

Lansford Borough Council

Special Meeting August 22, 2023

Call to Order

The Special Meeting of Council was held 6:00 p.m. August 22, 2023, at borough hall, 1 W. Ridge Street, Lansford, PA. The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Markovich and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following council members were present: Martin Ditsky, William Chuma, President Bruce Markovich, Gwyneth Collevchio, Jennifer Staines, John Turcmanovich. Jay Doyle and Mayor Hugh Vrablic were not in attendance.

Public Courtesy –

Robert Dobosh – 383 W. Ridge St – Asked Council with the upcoming Coal Miner’s Heritage Festival and Zoostock could we ask the Oversize trucks that are parked down at the new lot to park at the pool just for this weekend.

Irena Swiatek – 109 E. Patterson St. – Stated to Council that she did not like the Oversized Vehicle Ordinance as her only transportation is her rig, she has no car so she would have to walk from that parking lot in the dark and she does not feel safe.

New Business

a) Fire Company funding for new gear.

The Fire Company along with Nesquehoning and Coaldale were awarded a grant in the amount of \$286,476.00 for fire gear. The three departments must match 5% of the total funding taking the total funds available to \$300,600. American Fire Company #1 is being awarded \$3,200.00 per set and it needs 43 sets. The actual price of a set of fire gear which includes helmet, turnout coat, bunker pants, boots, two sets of gloves and two hoods runs between \$5,000.00-\$6,000.00. They will be taking between \$50,000-\$70,000 out of their own pocket which is an operating expense that they do not have. Bruce Markovich stated that the Borough would apply for a grant on behalf of the Fire Company for the amount they need for the fire gear and for 5 radios.

b) Job Description and advertisement for Code Enforcement Officer –

Do we want to make the Code Enforcement Officer full-time. Should we offer them Health Insurance.

What about rental enforcement if they are here full-time, they may be able to do it.

William Chuma asked what about hiring a company? What about hiring a rental inspector and the money that they make on the inspections would be used to pay them per inspection.

Advertisement Code enforcement is something we need to do first. Pay would need to be negotiated and insurance would just be on the employee.

c) Plans for Pool –

Chuma stated that we should put in splash pads and have the baby pool fixed up. The pool will eat up tax money.

We must have a design done by January.

Martin asked if the plan for the pool could be scaled down?

William Chuma stated the pool will be filled in for the splash pads you can put multiple pads in.

Council agreed that there is no way that the Borough can come up with a \$1,000,000.00.

Bruce stated that we have a rough cost on a baby pool and we don't need feasibility study. Maintaining the pool alone is something that we cannot do.

Rose Mary Cannon asked if we were going to get a price to put in a smaller pool in. Council stated that lifeguards, chemicals, and upkeep would be the concerns for the pool.

Bruce asked if anyone was interested in doing a referendum on it.

Gwyn stated that there is NO point no one showed up for the last meeting.

I guess it is best to send out for quotes on the splash pads and then we will also not need a feasibility study.

d) Set dates for budget meetings.

William Chuma stated that we should start the middle of September. the second week and on Tuesday's September 12,19,26 October 10,17,24. At 6:00 p.m.

e) Motion to oppose County wide property assessment.

William Chuma asked how long it had been since the County had done a County wide re-assessment. Bruce told him 20 years.

Whoever is buying the homes when they are buying, they are also putting into the County for a re-assessment on their taxes.

Now with this assessment people will be re-assessed who fixed up their homes when they were younger and now that they are retired the County will reassess on the same people who are retired.

Leighton is pushing for this. We do not know what Panther Valley will do on their buildings it will hurt the senior citizens.

Motions:

A Motion was made to apply for an LSA grant on behalf of the Lansford fire company in the amount of \$75,000.00 by John Turcmanovich, and the second by William Chuma all were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion was made to adopt a Resolution for the LSA grant by Gwyneth Collevecchio, and the second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion was made to advertise for a Full-Time Code Enforcement Officer by John Turcmanovich, and the second by William Chuma. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion was made to obtain 3 quotes for designs for splash pads by Gwyneth Collevecchio, and the second by William Chuma. Jennifer Staines was opposed. Motion passed.

A Motion was made to oppose the County wide property re-assessment by William Chuma, and the second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion was made to make Tuesday's the day to meet for the budget @ 6:00 p.m. on the following dates Sept. 12,19,26, Oct. 10,17,24 by William Chuma, and the second by Martin Ditsky. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion was made to hire ARRO as the Borough's Zoning Official by William Chuma, and the second by John Turcmanovich.

William Chuma stated that he measured the skate park to repave it the cost would be \$27,000.00. Also mentioned was 601 E. Rodge St – The trees are coming close to the house. Also, Delaney's who is the owner of the old Aquilla building said he had some big shots coming in so he filed a complaint against the owners of 849 E. Patterson St. you can't even walk in the front. Officer Nunemacher issued a notice to the owner giving them so many days to clean it up. After the deadline if the property is not cleaned up they will be issued a citation.

A Motion to adjourn was made by Gwyneth Collevchio, and the second by Martin Ditsky. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Adjournment @ 7:30 p.m.

Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Butrie

Secretary Treasurer