

LUZERNE BOROUGH
Monthly Council Meeting
April 13, 2022 6:30PM

- An Executive Session was held before the meeting to discuss personnel issues.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – The April 13, 2022 meeting was called to order @ 6:30PM at the Luzerne Volunteer Fire Department by Chairman Michael Jancuska

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Officials Present

Council – Mary Ellen Schell, Susan Kalinay, Tony Perzia, Jason Tarreto and Michael Jancuska.
Also present – Mayor James Keller and Solicitor Jonathan Spohrer.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETINGS

❖ **APPROVAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

February 9, 2022 – Tabled by Chairman Jancuska

March 9, 2022 – Motion by Tony Perzia 2nd by Mary Ellen Schell to accept the March 9, 2022 minutes as written. All In Favor – None Opposed – Motion Carried

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS – as of April 13, 2022

Expense Report read by Chairman Michael Jancuska

Administration \$74,673.65 Police Department \$2,323.57 Highway Aid \$11,501.85

Sanitation \$8,547.56 Street Department 0.00 Park Fund \$0.00

Total Expenses \$97,046.63

Motion by Tony Perzia 2nd by Jason Tarreto to accept the April 13, 2022 Expense Report as written.

All in Favor – None Opposed – Motion Carried

AUTHORIZATION TO DEPOSIT FUNDS – as of April 13, 2022

Income Report read by Chairman Michael Jancuska

General Funds \$183,845.65 Garbage Fund \$5,059.32 Total Income \$188,904.97

Motion by Susan Kalinay 2nd by Tony Perzia to accept the April 13, 2022 Income Report as written. All in Favor – None Opposed – Motion Carried

TREASURERS REPORT – as of March 31, 2022

Report read by Chairman Michael Jancuska

General Fund \$62,904.77 Garbage Fund \$88,441.89, Payroll Account \$84.28

Luzerne Borough Park Fund \$1,677.69, Fire Escrow Account \$13,725.00,

Debit Card Fund \$26.50, Highway Aid Fund \$3,153.69 Certificate of Deposit \$55,847.82

Covid-19 Relief Funds \$73,288.77 Total \$299,150.41 Compared to last year \$255,804.37

Motion by Jason Tarreto, 2nd by Susan Kalinay to accept the March 31, 2022 Treasurers Report as written. All In Favor – None Opposed – Motion Carried

REPORTS

Police Department – Mayor James Keller

Mayor Keller informed the Public that Michael Kotwasinski resigned as Chief of Police and Nicholas Saullo resigned as Assistant Chief of Police. Both asked to be placed on the part time roster. An ad will be placed in newspapers for hiring of Officers; both Academies have been informed of employment opportunities with Luzerne Borough Police Department.

Hiring of Part Time Police Officers for the month of May 2022

Mayor Keller asked Council to accept the following Officer for part time employment for the month of May with the Luzerne Borough Police Department: Greg Johnson Sr. \$21.00 hr., Melville Tomeo \$21.50 hr., Christopher Prescott \$21.00 hr., John Piezala \$21.00 hr., Nicholas Saullo \$21.00 hr. and Michael Kotwasinski \$21.00 hr.

Motion by Tony Perzia 2nd by Mary Ellen Schell All in Favor – None Opposed – Motion Carried

Police Report – Mary Ellen Schell reported 128 calls and 6 arrests for the month of March 2022.

Public Works Department – Jason Tarreto – Motion by Tony Perzia 2nd by Mary Ellen Schell to hire Anthony Sitrler at the rate of \$16.00 hr. as a full time DPW Worker. Mr. Sitrler will be on a 90 day probation. All In Favor – None Opposed- Motion Carried

Borough Received the Liquid Fuels Allocation for the year in the amount of \$74,170.00

Quote for playground equipment package in the amount of \$76,532.00 includes a 15 year warranty, various equipment, picnic tables, benches, install and removal of old equipment. Tabled for further research of sources of funding.

Finance Report – Tony Perzia

*Paper Shredding will be Saturday, April 28, 2022.

The 2nd event will be October 1st at the same time and location.

*401K Plan - Still obtaining information on 401K Plans for the DPW Workers.

*DCED yearly required audit has been completed by J.H. Williams. – no issues

Parks & Recreation – Susan Kalinay – nothing to report at this time.

Chairmans Report – Michael Jancuska

March 2022 Code Enforcement

1 UGI notice, 5 Sanitation letters of violations, 2 building and property management letters of violations, 1 animal complaint letter of violation, 2 unfit for human habitation placards placed, 2 sanitation citations issued.

Executive Sessions – Council held an executive meeting on March 9, 2022 after the March Council Meeting. Council held another executive meeting on April 4, 2022. Both meetings were to discuss personnel issues.

April is Autism Awareness Month – Blue Ribbons will be placed by Graham Academy throughout Luzerne Borough and neighboring towns in Luzerne County.

REPORT BY SOLICITOR – Sewer Authority of Luzerne Borough still looking for a member.

REPORT BY ENGINEER –

CORRESPONDENCE - none

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

STMP Program & Resolution – Motion by Jason Tarreto 2nd by Tony Perzia to move forward with STMP Program. The STMP Program is government funded to examine the towns' needs and help write and obtain the needed grants. All In Favor – None Opposed – Motion Carried

2022 Keystone Communities Grant - Motion by Tony Perzia 2nd by Susan Kalinay to approve the Resolution for the Keystone Communities Grant. All In Favor – None Opposed – Motion Carried

2021 CDBG Grant – Motion by Jason Tarreto 2nd by Tony Perzia to advertise for bids. All In Favor – None Opposed – Motion Carried. As per Jason Tarreto this grant is for paving of Cottage Ave, Raub Street, Bishop Lane, Charles Street between Kelly & Jackson and Chestnut Street.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patricia Campus – Police Department. Natalie Goodman – Police Department, Buckingham Ave, and Social Media. Manny Santayanna – hiring practices regarding family members, and police Department. Alyssa Stanko – Short Street Sign. Walter Yablonski – Police Department and LCC classes for grant writing. Diane Loveland – Cottage Avenue. Zoe Ann Dinosky – park issues. Erin Carey – Park Issues. John Yarmel – Community Garden and Playground Equipment

ADJOURNMENT


Motion by Mary Ellen Schell 2nd by Tony Perzia to adjourn.
All in Favor – None Opposed – Motion Carried



Linda Booth
Secretary



Michael Jancuska
Chairman



James Keller
Mayor