

The September regular meeting of Lansford Borough Council was called to order by President Jared Soto at 6:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll Call was taken by Secretary Treasurer Jill Seigendall with the following council members in attendance: John Turcmanovich, Joseph Butrie, Jared Soto, Bob Silver, Marie Ondrus, Irma Leibensperger, Mayor James Romankow, and Solicitor Michael Greek. Councilman Matthew Walsh was absent.

Jared Soto called the group into executive session to discuss possible property purchase for the borough public works department, security key purchase and personnel issues; the hiring of part time CDL drivers, part time police officers and police contract interpretation.

Back on the record at 6:30 p.m. the floor was opened for public courtesy by Jared Soto. Eight people were in the audience as well as Chris Reber of the Times News.

Public Courtesy

Joseph Butrie, 443 E. Ridge Street – asked Mayor Romankow why cars parked along Tunnel Street were not ticketed on Fridays during the summer Farmer’s Market; when cars were illegally parked.

Sandray (Bella) Sciniarielle, 343 E. Bertsch St – asked why the 300 block of E. Bertsch Street was not paved. She is concerned about drugs at the west end of town and she wants the curfew enforced.

Mary Soberick, 119 E. Abbott Street – Had comments about police not ticketing the cars on Tunnel for the farmer’s market and asked council to defend the police when residents slander them.

Mary Soto, 335 E. Patterson Street - Questioned whether a written complaint needs to be filed for a Quality of Life violation or whether the Police will cite properties on a verbal complaint. Both ways are done in Lansford.

Donny Gildea, 107 W. Kline Avenue – Asked about the Panther Valley Lumber property being considered as a site for the public works department. He reports that the Knepper Property is still available. It needs new garage doors, new wiring, and a better entrance road.

Lenny Kovach, Requested the use of the borough cones, barricades, and borough workers during the Veteran’s Day Parade. More information will be known by next month’s meeting.

August 8, 2018 Minutes

The August 8, 2018 minutes were reviewed for approval.

A motion was made by Bob Silver to approve the August 8, 2018 minutes as written. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.

Correspondence:

Lansford Alive – Special Event Application for a Fall Festival Block Party to be held Saturday, September 29, 2018, in the business district on W. Ridge Street between Tunnel and Coal Streets. Proof of insurance was submitted.

A motion was made by John Turcmanovich to approve Lansford Alive’s Fall Festival Block Party event on September 29th . The motion was second by Joseph Butrie. All were in favor, motion passed.

American Legion Post 123 - Invitation to council to participate in the Veteran’s Day Parade, Sunday, November 11, 2018 in the borough. All of council is interested in participating.

Jim Thorpe Borough – A letter was sent to Maureen Sterner, Jim Thorpe Borough Manager, in support of Jim Thorpe’s LSA Grant application to build a new borough hall and garage.

2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Lansford Borough Police Pension Plan – The secretary treasurer sent a Memo, 2019 MMO Worksheet , and accompanying Resolution 2018-08 for council’s approval.

A motion was made by Bob Silver to approve the Worksheet for 2019 MMO showing the total MMO of \$35,989.00. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in approval, motion passed.

A motion was made by John Turcmanovich to approve Resolution 2018-08, which retains the 3.5% contribution rate for full time police officers during 2019. The motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, motion passed.

CC Board of Assessment & Revision of Taxes – Notice was received that an assessment appeal at 360 W. Bertsch Street, owned by Roman Kaniuga, will be held 10:15 a.m. September 13 at Commissioners Conference Room #2 in Jim Thorpe.

Anthony Roberti, Esq., representing resident Bogumila Podolak, owner of 28 W. Bertsch Street, complaining of the newly establish bus stop at 24 W. Bertsch Street. Mrs. Podolak is concerned children will be injured on her sidewalk while waiting for the bus in addition to littering and damage to her landscaping. The complaint was sent to the Panther Valley School District and the borough was copied on the letter. Jared Soto will meet with the P.V. School District to work out a solution to the problem.

American Fire Company No. 1 – Letter requesting \$10,000.00 be included in the Fire Budget for Heating Fuel \$5,000.00, Vehicle Fuel \$2,800.00 and Electricity \$2,200.00.

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

- Rosary Holy Hour will be held Saturday, October 13th, noon to 1:00 p.m. at Kennedy Park.
- Invitation to PSAB Fall conference, Oct 12-14, 2018 Seven Springs Mountain Resort
- The fully executed LSA Grant contract for \$35,000.00 for Ashton Hill Pool Project to be used by June 30, 2021.
- Thank you/service letter from Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank regarding \$50,000.00 Sewer Transmission CD purchase
- Notice of Sheriff Sale – 355 W. Ridge St, John & Jessie Lawson
- Craig Gillahan – letter of retirement - partner in auditing firm Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh. (The borough’s account will be handed to his replacement)
- E-Mail from Gerald Flavelle of the Catholic Diocese of Allentown – The diocese will remove the electric “Slow School” Signs. All information to proceed with the removal has been forwarded to him.

Committee Reports (all held Sept.3rd):

Jared Soto made two changes to council’s committees: Matthew Walsh was removed from Park and Recreation and replaced with Marie Ondrus. Matthew Walsh was removed from Municipal Administration and replaced with John Turcmanovich.

Municipal Administration – No written report.

Irma Leibensperger made a motion to remove the large promotional sign for the Friends of the Lansford Pool that hangs on the railing in front of the borough office. The motion was second by Marie Ondrus . All were in favor except Jared Soto and Bob Silver. The Motion passed 4 yes, 2 no. It was recommended the sign be moved to Ashton Hill Park.

Public Safety – The report was submitted and read by John Turcmanovich. At the present time all vehicles are in good operational condition. Prices are being sought for ammunition. The committee recommended advertising for part time officers and asked that the Civil Service Committee be activated to create an eligibility list for council. The meeting was attended by two residents with complaints about the 24 W. Bertsch Street bus stop.

A motion was made by John Turcmanovich to advertise for part time police officers. The motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, motion passed.

A motion was made by John Turcmanovich to send a letter to the Civil Service Commission to prepare a civil service eligibility list. The borough will advertise for full time officer applicants for testing using the advertisement on file. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.

John Turcmanovich considered making a motion for the borough to approve the full payment for a bullet proof vest for part time officer Christopher Ondrus. Mr. Ondrus' current vest has expired and he seeks reimbursement for a new vest. Attorney Greek pointed out this does not agree with the collective bargaining agreement part timer benefit and could lead to a grievance by another officer. The topic was tabled until the next meeting by Jared Soto.

Park & Recreation – The report was read by Jared Soto and read by Joseph Butrie. The following was reviewed: Tree trimming around the pool lights for better visibility at night, posting a list of rules at Kennedy Park, improvements for the former Elks Lot (6 E. Ridge Street), and the layout of the Ashton Hill Tennis Court and Basketball Courts at the Lansford/Coaldale Border. Lenny Kovach reported that the fence needs mending at the East End Basketball court.

Public Works - The report was submitted and read by Bob Silver. Sewer inlets at Powell Street are a problem. Penn DOT has informed the borough that milling for the Route 209 resurfacing project will be accomplished in the evening hours. Mr. Silver said the goal is to resurface Powell Street between Patterson and Front Street. There is not money in the budget for the project but alternatives will be considered. There is \$10,000.00 budgeted for street paving. The condition of Edgemont Road was brought up and the possibility of using millings from highway resurfacing project for that location. The following 2 sets of paving estimates from PennDOT, John Davis, were included in council's packet: Set #1:

1. Powell Street between SR-209 Patterson Street and Ridge Street – material cost \$16,089.80, Miller rent \$3,200.00
2. E. Ridge Street from Springgarden Street west for 200 ft. – material cost \$4,191.05, Miller rent \$900.00
3. W. Ridge Street from Center Street east for 140 ft. – material cost \$2,926.95, Miller rent cost \$900.00
4. E. Snyder Ave from Walnut Street west for 130 ft.(north driving lane) – material cost \$949.90, Miller rent \$600.00
5. Front Street from Klock's Hill west for 620 ft. – material cost \$20,791.50

Set#2:

1. E. Ridge Street from Chestnut to Powell Streets - material Cost \$14,994.85, Miller Rental cost \$300.00

2. E. Bertsch Street from Chestnut to Powell Streets – material cost \$22,797.60, Miller rent cost \$1,500.00
3. Powell Street from Ridge Street to Snyder Avenue – material cost \$18,901.80, Miller rent cost \$3,200.00
4. Powell Street from Snyder Avenue to Front Street – material cost \$11,683.70, Miller rent cost \$2,600.00

Code, Zoning and Planning – The report was submitted and read by Jared Soto. Changes to the dumpster ordinance were discussed. The firm Lehigh Engineering was considered for zoning, code enforcement and UCC compliance. Prices for codification of the borough code of ordinances were reviewed; current estimates are \$10,000 to \$14,000. It is recommended to keep zoning code enforcement at 32 hours per week. The zoning hearing board will consider a variance for Albertini Manufacturing a.k.a. Tyrolean Enterprises, doing business at 30 E. Ridge Street. The variance hearing is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. September 18, 2018. Albertini seeks to repair air conditioning compressors, part sales and offices. The business is in a B2 district where manufacturing is not allowed.

Mayors Report – Read by Mayor Romankow. The report shows \$2,333.33 was collected in August. Year to date collected: \$15,314.90.

Police Report – Read by Mayor Romankow. The police reported the following for August 2018: Answered 392 calls; made 12 Criminal arrests, 34 traffic citations; 12 non-traffic citations; 1 parking/ordinance tickets and 12 Quality of Life tickets.

Civil Service Commission – No report.

Code Compliance Report – In the report submitted by Zoning. Code officer Tracy Herman, 5 renovation permits were issued, 2 permits were denied. Eight notices for Rental Registration Licenses were sent, 7 rental inspections and 3 re inspections were completed. Eleven inspection due notices were sent. Nine complaints were investigated and 5 investigations were closed.

Fire Co. Report – Submitted by Joe Greco Jr – Shows ten total calls in August; 5 in Lansford, 3 in Summit Hill, 1 in Coaldale and one in Nesquehoning.

Ambulance Report – Lehighon Ambulance Association responded to 37 incidents in August with an average response time from dispatch to arrival on scene of 8.8 minutes.

Carbon County COG – Attorney Greek will review the Fire Company Mutual Aid Agreement. There was a presentation of the county GIS system by Jason Shellhamer. GIS mapping gives information on each parcel in the borough and helps compare properties over time. The COG auction will be held September 29th at the East Penn Social Club.

Carbon County Tax Collection Committee – The next meeting is September 19th. The committee is looking into the PA House of Representatives review of how earned income tax is collected by Berkheimer as compared to having the state department of revenue do the collections. The committee is against the state taking over the collections.

Tax Collectors Report - Taxes collected in August total \$12,504.99; Year to date total \$865,048.30.

Treasurer's Report - Bills for the month of August total \$88,052.01. Breakdown is as follows: \$37,602.15 in General Fund; \$25,335.84 in Sanitation; \$6,939.80 in Sewer Transmission; \$926.49 in Park & Recreation; \$2,129.86 in Hi-way Liquid Fuels; \$10,129.00 in Fire Tax; \$4,988.87 in Street Light.

The IRS sent a Notice of Levy on the borough's bank account (General Fund) due to nonpayment of payroll (941) taxes in 2012. The amount to be paid is \$12,683.19 and is included in the borough bills. The payroll company "Altony" in 2012 is no longer in business and attempts made over the years (by borough personnel and Attorney Greek) to contact the former owner and get records from that time proved fruitless.

2018	End of Month Balances 2018		
	Account Title	July	Aug
7673	General Acct	\$458,723.15	\$438,619.52
7681	Sanitation Fund	\$120,877.86	\$116,388.84
0283	Investors Money Mkt Acct	\$51,643.34	\$51,652.11
1198	Sewer Transmission(reserve acct)	\$164,514.54	\$164,542.49
7772	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
7780	Escrow for 20 E Kline Ave	\$2,180.11	\$2,180.11
4529	Escrow for 401-405 E Abbott St	\$7,333.33	\$7,333.33
7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,346.26	\$41,349.77
7706	Treasurers Special Hi-Way	\$134,042.14	\$133,831.25
7714	Sewage Transmission	\$161,191.09	\$139,979.85
5402	Loan Proceeds Acct(reserve acct)	\$202,770.07	\$152,780.40
7722	Local Service Tax/	\$34,812.39	\$37,504.26
7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,144.29	\$12,145.32
7748	Fire	\$49,277.70	\$50,662.00
7756	Recreation	\$64,463.99	\$63,577.73
7764	Street Lights	\$41,994.48	\$43,233.30
	Sewer Transm. CD/12 mo.	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
		\$1,550,314.74	\$1,508,780.28
Loans	LOANSPaid from Fund	Est Balance	Est Balance
	Sewer Transm#5537 4/21/15	1,007,171.58	992,104.56
	Street Light Fund#6309 11/12/09	138,724.11	138,724.11
	Liquid Fuels #3886 10/28/14	22,256.35	22,256.35
	Gen Fund or LST 1/5/17	36,521.57	36,521.57
2018 Police RAM	Gen Fund or LST 6/1/18	42,073.00	42,073.00
		1,246,746.61	1,231,679.59

John Turcmanovich questioned \$3,816.59 bills from MacMain Law Group for reviewing the Barbara Goncalves vs. Lansford Borough case. The MacMain Law Group works for the borough insurance carrier and the amount is below the insurance deductible, leaving the borough responsible for the bill. Attorney Greek represented the borough in the case and asked for copies of the invoices so he can research and validate the work.

A motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to pay the bills (excluding the MacMain law Group bill removed for attorney Greek to research.) The motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor motion passed.

Solicitors Report – Attorney Greek announced a tax assessment appeal hearing .The PV School District represents the borough's interest so he will not attend. He will go over code complaints with

Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Tracy Herman and he will meet with Asst. Sec./Treas. Wendy Butrie to review the sanitation delinquents and identify whether the accounts are collectible or not. Twenty Six Landlords have not paid their Residential Rental Licenses.

Unfinished Business:

Ordinance 2018-01 changing the zoning application approval time limit from 5 days to 30 days. It was discovered, after the last council meeting, that the ordinance was not advertised. The advertisement was done on 9/1/18 and is again offered for approval.

A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to approve Ordinance 2018-01. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.

Survey - A survey of borough owned land near the sports zoo, parcel 122A-25-M46, was received from surveyor Mike Kafkalas and given to council. The site is being considered for the borough garage.

Bus stops – Jared will meet with PV School District to reevaluate the current bus stops.

Parking Meters - Bob Silver distributed a written report of the meters to be considered at the next meeting.

Codification of Borough Ordinance Book - A sample (another municipality by General Code) is available for review at the borough office.

Elks Lot beautification – County CDBG Grant funds will be used, 3 fencing estimates and one landscaping estimate were received and sent to David Bodnar at the CC Planning Office.

2005 Ford Expedition, police vehicle currently out of service

A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to sell the 2005 Ford Expedition police vehicle at the Council of Governments auction on September 29th at the East Penn Social Hall. The motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, motion passed.

New Business:

Mayor Romankow announced that the borough Trick or Treat Night will be observed on Halloween, Oct 31, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A Motion was made by Joe Butrie to approve Trick or Treat Night on October 31, 2018. The motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, motion passed.

2019 Budget Preparation - The secretary sent out e-mail requests for the 2019 Budget. Committee chairmen were asked to give the secretary any items they want considered for next year's budget.

Public Works Telephone landline – Due to the relocation of the borough garage it was discussed whether the landline should be relocated or disconnected.

Joe Butrie made a motion to move the phone landline from the old borough garage site on Spring Street to Rarick's garage at 327 W. Bertsch Street. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. On roll call vote: voting yes were John Turcmanovich, Joseph Butrie, Jared Soto, and Marie Ondrus. Voting no were Irma Leibensperger and Bob Silver. Motion passed, 4 yes 2 no.

Ordinance 2018-02 – a sample ordinance for Fireworks for borough council to review for next meeting.

Resolution 2018-09 – a resolution in support of the current earned income tax collection system. The resolution was tabled by Jared Soto, more information is needed.

Resolution 2018-10 –A resolution in support of Lansford Alive application for a LSA grant in the amount of \$179,075.00 for street lighting.

A motion was made by Bob Silver to approve Resolution 2018-10. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.

Part Time Drivers

A motion was made by Bob Silver advertise for part time CDL drivers at an hourly rate of \$15.50 using a one page application form. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Silver, second by Jared Soto.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall

Secretary/Treasurer