

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

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

Executive Session 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. personnel issues.

Back on the record at 6:30 p.m.

Public Courtesy –

Bob Hertzog – 220 W. Bertsch St. – mentioned the same rental property as the last meeting and asked if there was an update on it.

Cindy Westwood – 218 W. Bertsch St – the tenant from the rental property that Bob Hertzog mentioned. Cindy mentioned that the landlord had contacted her about issues going on at the property. Cindy asked where she could obtain an id bracelet or anklet for an autistic child being our fire dept and police dept do not offer these things.

James Marblestone – 112 E. Bertsch St. – Mentioned block parties and fireworks and that he cannot sit on the porch because of the parties in the street. James was told that the Mayor gave permission for them to have the party. James also asked what we can do to get more officers.

There was a big discussion on the hiring of police officers and how we can hire more.

Louise Dunstan – 210 E. Patterson St. – Wanted to start by letting us know to give Officer Rich a big thank you for her that he went above and beyond to help her out with the accident that happened in front of her house. Louise also talked about the apt. building behind at 211 E. Bertsch St. that building is the location of the party and the fireworks of which were going over her back yard.

Rich Lazarro – 114 E. Bertsch St. – Mentioned that something needs to be done for the lack of disregard for the civil society.

Rose Mary Cannon – 242 W. Ridge St. - Mentioned how the Borough does not give enough respect to the police department. Also had questions about the advertisement running in the paper for a Code Enforcement Officer.

Mary Soberick – 109 W. Abbott St. – Mentioned the lights at the pool walkway. Also questioned the agenda and why Council votes to go off the agenda. Who creates the agenda? On the not having enough police issue she mentioned that if you have a good officer you should want to keep them you should do what you can to keep them.

Michele Bartek – 333 E. Abbott St. – talked about the block party on E. Bertsch St. and how she was told the Mayor gave them permission to have the party. Talked about the police issues.

Joe Genits – 232 W. Front St – Talked about rental properties and moving permits.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- August 10, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Jennifer Staines to approve the August 10, 2022, Regular meeting minutes. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- August 29, 2022, Zoning & Ordinance Special Meeting Minutes

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Jay Doyle to approve the August 29, 2022 Zoning & Ordinance Special Meeting Minutes. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- September 6, 2022, Committee Meeting Minutes

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Jay Doyle to approve the September 6, 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Correspondence enclosed-

- Handicap Parking Request: - 231 E. Abbott St.

A Motion was made by Jay Doyle, second by William Chuma to approve the handicap space for 231 E. Abbott St. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- Handicap Parking Request: - 38 Walnut St.

Martin Ditsky mentioned that he did not see a handicap plate or a placard for this application. Council decided to table till we found out.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Martin Ditsky to table the handicap parking space for 38 Walnut St. till we have proof of a handicap placard or plate for the car. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- St. John the Baptist Church – Parking Request

William Chuma mentioned that we need to table till the Committee Meetings, and we need to have them come to the meetings and discuss it further. There are 19 homes including apts. And 22 parking spaces. Martin was asked to set something up with the church to have someone attend the meetings.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Gwyneth Collevchio to table the parking request for St. John the Baptist Church till we can speak to someone from the church about the request. 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 July

Fire Department – American Fire Co. #1 responded to 17 incidents in August: 7 in Lansford, 4 in Summit Hill, 4 in Coaldale, and 2 in Nesquehoning.

Ambulance – Leighton Ambulance responded to 67 incidents in August with an average response time of 8.52 minutes from time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Vrablic mentioned that there was \$2,149.42 collected for the month of August.

Police Report – Mayor Vrablic mentioned there were 186 calls, 44 parking tickets, and 3 QOL ticket issued. LPD also apprehended 9 people for serious issues and warrants in the month of August.

Jennifer Staines mentioned that she has an estimate from Pat Heaney for the Police Station the estimate came in at \$8,500.00. Also mentioned was that she has a company coming in to look at our security cameras.

Code Compliance – Jim Dean investigated 25 code enforcement complaints, issued 14 Notice of Violations, investigated 33 rental complaints, performed 19 rental inspections, and received 15 zoning complaints. The report is on file.

Solicitor’s Report – There was no report

Treasurer’s Report – We will need to transfer money into the Sewage Transmission Account.

Bills to Approve

- GENERAL FUND - \$113,252.63
- STREET LIGHT FUND - \$5,198.91
- SANITATION FUND - \$28,176.80
- SEWER TRANSMISSION FUND - \$42,164.59
- PARKS & RECREATION - \$2,440.06
- HIGHWAY – LIQUID FUELS - \$48,023.12
- FIRE TAX - \$7,713.50
- DELINQUENT TAX ACCOUNT - \$1,205.21

A Motion to pay the bills is needed.

A Motion was made by Martin Ditsky, second by William Chuma, to approve payment of the August bills. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Account Balances August 31, 2022:

| FUND/ Checking | No. | Account Title | July | August |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| General Fund | 6496 | General Acct | \$984,939.75 | \$1,050,044.57 |
| General Fund | 6488 | Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| General Fund | 0826 | Fire Escrow – 330 W. Bertsch St | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| General Fund | 2675 | Fire Escrow – 332 W. Bertsch St | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| General Fund | 2823 | Fire Escrow – 334 W. Bertsch St | \$4,513.72 | \$4,514.13 |
| General Fund | 7013 | Fire Escrow – 268 E. Patterson St | \$11,220.00 | \$11,220.00 |
| General Fund | 2153 | ARPA Grant Acct | \$174,414.83 | \$9,863.51 |
| General Fund | 9737 | Fire Escrow – 154 W. Ridge St. | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| General Fund | 9729 | Fire Escrow – 158 W. Ridge St. | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| General Fund | 8911 | Fire Escrow – 156 W. Ridge St. | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| General Fund | 3567 | USDA Grant Acct | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| General Fund | 1394 | Railroad Proceeds Account | \$531,448.32 | \$531,496.37 |
| General Fund | 8929 | Portnoff Account | \$40,198.67 | \$53,451.26 |
| Sanitation Fund | 6438 | Sanitation Fund | \$294,817.24 | \$289,621.75 |
| Sanitation Fund | 7373 | Sani-investors’ Money Mkt Acct | \$51,967.37 | \$51,967.37 |
| Sanitation Fund | 6454 | Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct | \$14,100.43 | \$14,101.70 |
| Sewer Transmission | 6446 | Sewage Transmission | \$96,863.71 | \$45,041.91 |
| Sewer Transmission | 7360 | Sewer Transmission | \$165,547.68 | \$165,590.54 |

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|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Sewer Transmission | 5402 | Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct | \$123,031.26 | \$123,032.84 |
| Sewer Transmission | 1277 | Sewer Trans. CD/Aug-12 mo. | \$51,499.13 | \$51,509.71 |
| Sewer Transmission | 6470 | 400 E Snyder Sewer Project | \$32,406.68 | \$32,409.61 |
| LST | 6462 | Local Service Tax | \$29,444.10 | \$26,862.58 |
| Street Light Fund | 6412 | Streetlights | \$67,372.19 | \$71,304.64 |
| Fire Tax Fund | 6371 | Fire | \$48,132.59 | \$38,012.32 |
| Sp. Hi-Way | 6420 | Treasurers Special Highway | \$129,588.18 | \$128,206.78 |
| Park & Rec Fund | 6363 | Lansford Pool Account | \$41,404.57 | \$41,408.31 |
| Park & Rec Fund | 6404 | Recreation | \$57,429.01 | \$47,460.59 |
| Total | | | \$2,611,436.63 | \$2,964,560.06 |
| | | | | |
| LOANS | | LOANS Paid from Fund | | |
| Tax Anticipation Note | | 1.99% for 1 yr. | | |
| Tunnel St/Storm Sep | \$18,689.23 per mo. | | \$219,071.97 | \$219,071.97 |
| MEM Debacle | 20 yrs./\$14,130 biannual May & Nov | | \$56,639.11 | \$56,639.11 |
| 2018 Police RAM | | \$26,440.53 | \$26,440.53 | \$26,440.00 |
| 2020 Sewer Loan | 5 yr. | \$50,874.86 | \$49,644.00 | \$49,644.00 |
| 2022 Ford F 550 | 5 Yr. | \$60,000 to be paid from Liq Fuels | \$60,000.00 | \$60,000.00 |
| Total | | | \$466,763.14 | \$329,483.20 |

New Business:

Awarding the bid for Ashton Park – Ramp Project. The Borough has \$52,000 from a grant. The engineering fees came in at \$5,200.00 and the bids for this project came in at \$96,000.00 so they decided to table the bids. We do have three other sources of funding for next year DCED Block Grant, Grant for Kennedy Park and LSA Money. Council decided to table the bids till next year to come up with more money.

There was a Motion made by Gwyneth Collevecchio, second by Martin Ditsky to table the bidding for Ashton Park till next year. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Crafco Quote for Sealant- We need to seal the streets that we just paved. We need to purchase two pallets to seal all the streets that we paved.

A Motion was made by Jay Doyle, second by William Chuma to purchase two pallets of sealant from Crafco at a price of \$3,150.00 and pay it out of COVID money. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Paving of Basketball Courts. (East end & West end)

The one basketball court will cost \$6,850. And the other one will cost \$6,500. The cost should be \$12,850 for the two. We have tennis nets and nets for the hoops. We want to pave the courts in the Spring.

A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio, second by William Chuma to pave both basketball courts for \$12,850 and to pay for it out of COVID money. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Sewage Transmission Account – Transfer of funds.

William Chuma mentioned to transfer \$70,000.00 from the loan proceeds acct.

A Motion was made by Jay Doyle, second by William Chuma to transfer \$70,000.00 from the Sewer Loans Proceed Account. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Transfer \$24,975.14 from Liquid fuels to Sewage Transmission.

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

Trick or Treat Night – After much discussion the Mayor stated that Trick or Treat Night will take place on Monday October 31st from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Jay Doyle to accept the Mayor's request for Trick or Treat Night to be on Tuesday October 31st from 6:00p.m.- 8:00 p.m. Jennifer Staines was opposed. Motion passed.

Advertise for bids to remodel Borough Office.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Jay Doyle to Advertise for bids on the remodel of the Borough Office. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Turning the light box on for Lansford Alive Downtown Festival September 24,2022.

A Motion to turn the light box on for Lansford Alive Downtown Festival September 24, 2022 was made by Jay Doyle, second by William Chuma All were in favor. Motion passed.

Appointing Callen Rich to full-time status.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Jennifer Staines to Appoint Callen Rich as a full-time Officer to start September 26 with a probationary period of 6 months. Start at 80% of the pay scale and must take his civil service test 10 days after going full-time. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Resolution 2022-06 to file for a grant under the Community Conservation Partnership Program in the amount of \$400,000.00 for renovations at Kennedy Park.

A Motion was made by Jay Doyle, second by Gwyneth Collevchio to adopt Resolution 2022-06 all were in favor. Motion passed.

Resolution 2022-07 to file a LSA Monroe Grant for phase one of renovations at the train station in the amount of \$97,000.00. There is a \$100.00 application fee. Martin Ditsky asked where the other money is coming from in the meantime. Bruce Markovich mentioned that we will use other money to pay it till we get the grant and then we will pay it back.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Gwyneth Collevchio. Martin Ditsky was opposed. Motion carried.

Advertise for the position of the Code Enforcement Officer.

Council decided to put a deadline on the ad of 10/4/22 for turning in the applications.

A Motion was made by Jay Doyle, second by William Chuma to advertise for the position of Code Enforcement Officer. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Martin Ditsky confronted the Mayor about the interview with Channel 1 Methed Up News and told the Mayor to leave out Martin's name from Council. All of Council agreed with Martin's comment. Martin also mentioned that on the 300 block of E. Bertsch St. there is a Watch Children sign put up by residents.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Butrie

Secretary Treasurer