

Lafin Borough Council Mtg.

May 14, 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 –
Carl Yastremski – Mayor William Kennedy

Absent: None

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: April 12, 2024 minutes were not completed. TABLED

Mr. Marc Malvizzi stated the prior month meeting minutes were not completed due to Mr. Boyd being away for his son's wedding and asked for a motion to table the meeting minutes.

Motion to Table: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

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: Drew Malvizzi

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. \$ 122,335.59 plus payroll \$ 12,261.67

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

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 Laflin Volunteer Fire Department responded to 11 alarms in April 2024 with 5 medicals, 2 motor vehicles, 1 fire alarm, a carbon monoxide alarm, 1 public assist, and 1 miscellaneous. All alarms for the month of April were in Laflin Borough.

Manager's Report – Charles Boyd

Mr. Boyd noted that the pedestrian walk bridge will be discussed later in the meeting but wanted to note that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Luzerne County Conservation, and PA Fish & Boat were contacted regarding the proposed bridge repairs over Gardner Creek. All indicated that no permitting is required. A trace amount of lead was found during the paint testing on the bridge.

Computer Visionary, Inc. (CVI) did replace the five (5) ballfield security cameras that were not working properly. Mr. Marc Malvizzi indicated that the cameras now seem to be on 24/7 and functioning as they should be expected.

Green Light-Go grant plans have been resubmitted by Pennoni Associates, Inc. after some minor modifications were requested by PennDOT. After approval the plans can be put-out-to-bid.

Lower Laflin Stormwater project has been submitted to PennDOT for initial review. Mr. Boyd will be reviewing the preliminary plans with Don Totino, P.E. at Pennoni Associates.

The Chevrolet Silverado DPW pick-up truck was received from the dealership. The funding for the new pickup was provided from last year's Local Share Account Grant (LSA). The vehicle has been lettered for Laflin Borough, running boards installed and insurance coverage added. The remaining funds from this grant (along with surplus funds from another grant) will be used on the pedestrian bridge repairs after the state approves a change of scope request Mr. Boyd submitted to the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) board.

Discussions continued with councilmembers on various item including the Jerome Patelunas property tax sale being nullified, high grass properties in the borough, and the status of other grants awarded to the borough.

Mayor's Report – William Kennedy

Mr. Kennedy spoke on the mayor's position for Laflin Borough. He noted his take on how he feels what that position is and how it represents Laflin Borough. It has come to his attention that there are some questions on what the paid position is for the borough. He noted that without having voting rights on council, he is here to support the councilmembers and support the residents of Laflin Borough. He believes he is doing that since he is now on his second term as Mayor. He listens to councilmembers and gives his opinions on various issues for the town. He is not the type of person that will do a lot of changes but he knows his position and believes he is a good fit. He continued stating his position before concluding with a request if anyone has questions, they could contact him.

Library Association Report – Melissa Werner

The library will have an association meeting on Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30pm and anyone is welcome to attend. Library summer hours will begin on June 11th with new hours Tuesday to Saturday from 9am to 12:30pm. The summer reading club will begin on June 15th. The library has two programs scheduled in conjunction with the summer rec camp program with the first on July 12th that will host the Carbon County Education Center. The educational eagle program will bring several eagles for the kids to see. The second date is July 19th where the educational center will bring owls. Mrs. Werner noted, from last year's program held at the Hoyt Library, that she learned eagle feathers are illegal to collect or possess.

The library will host the monthly book discussion on June 4th at 6:30pm. The book will be *Table for Two* by Amor Towles.

Council President’s Report – Marc Malvizzi

Mr. Marc Malvizzi spoke on the Memorial Day event planning. He indicated that Melissa Werner is working on the planning. He continued on the events planned and spoke about updating the veteran’s list by requesting information on new names to be added.

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

Motion to Accept Reports: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Public Comments Relating to the Agenda:

Joseph McCabe, 4 Pinewood – questioned the bid amounts for the bridge repairs and noted that the federal government uses the rule of 65% on repairs and this would be over that amount as compared to a new bridge. He believes it is a waste of taxpayers’ money.

Asked why fire drivers are being hired every month. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded to say that about 10 part-timers are required to be able to fill the daily shift since one or two can’t be available for all the shifts weekly.

Unfinished Business:

A) Creekside Community Park Walk Bridge Repair Bids –

Fabcor, Inc.	\$46,890
Linde Corp.	\$52,716
Don E. Bower, Inc.	\$53,730

Mr. Marc Malvizzi explained the situation with obtaining bids to repair the pedestrian walk bridge at the lower Creekside Park. He noted Mr. Boyd contacted eight (8) contractors based on the Pennoni Associates inspection report. Only three of the eight submitted bids but the bids were over the formal bidding threshold amount. Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to put the Creekside Community Walking Bridge repairs out to formal public bid by advertisement.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

B) Memorial Day Ceremony Event Planning – Funding Allocation

Mr. Marc Malvizzi indicated he had donations for most items so he doesn't believe it will cost too much for the borough to conduct the Memorial Day Ceremony. He asked for a motion to approve up to \$250.00 for the event from the borough funds.

Motion to Approve: Joseph Boos

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

New Business:

A) Hire Laflin Borough part-time Fire Driver / DPW Employee – Adelio J. (AJ) Merlino

Noting that Mr. Merlino is the son of Hughestown Fire Chief Jamie Merlino and he currently works for Pittston Regional Ambulance, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the hire of AJ Merlino at \$18.00 per hour.

Motion to Hire: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

B) Hire Laflin Borough Part-time Rec Summer Camp Counselor – Gisella Dauchert

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the hire of Gisella Dauchert at \$15.00 per hour at approximately 9hrs. a week for 6 weeks.

Motion to Hire: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

C) Laflin Borough 2024 Rec Summer Camp Counselor Pay Rates –

After a brief detail on the past practice for summer camp counselor rates, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to increase the rates so that all three counselors are at \$15.00 per hour.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

Council Comments / For the Good of the Order:

Mr. Marc Malvizzi again mentioned the date and time for the Memorial Day Ceremony as Monday, May 27, 2024 starting at 11am. Asked everyone to attend.

The next scheduled council meeting will be June 11, 2024 at 6pm. Hopefully, a special meeting will be held prior to the second Tuesday of the month if bridge repair bid results are available. The meeting will be properly advertised and the public notified through social media should that happen.

General Public Comments:

Joseph Niemiec, 2 Concord – asked when the Laflin Volunteer Fire Department meetings are held and stated he would like to attend. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded to say that the LVFD is a closed organization that doesn't have public meetings. The LVFD does have monthly meetings. Further discussions continued.

Joseph McCabe, 4 Pinewood – believes a church is operating on 9 Concord Drive. Mr. McCabe said that the church was previously located on Board Street, Pittston with just the rectory on Concord Drive, Laflin. However, residents are telling him that the church is now on Concord Drive. Residents are complaining to Mr. McCabe about unusual parking on Saturdays and Sundays. Further discussions continued.

After some discussions, Solicitor Leonard Sanguedolce interjected to indicate it is a grey area on whether it is church services or gathering to pray in one's house.

Mr. McCabe also questioned the fine for high grass and spoke on Luzerne Co. Zoning Office losing their executive director and how it may affect Laflin Borough.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:43pm.

Motion: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Boyd, Borough Manager
Laflin Borough

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