

Special Meeting Minutes

February 24th, 2025

The February 24th, 2025 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, Council Woman Gwyneth Collevchio, President Bruce Markovich, Council Man Jack Soberick, Council Woman Jennifer Staines, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak.

Council Man Jay Doyle, and Mayor Hugh Vrablic were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Courtesy-

Joseph Butrie thanked the Police Department for enforcing the temporary no parking last week and the public workers for doing a good job clearing the streets.

Joseph Butrie stated that the borough does not use cheap salt, that the borough uses the same salt as PennDOT.

Tommy Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street spoke about the oversized vehicles in the Ashton Park Parking lot and that the parking should be for Lansford residents only.

Joe Genits of 210 West Front Street stated he would like to speak on agenda items as council goes through them.

Motions to Approve

Motion to advertise for 3 members for the Planning Commission-request by Michele Bartek

Bruce Markovich spoke about the current planning commission ordinance and the issues he sees with it.

Council and Solicitor Robert Yurchak discussed the planning commission and how improvements could be made to the planning commission ordinance.

Joe Genits of 210 West Front Street spoke about the planning commission and the process of the planning commission.

Motioned to advertise for 3 members for the planning commission by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion favored by Michele Bartek, Jack Soberick, Joseph Butrie, Gwyneth Collevchio, and Jennifer Staines.

Motion opposed by Bruce Markovich.

Motion passed by majority vote.

Motion to provide a response on behalf of the Grace Community Church Community Center Project in the matter of the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office vs Grace Community Church Project Number 2024PRO3929.002

Bruce Markovich stated that the church would like to take down the bell tower and remove the steps going up to the second floor to instead have stair glides that go to the second floor and either a wheelchair lift or another stair guild to get onto the stage.

Bruce Markovich stated the SHPO wants to know if there are alternatives to taking down the bell tower.

Council discussed the project.

Gwyneth Collevechio inquired about who is going to be allowed to use the Community Center.

Bruce Markovich stated council needs to decide whether a response is going to be submitted on behalf of the Grac Community Church to get the stop work order lifted and that council must decide at this meeting as the response has to be submitted by March 2nd, 2025.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Gwyneth Collevechio.

Motion favored by Joseph Butrie, Gwyneth Collevechio, Michele Bartek, Bruce Markovich, and Jack Soberick.

Motion opposed by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed by majority vote.

Motion to approve permission from the council to start the cleaning up of the Silberline Building. 30 days have passed since the letter to Construction Clearance.-request by Joseph Butrie

Council discussed the condition of the Silberline Building and ways that clean up can be addressed.

Motioned to rescind by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the purchase of a Clearspan HD Freestanding Building 25'W by 40'L White from FarmTek for \$13,020.00.-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie spoke about how the \$13,020.00 could be spent on the new borough garage.

No Motion was made by the council.

Discussion/Motion to approve the Dumpster Ordinance

Joseph Butrie spoke about the dumpster ordinance.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the dumpster ordinance needing to include that a dumpster must be removed due to impending weather conditions and that the deposit amount is \$300.00.

Joseph Butrie spoke about how the ordinance needs to state that if the dumpster is not removed after 60 days, the permit will be revoked and the \$300.00 deposit is not given back.

Joe Genits of 210 West Front Street stated he feels council should wait on changing ordinances until he can meet with the zoning committee and review with them some suggested language for the ordinances.

Discussion/Motion to approve the Towing Ordinance

Jack Soberick stated that he is opposed to the towing ordinance.

Jack Soberick stated that this ordinance already exists under state law and that council should meet with the mayor to direct the police department to take the proper actions and enforce the towing.

Jack Soberick stated he feels council would be wasting tax payer money on advertising.

Tommy Vadyak of 334 West Abbott spoke about the towing issues he currently sees in the borough.

Joseph Butrie spoke about what the Chief of Police told him must occur before a vehicle can be towed.

Motioned to table in definitely by Jack Soberick and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to approve the Residential Rental Ordinance Amendment

Jennifer Staines spoke about rental properties being inspected every year.

Jennifer Staines spoke about changes the secretaries made to the rental ordinance without having approval from the zoning committee.

Borough Secretary Ashley McLaughlin clarified that the rental ordinance before them is the one that Robert Yurchak sent to them and the separate papers they have are just ordinance suggestions that the office feels council should consider but that nothing has been changed in the ordinance.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the ordinance needed to include the requirement for fire insurance.

Bob Silver of 17 E Ridge Street inquired about the enforcement of the Residential Rental Ordinance and what is going to be done for the 2024 rental properties that were not in compliance with the ordinance.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how the requirement for a moving permit should be included in the ordinance.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how it was brought to his attention about the rental fee and separate inspection fee.

Council agreed that the \$150.00 rental fee would include both the rental license fee and inspection fee.

Jack Soberick spoke about the rental application.

Discussion/Motion to approve the Animal Control Ordinance

Bruce Markovich stated he thinks section B in the animal ordinance about arresting police officers for not responding to animal compliant calls should be removed.

Jennifer Staines spoke about how council needs to decide on if roosters and chickens are going to be allowed in the borough.

An audience member spoke about how expensive eggs are and that he feels council should reconsider not allowing chickens and roosters in the borough due to the health benefits their eggs can provide to the resident that owns the chickens.

Joseph Butrie inquired if any official code complaints have been submitted about chickens.

Lenny Kovatch of 331 West Ridge Street talked about the borough not wanting to send police into buildings with dangerous animals but that the borough needs to be concerned as well about firefighters that could be going into burning buildings that have dangerous animals.

Jack Soberick spoke about the animal shelter portion of the animal ordinance.

Jack Soberick spoke about the problem with enforcement of the animal ordinance.

Bruce Markovich stated the limit on the number of animals should be five.

An audience member spoke about the benefits to having chickens in the borough and that residents who have them provide eggs to other residents helping them combat the high cost of eggs and that he disagrees with not allowing chickens in the borough.

Joseph Butrie stated that Lansford has a cat problem.

Motion to add to the ordinance to allow no roosters in the borough and up to five chickens per household from this point on.

Motioned by Michele Bartek.

Motion died due to a lack of a second.

Motion to add to the ordinance to limit households to five chickens, no roosters, outlaw all venomous animals (snakes, tarantulas, anything that is venomous) as outlined in the proposed ordinance.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion was favored by Michele Bartek, Jennifer Staines, Bruce Markovich, and Jack Soberick.

Motion opposed by Gwyneth Collevchio and Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed by majority vote.

Discussion/Motion to approve the Amusement Device Ordinance

Jack Soberick spoke about the large amount of litigation surrounding the Amusement Device ordinance and that the state has jumped on 90% of it.

Motioned to table by Jack Soberick and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn-

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley McLaughlin

Secretary