

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018
LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA

Mayor Wolford called to order the Regular Monthly Meeting of Latrobe City Council at 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Wolford asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wolford asked all for a moment of silence.

The City Secretary read Roll Call:

Deputy Mayor Gerald Baldonieri – present

Eric Bartels – present

Robert Forish – present

Jim Kelley – present

John Murtha – present

Christine Weller – present

Mayor Rosemarie Wolford – present

Also present were the following: Wayne Jones, City Manager; Zachary Kansler, Solicitor; Ann Powell, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer; and John Brasile, Fire Chief.

Mr. Forish moved to adopt the July 9, 2018 minutes, second by Mr. Baldonieri. Vote 7-0.

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT

Total Expenses \$262,364.88

Total Payroll 189,496.23

GRAND TOTAL \$451,861.11

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS FROM JULY 2018

Treasurer's Report

See attachment "A"

Police Report

See attachment “B”

Public Works Report

See attachment “C”

Fire Report

See attachment “D”

Code Report

See attachment “E”

Tax Collector’s Report

See attachment “F”

Mr. Forish moved to approve the reports and bills presented for payment, second by Mr. Bartels. Vote 7-0.

CITIZENS’ REQUESTS (related to agenda)

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Kelley, Wolford

No report.

Public Safety and Fire Committee – Forish, Kelley

No report.

Public Works Committee – Baldonieri, Bartels

No report.

Personnel Committee – Baldonieri, Murtha, Wolford

Mr. Murtha reported that there was an additional resumé submitted for the Chief of Police position after the July 2nd deadline previously established and advertised by the PA Chiefs Association, and inquired as to why. The following discussion ensued:

Mayor Wolford: Mayor Wolford stated that she has personally tried to stay out of the PA Chiefs Association interview process and that she was unaware of the July 2nd deadline. She then stated she had a resumé emailed to her by a person interested in the Chief of Police position which she forwarded to Wayne Jones and inquired as to if it was too late for submission. Mr. Jones advised he did not know but would send the resumé to the PA Chiefs Association and inquire whether the late submission would be accepted. The PA Chiefs Association responded it was not too late and they would review the resumé. Upon review, it was determined that this new candidate met the qualifications and would be considered for the interview process. Mayor Wolford then reported that prior to this late application, two of the original candidates selected to interview withdrew, which left four out of six original interview applicants. At this point, the PA Chiefs Association reviewed all of the original resúmes, including the new applicant's resumé, and told Council how each applicant ranked. Mayor Wolford stated her position on [filling] the Chief of Police position is to get the most qualified candidate for the job. Her position is that it's up to the PA Chiefs Association whether to accept the applicant's late resumé.

Jim Kelley: Mr. Kelley questioned whether the rules apply to some people but not others. He was under the assumption that the goal was to have a level playing field. He stated there was conversation at the July City Council meeting as to whether there should be any involvement of Council in the original interview process and it was decided that Council should stay out of the process. He stated this is not a level playing field, and the question is not "could" this applicant be added, it is "should" the applicant be added. He stated it is Council's decision whether the candidate gets added.

Mayor Wolford: Stated her opinion is that it is up to PA Chiefs Association whether to accept a late applicant, and this would apply to anyone who would

send in a late resumé, as long as it does not “knock someone out”. She also stated that upon review, the PA Chiefs Association said this applicant would have been ranked in the Number One Candidate ranking level.

Christine Weller: Mrs. Weller stated if two [original applicants] selected for an interview withdrew their application, then two of the original ones ranked below the initial six (6) selected for an interview should have been selected.

Jim Kelley: Restated it should have been up to Council as to whether the deadline should have been extended, not the interviewer nor the City Manager.

Mayor Wolford: Said the PA Chiefs Association established the deadline as the City did not give any time limits when they were hired as the headhunters, and again said to her knowledge Council did not put any timelines on the PA Chiefs Association. She was under the impression that the PA Chiefs Association was going to run the ads, collect and review the resumé, perform the first round of interviews, and report back with their rankings of the top six (6).

Eric Bartels: Mr. Bartels stated Council reserves the right to interview and reject all of the applicants and some late comer may be the best candidate regardless of when they applied.

Christine Weller: Stated they haven't made that decision yet, and out of respect have all the other original candidates to be considered.

Mayor Wolford: Restated it would be her recommendation is to let the PA Chiefs decide as it is their process.

Christine Weller: Questioned whether it was previously discussed that Council would have the right to interview a candidate even if not chosen in the top six (6) by the PA Chiefs Association.

Mayor Wolford: Confirmed that Council had the right to interview anyone they choose, and questioned why would they pay five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to the PA Chiefs Association if they were going to do that.

Eric Bartels: Questioned whether there was a cover letter from the new applicant explaining why it was late, i.e., if he had just heard about it.

Wayne Jones: Mr. Jones advised what he received from the candidate is what he forwarded to Council and thought it was just the resumé.

Mayor Wolford: Stated she thought there were two attachments but does not remember opening them.

Jack Murtha: Mr. Murtha read the posted advertisement for the position which read that resumé and cover letters must be received by close of business July 2nd, 2018. He then referred to two emails he had, the initial email Wayne Jones sent to Joe Blackburn at the PA Chiefs Association [on August 1, 2018] at 10:00 AM, inquiring the following: “Joe, I have been asked by the Mayor if it’s too late to add this resumé to the list of applicants for consideration to interview. Your thoughts?” Mr. Murtha then referred to the reply email from Joe, received by Wayne at 10:05 AM stating “I see no problem adding him. He looks like a good candidate.” Mr. Murtha questioned how the applicant’s resumé was reviewed in five (5) minutes.

Mayor Wolford: Stated she can’t speak for the PA Chiefs Association; however, after that email, the PA Chiefs Association did go back and review the original 15 resumé plus the new submission and ranked them again

as two of the original six chosen for an interview withdrew. She stated she has a hard time saying that the City would drop down to a lesser qualified candidate for any reason when the PA Chiefs Association does not have a problem interviewing him.

Jim Kelley: Questioned whether the PA Chiefs Association as a whole does not have a problem interviewing, or if it is only one person. He stated he does not know as he does not want to interfere with the process. His other concern is that he would understand a late application if the person was not local; however, this candidate is a Latrobe resident.

Mayor Wolford: Stated if you want to exclude the number one candidate because they were late with their resumé, that is Council's decision.

Jim Kelley: Questioned whether all three PA Chiefs screened the new resumé, because if not, there is an even greater deviation of the guidelines of the process.

Mayor Wolford: Stated that Council does not know if it was not just one person that did the initial screening and whatever their process is, as it is their process.

Jack Murtha: Questioned Wayne Jones if the original review process was by three people. Mr. Jones stated he spoke with one PA Chiefs Association reviewer who said he had reviewed the resúés and was waiting on the other two reviewers' input to make a final ranking. Mr. Murtha then stated that the late applicant was ranked after the other candidates were ranked, and within five minutes he was ranked a number one.

Mayor Wolford: She denied this and stated that she did not know he was ranked number one, however she said he was ranked in the top group. She

stated she did not know Joe Blackburn with the PA Chiefs Association.

Jack Murtha: Restated that his surprise of being approved by two other people to be included in the final rankings.

Mayor Wolford: She was under the assumption that this candidate was approved by all three on the panel.

Christine Weller: Expressed concern that this new applicant has already circumnavigated the system and the City is hiring someone to be a leader in the community and wants somebody who pays attention to what's going on in the City. Chief Bumar's retirement has been public for a year. Her concern is does this person really want the job, because if he did wouldn't he be on top of that already and questioned why it came up after the fact, and stated his reasoning could have been put in a cover letter. She does think there are still people that two of the original applicants that ranked a step below those selected for an initial interview should have been pulled up after there were two number one's that withdrew and if at that point they wanted to consider additional applicants, they could.

Mayor Wolford: Stated she would be willing to bet there are people in the community that do not follow Council meetings and hear about it in different places. She stated she cannot speak for that.

Christine Weller: Stated a resumé is only one step of the process, and what if someone's resumé is not technically the best, they interview the best and their personality is the best and they are knocked out due to their ranking.

Eric Bartels: Said he wants the best candidate that's available, but now there is a candidate that would be coming in under potential controversy.

At this point in the discussion, Jack Murtha made a motion to amend the agenda to vote on whether to accept the late applicant. Mayor Wolford said she didn't think it was something that should be voted on because they already voted on the PA Chiefs Association to do it. Mr. Murtha said he wants to amend the agenda with this add-on. Mr. Murtha made a motion, second by Mr. Forish not to accept the applicant because he did not fall into the July 2nd deadline. Approved 7-0.

The floor was opened for public comment as there was a new motion on the agenda.

Donna Goblinger, 2025 Raymond Avenue

- Mrs. Goblinger agreed the candidate should be rejected as there was a deadline that was not met.

Events Committee – Weller

Mrs. Weller said the Banana Split festival was coming up and volunteers are needed; the Reality Tour is also looking for volunteers and have been meeting with the new school year starting; and the historical center has been getting visitors as a result of the Mr. Rogers tour.

GLSD Student Showcase Committee – Bartels, Murtha

No report.

BOARD/AUTHORITY REPORTS

Latrobe Municipal Authority – Mr. Bollinger reported that all parties involved with the flooding over the past few months will be meeting with the City, Boards and the Township to discuss what can be done about the flooding issues. He stated that a big part of the problem is due storm water run-off as the Authority does not pump sewage. Mr. Bartels questioned whether the Authority has been following Derry or Ligonier.

Library Board – Mr. Bartels reported there will be a library fundraising event around November.

Parks & Recreation – No report.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Department – No report.

Police Department – No report.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Brasile reported no issues during the Steeler Fest; Banana Split festival is coming up; and reminded residents of 1) the fire pit ordinance which requires a permit and inspection by the Code Enforcement or the Fire Department, and 2) fire hazards in the City are being numbered and painted, and there is a fine that will be issued if residents paint over or decorate any fire hazard once the painting and numbering is complete.

Code Enforcement – Ann Powell reinforced Fire Chief Brasile’s statement regarding fire pit permits and inspection.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION 2018-30

A resolution of the City of Latrobe, Westmoreland County, rejecting all bids for the municipal building roof replacement in response to the April 2018 notice and revoking Resolution No. 2018-29 previously awarding the contract to A Good Roof, LLC. Mr. Kelley moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mr. Bartels. Vote 7-0.

RESOLUTION 2018-31

A resolution of the City of Latrobe, Westmoreland County, awarding the contract for the replacement of the municipal building roof to TRS Roofing in the amount of \$129,400. Mr. Forish moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mr. Murtha. Vote 7-0.

RESOLUTION 2018-32

A resolution of the City of Latrobe, Westmoreland County, approving the agreement with Westmoreland Community Action Head Start to utilize the City of Latrobe municipal building as an emergency rally point. Mr. Baldonieri moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mrs. Weller. Vote 7-0.

Mr. Kelley made a motion, second by Mr. Bartels, to accept the resignation of Thomas Casey from the Latrobe Municipal Authority Board. Approved 7-0.

Mr. Baldonieri made a motion, second by Mrs. Weller, to authorize City personnel to advertise for the submission of letters of interest for the open Latrobe Municipal Authority Board position, to complete the unexpired term of former board member Thomas Casey. Approved 7-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

RESOLUTION 2018-33

A resolution of the City of Latrobe, Westmoreland County, awarding the contract for the replacement of the damaged Sulfur Run/Josephine Street stormwater line. Mr. Kelley moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mr. Murtha. Vote 7-0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Murtha made a motion, second by Mr. Forish to reject the application of the late applicant for the Chief of Police position. Approved 5-2 (Mr. Bartels, Mayor Wolford).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OPEN FORUM FOR CITIZENS' REQUEST

Donna Goblinger, 2025 Raymond Avenue

- Mrs. Goblinger requested an update on the vacant house behind McDonald's. Wayne Jones advised that the City was meeting with the owner within the week.

Mr. David Moyer, 1013 Jefferson Street

- Mr. Moyer was present to raise his concerns regarding the condition of handicap ramps in the City. Mayor Wolford advised the handicap ramps would be fixed when PennDOT made their street repairs in 2020. Mr. Forish advised that the City's handicap ramps were ADA compliant when originally installed, and are still compliant as they are currently grandfathered in under those standards. Solicitor Zachary Kansler confirmed this, stating that when the handicap ramps were originally put into place, they met the ADA requirements at that point in time and are not required to be moved up in standards until there is a substantial modification to the road, which at that point the entirety of the project is required to be brought up to standards.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Wayne Jones reported the City will be spending \$50,000 on unplanned projects.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Stated she was out of town and was not able to attend National Night Out, but did hear that it was a big success and very well attended.
- Mentioned the Banana Split Festival would be the last weekend in August.

Mr. Bartels spoke about the Project Hands event which occurred over the weekend and wanted to acknowledge both the hard work that went into the event and the services available for the various addiction problems. Mayor Wolford stated she was out of town but wanted to attend that event as well.

Mayor Wolford stated that Council will meet in an Executive Session immediately following the adjournment of the Regular Meeting of Council.

Mr. Kelley made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Bartels. Vote 7-0.

Regular Meeting of Council adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Peton, City Secretary


