

**Call to Order** – At 6:00 p.m. by President Bruce Markovich followed by Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

**Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Council members attending:** Gwyneth Collevecchio, Bruce Markovich, William Chuma, Jennifer Staines, Martin Ditsky, Solicitor Robert Yurchak, John Turcmanovich Mayor Hugh Vrablic. Jay Doyle was not in attendance.

**Executive Session 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Personnel and Real Estate**

Opening of Sealed Heating Oil Bids – There was one bid that came in and it was Kattner Coal & Oil of Nesquehoning the price was \$3.69 per gallon fixed price for #2 home heating oil from 10-16-23 until 10-14-24 for 2500 gallons more or less.

**Public Courtesy** –

Matthew Friend– 341 W. Kline Ave. stated that the neighbors are horrible. There are alleged drug deals, dogs' poop outside in the street, on the street they are yelling and screaming at each other at night it sets off my PTSD. Said he has made a lot of complaints to the Borough and sent videos to the Secretaries, and nothing has been done. I have asked for the Mayor's contact information and no one will give it to me. Stated that there was a sewage problem on the neighbor's property and that they are dumping sewer over the back porch. Matt also said that the situation has been taken care of. The police are getting reports together for him and he believes that he should not have to pay \$25.00 a report.

Ann Marie Williams – 238 E. Ridge St. – Stated that the properties to the rear of hers are overgrown with weeds. The fence to the rear of her property the trees and bushes are higher than the fence. The wall going towards Chestnuts St. has weeds growing all over it.

Denise Leibensperger – 164 W. Ridge St. – Would like the weeds taken cut on a vacant lot near her home that is owned by another resident. William Chuma explained to her that we do not do residents private property. Also stated was the health insurance is going up 28% nationwide for everybody so in working on the budget the secretaries should not receive insurance and the public works dept. as well.

Joe Genits – 210 W. Front St– Wants to know if reports are available from Jim. He also has questions on some of the items that are on the agenda. Joe stated that we never advertised for a zoning official. Also stated was the fact that the items on the agenda were items that were not discussed at the Committee Meetings.

Samantha Rose–40 Coal St.- Why would you do #7 on the agenda and get involved. What do we start officers at when we hire them full-time of part-time? What is the rate? Talked about using ARPA money for the security cameras, police computers, body cams, kitchen repairs, shower. Noticed on the bills to be paid that Bill will be getting paid for his mileage.

Michele Bartek – 333 E. Abbott St – Stated about weeds on public sidewalks and asked about the hard drives.

Mary Soberick – 109 W. Abbott St. – Zoning Permits and Building Permits and the fact that people will be going through ARRO when they need anything for this. Committee meetings – the items that are on the agenda were not discussed at the Committee Meetings. The motions are planned they should be discussed before they are voted on. The LSA Grants that we are doing for non-profits will the Borough be liable. Why are we just now taking care of the police. Since we have had money why have we waited to do things in the police dept. why are we now taking care of things.

Joe Genits – 210 W. Front St. – Praised William Chuma for helping the Borough Crew and driving to different places for them to pick up things that they need and that there is nothing wrong with him putting in for gas mileage.

Rose Mary Cannon – 242 W. Ridge St. – I agree with everyone else about the agenda. The LSA grant that you are going to file for the fire company did you get that approved? I know that you also promised them \$25,000.00. We promised them that we would file for the grant and money out of COVID if we need to for other expenses. Has Vision Pools gotten back to anyone yet? I agree with everyone else about the agenda. In 2017-2018 when we advertised and tested for police officers and we got a list back it was Bruce, Chuma, Marie, Irma, and Bob who agreed not to hire and now you are spending thousands of dollars on hiring. The officer that you could have promoted was a part-time officer with experience he quit the next day and went to Nesquehoning full time. Things like that get out. Those men paid \$40.00 for testing, and no one has any intention of hiring at the meeting. Now you are hoping that if you hire a Chief, he will bring guys with him.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- August 9,2023 Council Meeting Minutes.

**A Motion was made by Jennifer Staines, and the second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

- August 22, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes.

**A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio, and the second by Jennifer Staines. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

- September 5,2023, Committee Meeting Minutes.

**A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio and the second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

**Correspondence Enclosed**

- Handicap Parking –627 E. Patterson St.

**A Motion was made by Martin Ditsky, and the second by John Turcmanovich to deny the handicap application. Jennifer Staines abstained. The Motion passed.**

- Handicap Parking – 38 W. Patterson St.

**A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich to deny the application, and the second by Martin Ditsky. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

- Special Event Form – Friends of Lansford Recreation – November 29 to December 3 in Kennedy Park – Tree Lighting – Nov 29 @ 9a.m.- Dec. 3 @ 6p.m.

**A Motion was made by Martin Ditsky, and the second by Gwyneth Collevecchio. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

**Committee Reports –**

1. Zoning & Ordinance
2. Public Works
3. Municipal Administration
4. Park & Recreation
5. Public Safety

**Municipal Monthly Reports for December**

**Fire Department – American Fire Co. #1 responded to 15 incidents in August: 8 in Lansford, 3 in Summit Hill, 1 in Coaldale, 2 in Tamaqua, 1 other calls.**

**Ambulance** – Lehighon Ambulance responded to 73 incidents in the month of August. There was an average response time of 10.0 minutes from the time of dispatch until the time of arrival on scene. **Out of the 73 responses, 47 responses were non emergent with a time of 10.5 minutes. There were 26 emergent responses with a time of 8.9 minutes.**

**Mayor’s Report** – \$1,286.39 was deposited for the month of August.

**Police Report** – There were 338 calls they were either welfare checks, ordinance violations, or QOL violations. 11 arrests and 47 violations. There were 16 arrests and 47 non traffic violations.

**Code Compliance** – There was no report.

**Tax Collector’s Report** – August 1- August 31- \$14,159.89 was collected.

**Solicitor’s Report** – There is a rough draft of the handicap ordinance ready for Council to review I will send it to them via email. I thought I would have the rental ordinance ready, but I still have a few more pages to do it is turning out to be a very long ordinance. Once it is done, I will send it out for Council to read via email.

**Treasurer’s Report –**

**Bills to Approve**

- GENERAL FUND - \$71,386.00
- STREET LIGHT FUND - \$5,385.93
- SANITATION FUND - \$28,302.00
- SEWER TRANSMISSION FUND - \$2,324.67
- PARKS & RECREATION - \$2,755.88
- HIGHWAY – LIQUID FUELS - \$28,186.58
- DELINQUENT TAX - \$2,294.95
- FIRE TAX - \$9,115.50

**A Motion was made John Turcmanovich, and the second by Gwyneth Collevechio. Martin Ditsky was opposed. Motion passed.**

**Account Balances August 2023:**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Account Title</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>
6496	General Acct	\$934,551.32	\$923,613.22
6488	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
2823	Fire Escrow – 334 W. Bertsch St	\$4,518.26	\$4,518.64
7013	Fire Escrow – 268 E. Patterson St	\$9,863.51	\$9,858.51
7755	Fire Escrow – 161 W. Ridge St	\$5,590.14	\$0.00
2153	ARPA Grant Acct	\$236,966.52	\$232,784.02
1394	Railroad Proceeds Account	\$563,239.00	\$563,286.84
8929	Portnoff Account	\$95,765.15	\$113,593.67
8448	Diversified	\$1,495.31	\$3,478.79
6438	Sanitation Fund	\$350,406.41	\$338,558.41
7373	Sani-investors’ Money Mkt Acct	\$52,161.90	\$52,161.90
6454	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$14,114.62	\$14,115.82
6446	Sewage Transmission	\$258,683.22	\$252,484.60

7360	Sewer Transmission	\$55,107.29	\$55,107.29
5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct	\$53,082.25	\$53,086.76
1277	Sewer Trans. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$51,580.67	\$51,587.03
6470	400 E Snyder Sewer Project	\$32,439.26	\$32,442.02
6462	Local Service Tax	\$38,630.48	\$41,533.14
6412	Streetlights	\$70,580.33	\$70,979.34
6371	Fire	\$48,923.50	\$46,963.47
6420	Treasurers Special Highway	\$94,621.32	\$84,162.03
6363	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,446.22	\$41,449.74
6404	Recreation	\$58,387.21	\$53,372.97
		<b>\$3,069,110.27</b>	<b>\$2,957,981.18</b>
	<b>LOANS Paid from Fund</b>		
	1.99% for 1 yr.		
	20 yrs./\$14,130 biannual May & Nov	\$46,474.11	\$46,474.11
3591	\$49,644.00	\$35,984.55	\$33,406.06
5 Yr.	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
		<b>\$142,458.66</b>	<b>\$139,880.17</b>

**New Business:**

Growing Minds Preschool and the use of East End Park – they would like to use the park once a week between 11 a.m.- 1p.m. In return employees would clean the park once a month.

Council asked if there would be permission slips for the children going to the park and whether the preschool had insurance.

Council asked questions of the owner such as why the playground? She said she needed a 6ft. fenced in area and the park has that. They asked how the children will get to the park? She mentioned the parents will transport them they will sign permission slips. Does she have insurance to follow her she said she does.

**A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio, and the second by Jennifer Staines. To table the use of the park until we receive proof of insurance. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

Panther Valley School District – Requesting a waiver for a zoning permit fee of \$60.00 for a sign at the stadium.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, the Motion died for lack of a second.**

Motion to send out a thank you letter to Smokey Krajnak and his wife for cleaning the miner’s monument at Kennedy Park.

**A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio, and the second by William Chuma. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

Motion to file a Monroe LSA grant application on behalf of the Grace Community Church and Second Harvest Food Bank in the amount of \$263,156. For work on the former English Congregational Church.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, and the second by Gwyneth Collevecchio. Martin Ditsky and Jennifer Staines were opposed. Motion passed.**

Motion to include the required resolution to complete the Monroe LSA grant application on behalf of the Grace Community Church and Second Harvest Food.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, and the second by Gwyneth Collevecchio. Martin Ditsky and Jennifer Staines were opposed. Motion passed.**

Motion to execute a Pass-Through Agreement for the Grace Community Church and Second Harvest Food grant application.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, and the second by John Turcmanovich. Martin Ditsky and Jennifer Staines were opposed. Motion passed.**

Motion to file a Monroe LSA grant application on behalf of the Lansford Historical Society in the amount of \$20,000 for work on the former Welsh Church.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, and the second was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio. Martin Ditsky was opposed. Motion passed.**

Motion to include the required resolution to complete the Monroe LSA grant application on behalf of the Lansford Historical Society.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, and the second by John Turcmanovich. Martin Ditsky was opposed. Motion passed.**

Motion to execute a Pass-Through Agreement for Lansford Historical Society grant application.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, with a second by Gwyneth Collevecchio. Martin Ditsky was opposed. Motion passed.**

Motion to have Billitier Electric install 5 LED lights, timer, and new outdoor box at a cost of \$7,360 at the tennis court/skatepark and take ½ the payment out of COVID.

**A Motion was made by Jennifer Staines, and the second by William Chuma. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

Motion to adjust the current fee schedule for zoning permits from \$60.00 to Actual Costs as determined by ARRO Engineering.

**A Motion was made by Jennifer Staines, with a second by William Chuma. Martin Ditsky was opposed. Motion passed.**

Motion to advertise for public sale a portion of the former Silberline property extending from the current fence line abutting the Majestic Building on the west, Panther Creek on the north, Dock Street on the south and the Lansford Fire Company on the east. Sale price to include cost of appraisal, survey, legal fees, and any other costs incurred by the Borough.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, to accept sealed bids for the property, with a second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

Motion to award the bid for four handicap ramps in the Ashton Park to Heim Construction in the amount of \$42,322.87 to be paid from a 2021 LSA grant.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, with a second by Jennifer Staines. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

Motion to award the bid to Heim Construction for two handicap ramps across the island adjacent to Ashton Park and the Panther Valley Stadium for the amount of \$9,677.00 to be paid for from a 2021 LSA grant and \$5,086.49 to be paid for by the Borough.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, with a second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

Motion to remove the two basketball backboards and supports from the former Kashmere's Court and reinstall them at the former Skating Rink.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, with a second by Jennifer Staines. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

Motion to repave the skate park / former skating rink at an estimated cost of \$27,500 with costs to be split between Parks and Recreation budget and ARPA funds.

**A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio, with a second by William Chuma. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

Set a meeting date to discuss the sidewalk issue surrounding the Panther Valley Stadium. Bruce will contact the school district to set up a date.

Motion to add the Electronic Code of Ordinances, the handicap application, and the zoning ordinance added to the website.

**A Motion was made by Jennifer Staines, with a second Gwyneth Collevecchio. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

**A Motion to go off the agenda was made by William Chuma with a second by Gwyneth Collevecchio. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

Summit Hill Borough was asking for a letter of support for a grant application the Summit Hill Historical Society and the Summit Hill Borough are applying for through the Dept. of Community and Econ. Development's Local Shares Account.

**A Motion was made by Jennifer Staines, with a second by William Chuma. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

**A Motion to adjourn was made by William Chuma, with a second by Gwyneth Collevecchio. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Wendy Butrie*

Secretary Treasurer