

Lafin Borough Council Mtg.
December 10, 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 – Lisa Natt – Thomas Parry –

Absent: Mayor Maureen Zavislak and Matthew D’Elia, Junior Council Person

Also Present: Solicitor Samuel Sanguedolce, Esq. and Charles Boyd, Borough Manager

Special Presentations: None

Minutes: October 8, 2019 and November 12, 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: 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.

\$26,245.54 plus payroll \$10,121.21

Motion to Approve: Lisa Natt

Second: Thomas Parry

Roll Call:

Councilman D’Eliseo abstained on the CVI invoice due to employment status.

Ayes carried and motion passed.

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

Reports: Fire and PSP Police reports were emailed to Council. No discussion.

Manager's Report –

Mr. Boyd advised on the completion and submittal for the 2020 Local Share Account Grant. The application was completed and Greg Gulick and Mr. Boyd submitted for road paving work as previously approved by council. The anticipated time frame for award announcements by the Commonwealth Financing Agency is mid-March.

Judge Lupas was confirmed for swearing-in of newly elected and reelected officials at the January Reorganization Council meeting. The only meeting for January 2020 will be on the 6th for the Reorganization Meeting at 6pm.

Another insurance proposal meeting with Tyler Salerno, Assured Partners of Northeast PA is set for Wednesday, December 11 at the borough building if any elected official would be interested in attending. This will be the final meeting before the proposal will be submitted. Councilman D'Eliseo asked if another broker would also be involved in bidding. Mr. Boyd responded to say that only Assured Partners will be submitting a proposal for renewal but will be bidding amongst their companies for the best rates.

PennDOT representatives will be meeting with the borough in January or February to discuss possible road work in the borough and Mr. Boyd will be reviewing the issues we have with the state roads. Namely the road shoulder problem near the Creekside playground at the intersection of Main Street and Market Street along with the catch basin near 28 Main Street. Borough officials can attend to ask their questions.

Mayor's Report – none

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve.

Motion to Approve Reports: Lisa Natt

Second: Thomas Parry

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

A) No Nonsense Neutering TNR Agreement Approval –

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the No Nonsense Neutering agreement for 10 feral cats at \$350.00 which was included in the 2020 Budget.

Motion to Approve: Lisa Natt

Second: Thomas Parry

Roll Call:

Ayes unanimous and motion passed.

B) Borough Building Exterior Lighting Upgrades –

Rexel Inc. – RAB Lighting \$2,900.42

Robert J. Stella Electric \$2,475.00

Mr. Benderavich discussed the two quotes for 250 watts equivalent and 400 watts equivalent light fixtures as emailed to councilmembers by Mr. Boyd. Mr. Benderavich asked if anyone had questions and then asked for a motion to approve the higher wattage quote.

Motion to Approve: Lisa Natt

Second: Thomas Parry

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

C) Re-advertise for New Bid Proposals for Manchester Drive & Maplewood Drive Section –

Mr. Benderavich noted that the project was bid out in the summer with the bids being rejected due to the high bid pricing. Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to rebid the project for a spring construction.

Motion to Approve: Lisa Natt

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes unanimous and motion passed.

D) 3rd Reading of 2020 Operating Budget –

Mr. Yastremski read the proposed budget for the 3rd reading and noted revenues at \$889,470 and the expenditures of the same at \$889,470 for the General Fund. The budget, as read, includes a carry forward of \$151,061 without a tax increase. Mr. Benderavich asked if anyone had questions. Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve.

Motion to Approve: Lisa Natt

Second: Thomas Parry

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D’Eliseo Yes

Lisa Natt Yes

Thomas Parry Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

Mr. Benderavich thanked Carl Yastremski and Mr. Boyd for the work in preparing the budget.

E) Approval of 2020 Budget and Tax Authorization Resolution –
Resolution #7 of 2019

Mr. Boyd noted the change in borough code that allows for the budget to be passed by resolution if no change in the tax rates. This will save the borough money since it will not need to be advertised nor have the expense of ordinance preparation. Councilmembers thanked Mr. Benderavich for advising on this change. Solicitor Sanguedolce read the resolution in its entirety.

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the resolution as read with the same tax rates.

Motion to Approve: Lisa Natt

Second: Thomas Parry

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D'Eliseo Yes

Lisa Natt Yes

Thomas Parry Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

New Business:

A) Vincent Kasa Railroad Bed Property Land Donation –

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the donation of land to the borough from Vincent Kasa. It was noted this is the same land that was previously offered to the borough and can be utilized in the future for possible Rails to Trails.

Motion to Approve: Thomas Parry

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes unanimous and motion passed.

B) Stell Enterprises, Inc. Snow Plowing Back-up Services –

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve Stell Enterprises, Inc. for back-up snow plowing at the same rate as last year at \$95.00 per hour for driver and truck.

Motion to Approve: Lisa Natt

Second: Thomas Parry

Roll Call:

Ayes unanimous and motion passed.

C) 2020 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) Proposals at \$125,000.00 –

First National Bank	2.94% Fixed	\$250.00 & \$84.00 Fees
Fidelity Bank	2.49% Fixed	\$1,750.00 & \$84.00 Fees
M & T Bank	2.85% Fixed	\$1,000.00 & \$84.00 Fees
Landmark Bank	3.90% Fixed	\$350.00 & \$84.00 Fees

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve First National Bank at the better rate of 2.94% with \$250.00 and \$84 fees. Paul Benderavich, Council President and Charles Boyd, Borough Manager to be the authorized signers of TAN documents.

Motion to Approve: Lisa Natt

Second: Thomas Parry

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D'Eliseo Yes

Lisa Natt Yes

Thomas Parry Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

Public Comments:

William Kennedy, 17 Manchester Drive – thanked elected officials for the help he received on a sewer back-up problem at his residence. The problem was fixed in a few days and he wanted to thank Mr. Benderavich and Mr. Boyd for the quick response.

Robert Novak, 194 Haverford Drive – wanted more information on the sell of the former Chung property on Haverford Drive with the drainage problem. Mr. Benderavich responded to say the property would need to be approved by DEP due to the wetland issues before any building could take place. It won't be rubber stamped by the borough. Mr. Novak believes something in the drainage water off the property is eating away at the asphalt. Some additional discussion took place.

Anthony Menendez, 13 Walnutwood Drive – restated his intentions from a prior meeting to purchase the property behind his home on Walnutwood Drive that was offered for sale by Bernie Bartoli. The borough put in an offer to purchase the land and, he believes, it was accepted by the seller. His intention was to purchase the land to preserve it and prevent any development behind his house. He wanted to know if the borough did buy the land.

Mr. Benderavich confirmed he did sign the sales agreement and the land is being surveyed to determine what property the seller will be transferring to the borough. The seller will be retaining portions of the property with the same property identification number.

Mr. Menendez also wanted to see if a tract of land could be sold to him and other neighbors on the street to ensure a buffer zone if future councils decide to sell the property for development.

Much discussion continued.

Councilwoman Natt – asked about the status of the problem with hedges and sight distance at the intersection at Broadway Street and the request that they keep making for a mirror to be installed. She wanted to know how it is being resolved.

Mr. Benderavich responded to say that the problem is being addressed but slowly. The one homeowner wanted to see something in writing before removing the hedges. The code officer and the state are involved

to provide documentation. Installing a mirror would be a big liability issue for the town with maintaining the mirror, cleaning it, making sure it doesn't move, etc. but the problem will be handled. Either the bushes will be moved to allow for proper sight distance or cut down by the homeowner on the corner.

Executive Session:

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to leave the regular meeting and enter executive session to discuss personnel issues.

Motion for Executive Session: Lisa Natt at 6:30pm
Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Motion to reconvene regular meeting by Thomas Parry
Second by: Anthony D'Eliseo
Ayes were unanimous.

Atty. Samuel Sanguedolce noted the information discussed in the executive session was related to personnel issues.

Mr. Benderavich asked councilmembers to think about various ideas on advertising for the part-time maintenance and/or full-time maintenance / fire driver positions for another meeting. The position needs to fit into the budget.

Other Non-agenda Items –

Mr. Benderavich thanked outgoing Councilwoman Lisa Natt and Councilman Thomas Parry for their service to the community as elected officials. He thanked them as Council President and as a taxpayer in the community.

Although he had a difference of opinion on the former police issue with Ms. Natt, she was there for 4yrs. to do what was right for the community. The police department was a hard decision but couldn't be scaled back to work.

Councilman Parry was a major asset to the town since 2008. Mr. Benderavich noted how Mt. Parry used is own workers, gas and equipment to cut the grass at the ballfields, plowed snow for the borough, and fixed the plow equipment. He was always the voice of reason. Mr. Benderavich said he couldn't thank him enough for his dedication.

After thanking them again, he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 7:24pm.

Motion: Anthony D'Eliseo
Second: Thomas Parry
The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charles Boyd, Borough Manager
Lafin Borough