

Laflin Borough Council Mtg.
November 12, 2019
6:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

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

Councilman Benderavich noted the recent passing of one of the borough solicitors, Attorney Bruce Phillips. He was a good friend to everyone, and Laflin Borough is in a better position because of his involvement. He will be sadly missed.

Roll Call:

Present: Paul Benderavich, President – Carl Yastremski – Lisa Natt – Thomas Parry –
Absent: Anthony D’Eliseo, Vice President – Mayor Maureen Zavislak – JCP Matthew D’Elia
Also Present: Solicitor Samuel Sanguedolce, Esq. and Charles Boyd, Borough Manager

Special Presentations: None

Minutes: September 10, 2019 Mtg. and September 24, 2019 Special Mtg.

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

Motion to Approve: Lisa Natt
Second: Thomas Parry
Roll Call:
Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report:

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

Motion to Accept: Lisa Natt
Second: Thomas Parry
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.
\$ 30,687.50 plus payroll \$ 6,912.99.

Motion to Approve: Lisa Natt
Second: Thomas Parry
Roll Call:
Ayes were unanimous 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 advised that he will solicit bid proposals from financial institutions for a 2020 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) after discussing the current situation with Councilman Yastremski unless any other councilmember objected to applying for the loan this upcoming year. He will request proposals for \$125,000.00.

Mr. Boyd asked Councils' opinion on going outside the current agency for insurance bid proposals or just having Gino Bartoli seek estimates from his companies. Mr. Benderavich recommended just having Gino Bartoli, Assured Partners of Northeastern PA bid out the package again this year. He asked if everyone was in agreement. Council responded in the affirmative.

MS4 Stormwater Management Report –

Mr. Boyd discussed the stormwater catch basin inlet at 28 Old Mill Road that the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA) is repairing near Andy Cicon's home. Two catch basin inlets were already repaired by the WVSA at the bottom of Dogwood Drive hill. However, the catch basin on Market Street will not be repaired by them since, after repairing a pothole next to the stormwater inlet, the basin is in pretty good shape now and doesn't warrant fixing.

WVSA may consider working on stormwater catch basins on Laflin Road in the future if we obtain the state highway occupancy permit required before work can be done. They are starting to come around on working in the state roadways. As everyone is aware, they have been telling us it is the responsibility of the state.

Unfortunately, WVSA will not undertake certain stormwater matters like underground pipe repairs and outfall rehab. We have a problem at 19 Old Mill Road on the erosion of an outfall but WVSA said that should be handled out of our stormwater capital improvement fund.

Grant Report – No updates at this time per Councilwoman Natt

Mayor's Report – None (absent)

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the reports.

Motion to Approve Reports: Thomas Parry

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

A) 60 Oakwood Drive Sales Agreement –

Kyle Costello \$20,000.00

30 Days to Close on Property

Solicitor Sam Sanguedolce reviewed the sales agreement prepared by the late Bruce Phillips, Esq. for the transfer of land to Kyle Costello. At the last council meeting the borough approved the sale of the property. This would be to approve the sales agreement. Solicitor Sanguedolce will prepare the property deed and set-up the closing.

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the sales agreement.

Motion to Approve: Lisa Natt

Second: Thomas Parry

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich	<u>Yes</u>
Anthony D'Eliseo	<u>Absent</u>
Lisa Natt	<u>Yes</u>
Thomas Parry	<u>Yes</u>
Carl Yastremski	<u>Yes</u>

Motion passed.

B) Proposed 2020 Laflin Borough Operating Budget 2nd Reading –

Councilman Yastremski noted the total revenues at \$889,470.00 and total expenditures at \$889,470.00 for a balanced budget for the general operating fund. This is an increase to the 1st reading of the budget of \$26,454.00 primarily due to increased carry-forward funds. The added funds will be used for the infrastructure project proposed on the expenditure side.

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the 2nd reading of the budget.

Motion to Approve: Thomas Parry

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

New Business:

A) Borough Office Computer Upgrade –

Computer Visionaries, Inc. (CVI)	\$1,605.00
Intuit QuickBooks	\$ 299.00

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the new computer system.

Motion to Approve: Thomas Parry

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich	<u>Yes</u>
Anthony D'Eliseo	<u>Absent</u>
Lisa Natt	<u>Yes</u>
Thomas Parry	<u>Yes</u>
Carl Yastremski	<u>Yes</u>

Motion passed.

B) 2020 LSA Grant Resolution Approval –
Resolution #6 of 2019

Solicitor Sanguedolce read the entire grant resolution for funding for Manchester Drive, Maplewood Drive Section, Oakwood Drive and Fordham Drive at \$670,000.00. The grant will be submitted to DCED for the 2020 Local Share Account grant.

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

Motion to Approve: Thomas Parry

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D’Eliseo Absent

Lisa Natt Yes

Thomas Parry Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

C) Borough Building Exterior Lighting Upgrades –

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to table the discussion of the borough building exterior lighting upgrades until next meeting when more information is available.

Motion to Table: Lisa Natt

Second: Thomas Parry

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

D) Set & Advertise 2020 Council Meeting Dates –

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the same meeting dates as the second Tuesday of the month except for the first meeting in January which will be the Reorganization Meeting on Monday, January 6th.

Motion to Approve: Thomas Parry

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Other Non-Agenda Items:

Solicitor Sanguedolce discussed the Bartoli land transfer to the borough and noted he has been in touch with Attorney Blazosek for the seller. The seller will need to get the property surveyed since the legal descriptions don’t exactly match what the borough bought. The deed will have to be consolidation but it is moving along.

Mr. Benderavich noted that additional land may be included with the land transfer. The property off Chestnutwood Drive and at the end of Cedarwood could be included in the transfer. Mr. Benderavich asked councilmembers if everyone would be in favor of taking the additional land at the same price if offered. Council responded in the affirmative.

Public Comments:

Scott Seeherman, 16 Peachwood Drive – voiced his great concerns over the purchase of the Bartoli land deal and asked council the reason for the acquisition.

Mr. Benderavich responded to say Council did not want another problem similar to the Rt.315 problem with American Asphalt. Mr. Seeherman interjected to say the borough should not be in the real estate business nor protecting land only in certain areas. This is stopping potential growth of tax revenues.

Mr. Seeherman continued to discuss the selling of land on Oakwood Drive, the Casey Kasa land and the Bartoli land deal makes it look like the borough is in the real estate land business. He wanted to know if the borough will buy the land behind his property to protect him.

Discussions continued on the potential rails to trails land donation, controlling the land for future uses, changing county zoning, and preventing timbering of the land.

Robert Novak, 191 Haverford Drive – asked Council if a resident can maintenance a small cat house on their rear deck to support the feral cats. He noticed two such cat houses at the property of Camille Centini, 215 Haverford Drive. This is the same resident who recently won at the magistrate level, on a technicality, for feeding feral cats. Is there anything against having these small houses?

Discussions continued on potentially changing the feral cat ordinance to strengthen it and trapping feral cats for the SPCA.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:34pm.

Motion: Thomas Parry

Second: Lisa Natt

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charles Boyd, Borough Manager
Laflin Borough