

Lafin Borough Council Mtg.
July 11, 2023
6:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

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

Roll Call:

Present: Carl Yastremski, President – Paul Benderavich – Marc Malvizzi – Mayor William Kennedy

Absent: Anthony D’Eliseo, Kyle Costello and Charles Boyd, Borough Manager

Also Present: Solicitor Leonard A. Sanguedolce, Esq.

Special Presentations: Mr. Yastremski announced an agenda change and noted that State Representative Haddock along with, possibly, State Senator Marty Flynn would be attending the August council meeting instead of tonight’s meeting.

Minutes: June 13, 2023 Meeting

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

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report:

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

Motion to Accept: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

List of Bills for Approval:

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

\$ 86,669.29 plus payroll \$ 8,046.07

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes carried and motion passed.

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

Reports:

The Laflin Volunteer Fire Dept. report was emailed to councilmembers. No discussions on the report.
The state police discontinued providing monthly reports since the completion of the PSP crime data website.

Manager's Report – No report (absent)

Mayor's Report – No report presented.

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

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Public Comments Relating to the Agenda: None

Unfinished Business:

A) Lower Laflin Welcome Sign at Park Memorial –

Mr. Yastremski indicated that the sign was included in the current operating budget and noted the proposal from George Ely & Associates was Costar pricing. The initial pricing was indicated at \$11,613.00. It was specified that the sign would be a smaller version of the current sign located at Rt.315 and Laflin Road with white and green colors. Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to accept up to \$12,000 for a new sign.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

B) Walking Track / Ballfield Pavilion –

Mr. Yastremski spoke on the compensation received from the Williams Gas Company that was partially designated for another park pavilion. Responding to a question from a resident in the audience, Mr. Yastremski said the compensation received from Williams Gas was between \$260,000 to \$280,000.

Mr. Yastremski said the pricing was state approved Costar pricing for materials only from George Ely & Associates at \$28,287. Mr. Yastremski recommended approving up to \$30,000 to cover any unforeseen items. Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve.

Mr. Joseph McCabe interjected to ask why the contract was being divided into labor and materials separately. Mr. Yastremski responded to say that the labor cost provided through George Ely was way too expensive. Some discussions continued.

Mr. Yastremski again asked for a motion to approve up to \$30,000 for the park pavilion.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

C) Tree Removal and Tree Trimming Work –

Mr. Yastremski read the Tom’z Tree Service pricing aloud. Old Mill Road tree trimming and tree removal was \$1,800 for Old Mill Road clearing for additional street lights, \$1,100 for culvert areas off Old Mill Road at the end of Salem Drive and Concord Drive, \$600 for miscellaneous work with a total of \$3,500.00.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

D) LSA Grant Submission Projects –

Mr. Yastremski noted what potential grant projects were discussed at past council meetings: paving work for East Saylor Avenue, MS4 stormwater outfall rehab work, backhoe attachment purchase, utility trailer purchase, and paving projects on Creekside, Peachwood & Haverford Drives. Mr. Yastremski said he spoke to Mr. Boyd who wanted to consider Broadway Street. Mr. Yastremski asked for input from other councilmembers.

Resident Joseph McCabe (audience) asked councilmembers to consider looking at converting the septic tank systems over to direct sewer connections to eliminate the aging tanks. He believes the borough could request help from State Representative Jimmy Haddock and State Senator Marty Flynn. Mr. Benderavich explained the situation on the history of the septic tanks and noted that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has stopped the conversions. Some discussions took place.

The projects that were agreed upon: utility trailer and backhoe attachment, paving project and, separately, the stormwater outfall rehabs work. The roads to be included for the paving grant submission would be Peachwood Drive, Creekside Drive and Haverford Drive.

Solicitor Sanguedolce will need to prepare the resolutions for each project. No vote was taken.

New Business:

A) Certified Playground Mulch Installation –

Mr. Yastremski reviewed the River Valley Landscapes proposal for 80 cubic yards of certified playground mulch installation for both the upper and lower playground areas.

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve the PA Costars proposal at \$4.995.00.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

B) Plastic Border Ties for Lower Laflin Playground Mulch Area –

Mr. Yastremski explained the reason for the border ties to prevent weeds and maintain a clean border. A proposal was received from Cute Rite Lawn Services for 6"x6" wood ties for \$9,100. Mr. Yastremski indicated that Mr. Boyd (absent) wanted to look into plastic border ties. Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion for approval up to \$10,000 for the installation of plastic ties.

Mr. Benderavich made a motion to approve up to \$10,000 for the project.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

C) Oakwood Drive Block Party Road Closure –

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to allow for the closure of Oakwood Drive for the 3rd Annual Oakwood Drive Block Party on September 9, 2023. Approximate hours would be from noon until midnight. Insurance will be provided to the borough by the organizers.

Mr. Benderavich made a motion, based on the recommendation of Solicitor Sanguedolce, to approve the request contingent on insurance being provided to the borough.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

D) General Fund Construction Projects –

Mr. Yastremski opened discussions on potential general fund projects. He noted that Mr. Boyd (absent) recommended a possible stormwater project for Ashwood Drive to help prevent rain water from jumping the curbs and causing water damage on properties. Audience member, Mr. Spagnuolo, interjected to explain the situation and noted sandbags had to be deployed to stop the water from gushing down through the church yard and down into the rectory home. No storm drains are currently present on that section of Ashwood Drive. Mr. Yastremski said that this is a project that the borough engineer can look at to determine a solution.

Mr. Yastremski discussed potential paving projects with Mr. Benderavich advocating for Peachwood Drive, Creekside Drive and Haverford Drive since the specs will already be prepared for the LSA Grant submission.

Audience member Elizabeth Szumski, 106 Cedarwood Drive asked councilmembers to consider looking into a stormwater situation at her property. She thought that additional curbing could help the situation. Some discussions continued.

Audience member Cindy Lucarelli, 157 Maplewood Drive requested the driveway at 155 Maplewood be looked at again since water is jumping the curbing installed. A driveway asphalt lip should be installed per Ms. Lucarelli. After some discussion, Mr. Yastremski said that he would have Mr. Boyd look into it again.

Mr. Benderavich made a motion for engineering bid specifications to be prepared for potential general fund projects for curbing at 106 Cedarwood Drive; paving projects for Creekside Drive, Peachwood Drive & Haverford Drive; and Ashwood Drive stormwater catch basins tied into Redwood Drive.

Motion: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

E) Valley Distributing & Storage Stormwater Issue on Inkerman Road –

Mr. Benderavich spoke on the situation concerning the flooding on Inkerman Road. Despite spending \$90,000 for flood abatement work, Inkerman Road is still getting flooded. He would like to see Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA) and solicitor Sanguedolce send Valley Distribution a letter to have the rain leaders from the warehouse directed to the back of the warehouse instead of onto Inkerman Road. The water coming from Valley Distribution's culvert pipe cannot be dissipated fast enough on the other side of the road. He believes this needs to be addressed now since part of Inkerman Road will be paved by Laflin Borough later this year and, going forward, money will not be available to continually re-pave Inkerman Road due to the damage caused by the flooding. Although not as bad as in the past, it did flood slightly during the most recent storm. Mr. Benderavich asked solicitor Sanguedolce to stress the facts of public safety and liability issues, etc. Some discussions continued.

No vote taken

Public Comments:

Joseph McCabe, 4 Pinewood Drive – asked council to have the Luzerne Co. Planning Commission zoning office watch the two short term rentals in Laflin. He believes they are hopping from Airbnb to Vrbo to another short-term rental site despite what they told the zoning office that they would stop short term rentals since they would need a special exemption under the zoning ordinance. Some discussions continued.

Mr. McCabe inquired about getting state pricing on security cameras instead of posting an advertisement in the newspapers to request proposals. Mr. Benderavich responded to say that CVI is a state Costar vender and the proposals were Costar pricing.

Mr. McCabe asked of the status on monthly police reports that used to be provided by the former mayor at council meetings. Mr. Benderavich responded to say that the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) stopped providing monthly reports to Laflin Borough.

Cindy Lucarelli, 157 Maplewood Drive – asked about her neighbor’s shed size and what the status was on inspecting it for conformity. Mr. Benderavich responded to say that the county zoning office would be responsible for checking on it and altering the assessment value of the property. Ms. Lucarelli was more concerned with getting eaves (rain gutters) installed to control water run-off from the property. Mr. Benderavich thought that the rain gutters where just installed. Ms. Lucarelli indicated that they have not been installed. Some discussions continued.

Evelyn Wilson, 157 Maplewood Drive – asked what the minimum setbacks from the property line a structure needs to be setback. Ms. Wilson indicated that her property will be surveyed. She believes the fence on 155 Maplewood is on their property. Some discussions continued.

Frank Desiderio, 1 Pinewood Drive – asked how long would Michels Corporation (Williams Transco gas pipeline expansion) be working in Laflin Borough. He expressed his concerns on the Rt.315 truck traffic and the property driveway access to the site. Some discussions continued.

Joseph Spagnuolo, Sr., 89 Ashwood Drive – asked if PennDOT gave permission for Michels Corporation to use the fire hydrant at Sunset Drive, Plains Township which is on the side of Rt.315. The company uses it without flaggers and the trucks just pull right out onto Rt.315. This is a dangerous situation.

Conversations continued on various topics from various attendees and councilmembers.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 7:00pm.

Motion: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Boyd, Borough Manager
Laflin Borough

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