

Lafin Borough Council Mtg.

April 9, 2024

6:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

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

Roll Call:

Present: Marc Malvizzi, President – Joseph Boos, Vice President – Drew Malvizzi – Melissa Werner –
Mayor William Kennedy

Absent: Carl Yastremski

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

Mr. Boyd read to meeting attendees the Sunshine Act notification as stated on the council meeting agenda.

Special Presentations: None

Minutes: March 12, 2024 Meeting

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked if everyone reviewed the meeting minutes and he asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to accept the report.

Motion to Accept: Joseph Boos

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

List of Bills for Approval:

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked if anyone had any questions or comments then asked for a motion to approve the bills. \$ 101,010.26 plus payroll \$ 10,910.67

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

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

Reports:

Fire Department Report – Drew Malvizzi

The fire department responded to 16 alarms in March 2024 with 5 medicals, 3 fire alarms, 1 motor vehicle accident, 2 gas leaks, 1 working structure fire, 1 move-up assignment, 1 brush fire, 1 reported structure fire, and 1 miscellaneous incident. This brings the total alarms for the year to 46 calls.

Councilmember Werner asked for a clarification on the timeframe for most of the fire alarms. Mr. Drew Malvizzi responded to say that the majority of the alarms are during the daylight hours from 6am to 6pm. Audience member Walter Wrazien, 38 Redwood Drive asked on the location of the incidents reported. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded and indicated the street locations of the in-town calls and the location of out-of-town calls. Mr. Marc Malvizzi noted that 75% of the calls to date are in-town alarms.

Discussions continued on mutual aid responses, ambulance billing, and taxes paid to emergency services.

Manager's Report – Charles Boyd

The 2nd Annual Spring Clean-up organized by Lisa Costa, Oakwood Drive was noted to take place on Saturday, April 13, 2024 for the Rt.315 corridor area. The group will gather at 8:30am at the Dr. Imbrogno driveway area. All are welcomed to help-out by volunteering.

The Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) grant awards for the Local Share Account Grants (casino money grants) have been delayed until the May 2024 CFA board meeting. The borough has three grant applications for various projects pending for 2024.

Jenkins Township sewer flow meters have been installed in sections of Laflin Borough to determine who is responsible for the I & I (inflows and infiltration) problems in Yatesville Borough. The borough is still waiting for the results on the testing.

A letter of concern was sent to the solicitor of Jenkins Township from the borough solicitor, Leonard Sanguedolce, Esq., regarding an unprotected embankment drop-off on Inkerman Road as it approaches Laflin Borough. They have been notified on the possible hazard as discussed in prior council meetings.

Casella Waste Systems, Inc. was sent a certified letter indicating the borough's intention to extend the current waste collections contract by taking the two option years. They did respond back to acknowledge they are in agreement but Mr. Boyd would like Solicitor Sanguedolce to prepare something in writing for them to sign.

A proposed new digital billboard for the Rt.315 area received zoning approval from the Luzerne Co. Planning Commission. An application was submitted to G&R Consulting for a building permit by the property owners.

Mr. Boyd reminded councilmembers and the mayor, that the State Ethics Financial Statements are due to be completed and returned to the borough office by May 1st.

Summer camp counselors are still in need and Mr. Boyd asked councilmembers, rec board members or anybody to reach out to the community members to step forward to take the job. Mr. Marc Malvizzi will reach out to the local newspaper to make an announcement in the Community Digest section.

In response to a request from Councilmember Drew Malvizzi at a prior council meeting, Mr. Boyd discussed a study he had initiated with PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) in which the results were emailed to elected officials prior to the meeting. This LTAP study was in reference to a request from resident Joseph McCabe, Pinewood Drive to install an additional stop sign at the intersection of Ashwood and Pinewood Drives. According to the study completed by Wendy Kelley, P.E., LTAP Rep., the intersection does not meet the standards to have an 'all-way stop' according to the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD). The intersection doesn't have enough pedestrian conflict, vehicle crashes, problem sight distances, or traffic volume to warrant a three-way stop. If the town doesn't follow the LTAP recommendation, the stop sign would be unenforceable and present liability issues to the municipality.

This study was completed at no charge to the borough as part of the requirements of LTAP. Mrs. Wendy Kelley, P.E. is also a borough resident and borough engineer at Pennoni Associates. Inc.

Mayor's Report – Mayor William Kennedy – No report presented.

Library Association Report – Melissa Werner

The Laflin Library children art contest received a congratulation letter from State Rep. Jimmy Haddock for the impressive work on running the library program annually. Mrs. Werner noted it was National Library Week with a theme of Ready, Set, Library! Also, currently underway, is a Lego exhibition being displayed in the library. The Laflin Library gave away fifty (50) solar eclipse glasses to visitors to safely view the event on April 8, 2024. Mrs. Werner informed meeting members of the scheduled annual library dinner at Pazzo Restaurant on April 10th. The monthly book club meeting will be on April 23rd with *The Dearly Beloved* by Cara Wall being reviewed.

Council President's Report – Marc Malvizzi

Mr. Marc Malvizzi spoke briefly on the council meeting agenda items. He noted the new DPW truck is ready for delivery with a signing resolution on the agenda to approve. State funding will be available later in the week and the truck should be delivered early next week. The ballfield dugout roofs at the lower park had some additional rot and a change order is on the agenda to be approved for the roof repairs. The ballfield security cameras are still a problem with three working and two are not. The vendor has agreed to replace all five solar powered cameras but no date is set at this time. Mr. Marc Malvizzi certainly wants to get them working since the borough paid \$18,000 to obtain the cameras. The borough has the full engineering report on the pedestrian walk bridge repairs and that will be voted on tonight.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to accept the reports.

Motion to Accept Reports: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Public Comments Relating to the Agenda:

Joseph McCabe, 4 Pinewood – would like to see the municipality take a strong effort to acquire the Jerome Patelunas, 934 Union Street property in lower Laflin. This would help the situation regarding access to parking for the park area since the pedestrian bridge is out of service for repairs. He also questioned when the bridge repairs will get started. Further discussions continued with Mr. McCabe opining on the bridge being closed since February and the lack of progress on the ballfield grass and infield dirt completion.

Walter Wrazien, 38 Redwood – gave kudos to councilmembers for completing the engineering review of the pedestrian walk bridge and noted the report helped to discover possible other problems with the bridge. He asked if a feasibility study was considered for the paid fire driver position similar to the one that was done for the pedestrian bridge. He believes this is needed to determine the cost and viability of adding the fire driver position. A study would also determine any drawbacks for moving forward with the new position. Further discussions continued.

Unfinished Business:

- A) Resolution to Acquire Jerome Patelunas Property at Upset Tax Sale –
Resolution #5 of 2024

After noting the resolution empowers Solicitor Sanguedolce to bid on the property on behalf of Laflin Borough, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi
Second: Melissa Werner
Roll Call:
Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

- B) Signing Resolution to Acquire LSA grant DPW Truck –
Resolution #6 of 2024

After noting the resolution allows Mr. Marc Malvizzi and Mr. Boyd to sign documents to obtain the truck, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approved the resolution.

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner
Second: Joseph Boos
Roll Call:
Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

- C) Pennoni Associates Engineering Inspection Report on Community Park Walk Bridge –
Approve Report and Repair Specifications / Short-term Repairs Needed

Mr. Marc Malvizzi reviewed the engineering report. He stated the report indicated the structural issues, picture of the problem areas, immediate needs and long-term needs, and estimated cost for repairs. The estimates are below the requirements for formal bidding on PennBid. However, the repairs will need to be bid

informally by contacting three bidders. Several contractors will be contacted and bids will be available next month to act on. Mr. Marc Malvizzi indicated that it is a complete plan.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to accept and approve the report along with approval to put out to bid the short-term repairs needed.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

D) Creekside Estates Paving Project Completion for Creekside Drive & Peachwood Drive – Retention for Ponding on Peachwood Drive

Mr. Marc Malvizzi explained the situation with payment retention held on the Creekside Estates paving project at the end of 2023 where grass restoration and road milling work to fix a ponding project still needed to be completed. Mr. Boyd stated that the company must return to replace dirt and grass seeding that washed out over the winter months. The borough must decide if an area that is still ponding on Peachwood Drive should be milled and re-paved to get the water to a catch basin that is slightly elevated. This would require the company to mill-out a two-foot-long section in front of the driveways at 5 and 6 Peachwood Drive. The road will be repaved to try and get the water to the nearest catch basins. This will leave a road patch on both sides of the road. Further discussions continued.

Mr. Joseph Boos made the motion to have H&K Group return to fix the ponding issues on Peachwood Drive as part of the retention payment release.

Motion: Joseph Boos

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

E) Creekside Park Ballfield Dugout Roof Repairs – Change Order \$3,500

After a brief explanation on the need for further work to be done during the dugout roof repair project due to additional rot found after demolition was completed on the old dugout roofs, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the change order.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

New Business:

A) Appoint New Laflin Rec Board Member – Brennan Hagy

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Brennan Hagy to the Laflin Borough Recreation Board. He is a resident of Creekside Estates, Laflin.

Motion to Appoint: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

- B) Hire Part-time Fire Driver / DPW Worker –
Jonathan Trebunak \$18/hr.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi reviewed the application of Jonathan Trebunak. He noted that Mr. Trebunak was previously employed by Laflin Borough as a fire driver a few years back before the position was eliminated. He worked at Luzerne Co. 911 for six years and now is a fulltime EMT for Greater Pittston Regional Ambulance.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to hire Jonathan Trebunak.

Motion to Hire: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

- C) 2024 Laflin Borough Floodplain Management Ordinance Update –
Ordinance #1 of 2024

Mr. Marc Malvizzi stated that Laflin Borough was required to update our existing floodplain ordinance to stay in compliance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the revised and updated ordinance.

Motion to Approve Ordinance #1 of 2024: Melissa Werner

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Absent

Motion passed.

Council Comments / For the Good of the Order:

Mr. Boyd announced the next meeting date will be May 14th.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi discussed the upcoming Memorial Day Ceremony event to be held on May 27th at 11am.

Mr. Drew Malvizzi thanked Marc for bringing back the Memorial Day Ceremony since it will be a step to restore the soul of the community. He also thanked him for working on the front borough building lighting and paying for the replacement lights out-of-pocket.

General Public Comments:

Joseph Niemiec, 2 Concord – asked if Michael Dudeck (DPW) can obtain his class ‘C’ driver’s license so that he can drive the fire truck. He would like to see more flexibility with the fire driver position by having Mr. Dudeck respond in the fire truck to emergencies.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded to say a class ‘C’ (CDL) is not required to drive the fire truck and what would he do once he arrives at the emergency since he isn’t trained.

Discussions continued.

Joseph McCabe, 4 Pinewood – asked if one of the redundant security cameras at the lower park can be relocated behind the church. There has been an uptick of ATV (quad) traffic on Ashwood Drive with the nicer weather conditions. He would like to see something done about the ATVs on borough roads since they are a hazard.

Mayor Kennedy questioned Mr. McCabe on whether the problem he has is with the speed of the ATV traffic or the overall fact they are on the roads. Mr. McCabe replied it is against the law to drive quads on the road and they should be used at recreational parks according to state laws.

Further discussions continued. It was stated that the Pennsylvania State Police would need to enforce illegal ATV traffic on public roads.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:44pm.

Motion: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Boyd, Borough Manager

Laflin Borough

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