

Special Meeting Minutes

December 26th, 2024

The December 26th, 2024 Special Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Bruce Markovich at the Lansford Borough Town Hall, 1 West Ridge Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania. The meeting was attended by President Pro Tempore Michele Bartek, Council Man Joesph Butrie, President Bruce Markovich, Council Woman Jennifer Staines, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak.

Council Woman Gwyneth Collevchio, Council Man Jay Doyle, Council Man Jack Soberick, and Mayor Hugh Vrablic were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Bruce Markovich spoke briefly about the executive meeting which discussed personnel issues. The executive session meeting was from 5:30p.m. to 6:00p.m.

Public Courtesy-

Tommy Vadyak of 331 West Abbott Street inquired about why the public was told that Jay Doyle was appealing his decision pertaining to his council seat.

Tommy Vadyak stated he agrees with the suspension of Council Man Jay Doyle's pay.

Tommy Vadyak stated that with a new law that was signed for 2025 there is a clause that states if a person on council is not in attendance of monthly meetings that the rest of council can stop that person's pay.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the upcoming water authority and sewer authority appointments and that he feels council should get involved and set the monthly salaries for the water authority and sewer authority board members due to board members giving themselves increases.

Rosemary Cannon of 242 West Ridge Street stated there is a minimum amount that can be set for water authority board members to be paid.

Bob Silver of 17 East Ridge Street spoke about Right-To-Know that he submitted to the borough office and that a reply he received brought to his attention that special meeting minutes are in the same portion of the borough website as committee meetings. He feels that special meeting minutes should be located with monthly meeting minutes on the borough website.

Bob Silver spoke about how a Right-To-Know he submitted about the tax audit was denied due to the auditor having not completed or submitted the audit to the Lansford Borough.

Bob Silver inquired about why there is no tax audit to date.

Joe Genits of 210 West Front Street inquired about if any documents were sent to the auditor or estate about the tax audit.

Denise Leibensperger of 164 West Ridge Street inquired about the audit of the previous Secretary/Treasurer.

Denise Leibensperger inquired about why secretary/treasurer is being given a raise if she is not the secretary/treasurer in charge of borough money.

Denise Leibensperger spoke about a meeting that happened with the subject of the meeting being an officer that had falsified time sheets.

Audience members inquired about the outcome of the meeting that occurred with the officer that met with council and why the meeting had not occurred before the public.

Joe Genits inquired about who from council met with the FOP, and if there was a reimbursement made to satisfy any mistakes made on the timesheets.

Joe Genits inquired about if it is legal for council to stop council man Jay Doyle's pay.

Joe Genits inquired if current council has spoken with Jay Doyle about resigning.

Solicitor Robert Yurchak spoke about how council cannot just fill the seat they must wait until the judge issues an order vacating the seat.

Motions to Approve

Motion that Borough Council make a request of the Carbon County District Attorney to institute a Quo Warranto action to remove Jay Doyle from his council seat based upon his criminal conviction and his inability to attend meetings.

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion that Borough Council suspend any monthly pay to Jay Doyle for being a councilman in Lansford Borough effective immediately based upon his inability to attend meetings.

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to approve the 2025 Committee and Monthly Meeting Schedule.

Motion for Committee Meetings to begin at 5p.m. on the dates listed on the schedule.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve Monthly Meetings at 6:30p.m. with executive session at 6:00p.m on the dates listed on the schedule.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve advertising for 1 open seat on the Lansford-Coaldale Joint Water Authority.

Motion to approve advertising for 1 open seat on the Lansford-Coaldale Joint Water Authority with letters due on January 15th, 2025.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve advertising for 2 open seats on the Coaldale-Lansford-Summit Hill Sewer Authority.

Motion to advertise for 1 open seat on the seat with applications due on January 15th, 2025 by 4:30 p.m.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve advertising for 1 open alternate seat for the Zoning Hearing Board.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve advertising for 1 open seat on the Civil Service Commission.

Motion to advertise for 2 open seats on the Civil Service Commission.

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve advertising for 3 alternate seats on the Civil Service Commission

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve Portnoff collection of delinquent real estate taxes and trash fees on behalf of the Borough Office.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to increase rate of pay for Ashley McLaughlin to \$23.00 per hour for her position as Borough Secretary effective January 1st, 2025.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/motion for Committee Chairs to complete their own meeting notes. -request by Jennifer Staines

Bruce Markovich stated members of council can not be forced to do anything by motion.

Joseph Butrie stated he does his own meeting notes.

Council discussed about council doing their own meeting notes and how that would work.

Bruce Markovich stated he is against council recording their own meeting notes.

Maria Ahner stated that the meeting minutes are summarized.

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion was favored by Jennifer Staines, Joseph Butrie, and Michele Bartek.

Motion was opposed by Bruce Markovich.

Motion passed by majority vote.

Discussion/motion for Committee meetings to occur at certain times with committee members only. - request by Jennifer Staines

Committee meetings to happen in January, April, July, and October of 2025.

Workshops to happen in February, March, May, June, August, September, November, December.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to approve scrapping the 1990 Ford Dump Truck for \$2,730.00 and the 1991 Ford Street Sweeper for \$1,980.00. There is a per \$100.00 charge a vehicle for scrap yard to pick up.-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie spoke about the prices and that places charge more to pick up the vehicles.

Audience members inquired about the prices listed and if other areas offered high amounts.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve sending a letter requesting PennDOT's permission for Lansford Borough to install and maintain a school bus stop ahead sign on the 400 block of West Patterson street heading east.- request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie stated that PennDOT permission is need to put up a school crossing ahead sign.

Joseph Butrie stated the sign will be green with black lettering.

Motion to approve sending a letter requesting PennDot's permission for Lansford Borough to install and maintain two school crossing ahead sign on the 400 block of East and West Patterson Street heading east.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/motion starting January 13th, 2025 transitioning all rental administrative licensing processing back to the borough office. -request by Jennifer Staines

Joseph Butrie inquired about if the office can handle the transition.

Jennifer Staines spoke about the rental license process transition and the anticipated problems.

Council discussed how the borough is going to handle the 2024 past due rental license fees.

Maria Ahner talked about how the rental license process is going to be handled by the borough office.

Council discussed with the audience how the 2024 past due rental license fees were being handled by ARRO Consulting.

Maria Ahner spoke about how the borough office staff are becoming more familiar with which properties are rental properties.

Maria Ahner stated that rental fees can be paid online.

Council and audience members spoke about the rental license process and about changing the rental license ordinance to require landlords to show proof of fire insurance.

ARRO Consulting will turn all record for rentals to the borough office by January 15th, 2025.

ARRO is going to continue to process UCC's for the borough.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn-

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley McLaughlin

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer