

Lafin Borough Council Mtg.

June 11, 2019

6:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG RECITED.

Roll Call:

Present: Paul Benderavich, President – Anthony D’Eliseo, Vice President – Carl Yastremski –
Thomas Parry – Junior Councilmember Matthew D’Elia

Absent: Lisa Natt and Mayor Maureen Zavislak

Also Present: Solicitor Substitute Jessica Pleskach, Esq. and Charles Boyd, Borough Manager

Special Presentations: None

Minutes: March 12, 2019, April 9, 2019 and May 14, 2019 Meetings

Mr. Benderavich asked if everyone reviewed the meeting minutes and if anyone had any questions or comments. Asked for a motion to approve the prior months’ meeting minutes.

Motion to Approve: Thomas Parry

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report:

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to accept the report.

Motion to Accept: Thomas Parry

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

List of Bills for Approval:

Mr. Benderavich asked if anyone had any questions or comments then asked for a motion to approve the bills.

\$ 99,103.59 plus payroll \$ 10,131.21.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Thomas Parry

Roll Call:

Anthony D’Eliseo abstained on CVI invoice due to employment relationship.

Ayes carried and motion passed.

Correspondences (e-mailed to Council during the month): No discussion.

Reports: Fire report was emailed to Council. No discussion.

Manager's Report –

Mr. Boyd noted the landscaping maintenance work at the borough building with the trimming of the shrubbery and adding of mulch in the beds. The front porch brick paver repairs are almost completed. Work should be finalized in the near future by Ray Lauer, Midway Garden. Mulch was added to the rear arborvitae tree line along Cedarwood Drive and in the community garden mulch beds.

The borough received the final grant proceeds from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for \$11,267.00. The funds were unused from an early grant program and used for the cost of Hickorywood Drive paving project as approved by DCED.

Mr. Boyd pointed out the reduction of the borough Comcast billing as indicated on the latest invoice from the company. Councilman D'Eliseo reviewed the telephone lines and reduced and consolidated the system for a saving.

The certified playground mulch was ordered from Oldcastle Lawn and Garden at 90 cubic yards and should be delivered within the next few weeks. After delivery, the mulch will be spread between both the lower Creekside playground and the upper playground behind the borough building as done in the past.

MS4 Stormwater Report –

Mr. Boyd advised that the catch basin inlet near the intersection of Rt. 315 on Laflin Road was repaired and repaved to correct the broken frame. Another catch basin inlet will be repaired later this year.

The Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA) completed catch basin vactoring work to clean select inlets.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Absent / No Report

Grant Report – Councilwoman Lisa Natt Absent / No Report

Junior Council Person, Matthew D'Elia looked into the funding received by Archibald Borough for their Rails to Trails program. Laflin Borough would not qualify for similar funding since the Lackawanna Heritage Trails Foundation coverage area ends in Pittston. Mr. D'Elia was told the only avenue open to the borough is to combine a DCED grant with the LSA grant program.

Mr. D'Elia said the donated trees from the Arbor Day Foundation were planted for the Tree City program by the borough fire driver. Mr. Boyd added the mulching and weeding, as previously mentioned, was completed by Ray Lauer for the community garden beds. The beds are in good shape but one tree will need to be replaced.

Motion to Approve Reports: Thomas Parry

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

A) DEP Planning Module Submission for Direct Connections –

Mr. Benderavich asked if everyone reviewed the email from Jerry Loftus, Pennoni Associates on the estimated cost to proceed with the planning module approve and noted that \$10,000.00 was the high end for the engineering cost estimate. Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to proceed if everyone is in agreement.

Motion to Approve: Thomas Parry

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D’Eliseo Yes

Lisa Natt Absent

Thomas Parry Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

B) 60 Oakwood Drive Property Appraisal & Sell Price –

Mr. Benderavich asked audience attendee Mr. Kyle Costello, 9 Oakwood Drive if he had any questions regarding the sale of the property before a vote is taken.

Mr. Costello asked what the procedure would be to sell the property. Mr. Benderavich responded to say that borough code requires any real property owned by the borough over \$15,000 must be put-out-for-bid. In the event no bids are received, the property must be put-out-for-bid a second time. If nothing is received the second time, the third time any offer could be entertained.

Mr. Benderavich added that an appraisal was completed by a borough resident and appraiser, Joe Mantione, who lives in Laflin on Cedarwood Drive and is very familiar with the area. He gave us his formal proposal as to what his opinion was on the worth of the property and what to set it at. The property will be maintained by the borough as far as cutting the grass is concerned. The property will be advertised in the newspaper with a bid period of two weeks. Bids will be reviewed at the next council meeting and acted upon accordingly. The borough is not looking to retain the property.

Mr. Woytowich, 15 Oakwood Drive asked if the price can be negotiated or does it have to go out for bids. Mr. Benderavich responded to say it can be negotiated the third time if it goes out twice and no bids are received.

Mr. Benderavich asked councilmembers what the minimum sell price should be set at. Councilman Yastremski indicated that the appraisal was at \$48,000 and wanted to know what Mr. Mantione indicated the minimum sell price should be since it is not indicated in the appraisal letter. Mr. Boyd responded and specified it was a minimum of \$40,000. Councilman Yastremski didn’t realize properties in Laflin were that valuable.

Mr. Benderavich noted any proceeds received from the sale of the property would go toward the infrastructure repairs on Oakwood Drive for catch basins and repaving work.

Some additional discussions took place on the value of the property, size and frontage of the property and the nice neighborhood.

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion for \$40,000 minimum starting bid as recommended.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Thomas Parry

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

C) Patelunas Schoolhouse 64 Main Street Demolition Bid Proposals –
Contingent on County Judge favorable court ruling

Stell Enterprises, Inc.	\$18,500.00
FS Landscaping Contractors, Inc.	\$38,000.00
Brdaric Excavating	\$39,000.00

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion for Stell Enterprises, Inc. as the low bidder at \$18,500 for demolition of the property contingent on county judge court ruling.

Motion to Approve: Thomas Parry

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D’Eliseo Yes

Lisa Natt Absent

Thomas Parry Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

D) Front Door Security Access System –

After some discussion, Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to table the issue until a later date.

Motion to Table: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Thomas Parry

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

New Business:

- A) Market Street Hole Patching Asphalt Work –
Smith Blacktopping Estimate \$600.00

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the \$600 estimate for Market Street repairs.

Motion to Approve: Thomas Parry

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D’Eliseo Yes

Lisa Natt Absent

Thomas Parry Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

Public Comments: None

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:10pm.

Motion: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Carl Yastremski

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charles Boyd, Borough Manager
Lafin Borough