December 13th.

Fire Lanes – The fire company request fire lanes be extended in the 200 and 300 blocks of W. Kline Avenue and W. Water Street; Changes to the existing Parking Ordinance are needed.

Resolution 2019-10 approval – Changes to Resolution 2019-10 were made as follows:

- To raise the quarterly sanitation fee from \$55.00 to \$60.00

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve Resolution 2019-10 which includes an increase in the Residential Sanitation fee from \$55.00 to \$60.00 per quarter. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. On roll call vote John Turcmanovich, Yes; Bruce Markovich, Yes; William Chuma, Yes; Jared Soto, Yes; Marie Ondrus, No. Motion passed, 4 Yes, 1 No.

- To raise the quarterly sanitation business fee from \$65.00 to \$70.00

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve Resolution 2019-10 which includes an increase to the Business Sanitation fee from \$65.00 to \$70.00 per quarter. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- Initial installation of Commercial Parking Space fee raised from \$100.00 to \$150.00

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve Resolution 2019-10 which includes an increase in the installation fee for Commercial Parking space from \$100.00 to \$150.00. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- Annual fee for commercial parking spaces raised from \$150.00 to \$160.00

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve Resolution 2019-10 with an increase to the Annual Commercial Parking Space fee from \$150.00 to \$160.00. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve Resolution 2019-10 with the wording “billed quarterly” removed, under the Annual Commercial reserved parking space fee. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- Handicap reserve parking initial installation fee raised from \$100.00 to \$150.00

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve Resolution 2019-10 with an increase to the initial fee to install a handicap parking space from \$100.00 to \$150.00. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- Annual renewal fee for Handicap Parking spaces raised from \$60.00 to \$75.00

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve Resolution 2019-10 with an increase to the annual renewal fee for handicap parking spaces from \$60.00 to \$75.00. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor except for Bruce Markovich who was opposed. Motion passed, 4 yes, 1 No.

- Zoning Hearing application fee raised from \$600 to \$750.00

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve Resolution 2019-10 with an increase to the Zoning Hearing Board application fee from \$600.00 to \$750.00. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- Any continued or subsequent zoning hearing as per applicant raised from \$250.00 to \$450.00

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve Resolution 2019-10 with and increase to the fee for any continued or subsequent zoning hearing as per applicant from \$250.00 to \$450.00. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Tractor Trailer Parking: In the hopes of removing tractor trailer parking along Cortright Street, William Chuma requests that John Hadesty of Lehigh Anthracite Coal Company be contacted to allow tractor trailer parking along Dock Street, on property owned by Lehigh Anthracite Coal Company.

Appointment to Police Pension Board: To fill a vacancy left when Martin Ditsky resigned from the board.

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich to appoint John B. Soberick to the Police Pension Board. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor except for Marie Ondrus who was opposed. Motion passed 4 Yes, 1 No.

New Business:

Vehicle Parking during snow - There was discussion about changing the language in the snow parking ordinance to require no parking on certain streets when 4 inches or more snow is predicted instead of the current language requiring no parking 24 hours after a snow of 4 inches or more. No changes at this time.

Solicitor – Borough Solicitor Michael Geek was elected Carbon County District Attorney at the November 5, 2019 general election and will take office in January 2020. There was discussion about replacing the borough solicitor at the end of the year.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to advertise for a borough solicitor in the Times News Newspaper. The Motion was second by Bruce Markovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

1997 Ford Crown Victoria Vehicle:

A Motion was made by William Chuma and second by John Turcmanovich to junk the 1997 Ford Crown Vic (blue powderpuff unable to pass inspection), originally a police vehicle, and most recently used by the public work's department. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to purchase ammunition for the police depart from at a cost of \$1,843.22 from Eagle Point Gun, T.J. Morris & Sons. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed,

There was discussion about replacing the roof on the gazebo in Kennedy Park. More quotes are needed and specs need to be created to get comparable contractor's bids. The topic was tabled by Jared Soto.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn was made by William Chuma, second by Jared Soto at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Secretary Treasurer