

April 22, 2013

The Regular Meeting of the Lehighon Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, April 22, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: George Kogut, Bessie Bauchspies, Councilor John Kreitz, John Bird, Darryl Arner and Scott Rehrig.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Treasurer Kira Michalik, Borough Secretary Brenda Koons, Solicitor James Nanovic, Fire Chief Gary Frable, Mayor Donald Rehrig, and Police Chief Neal Ebbert. Absent: Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt.

Pledge of Allegiance

Hearing of Person's Present

Frank Potoczak, owner of Castle Grill requested permission from council to get rid of junk, dead trees and garbage that is blocking the view of the river behind his restaurant. He is celebrating his 4th anniversary

Approval of Minutes

None were submitted.

New Business

Motion to adopt Resolution R007-2013 pertaining to Supporting Tax

Exempt Bonds

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to adopt and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to accept Daniel Snyder's resignation as a part time Public Works employee

Councilors Rehrig/Bauchspies made the motions to accept the resignation and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to advertise for part time seasonal employment with the Public Works Department

Councilors Arner/Rehrig made the motions to advertise and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Approval of Pyramid Sports Performance Center's request to hold a 5K Run/Walk Sunday, June 9, 2013 beginning at 8 a.m.

The mayor said the letter states the police/fire police have been contacted and the police have no knowledge of the event. He isn't sure if the fire police were contacted or not.

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to approve the race and use washable paint to mark the road and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve Resolution R010-2013 authorizing the transfer of operating accounts to Jim Thorpe National Bank as outlined in the Treasurer's Report

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to approve and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion on the Left Hand Turning Study for proposed Dollar General

Nicole said the department heads met with PennDOT and the engineer for the proposed Dollar General at the Kovatch lot. PennDOT is giving the borough the option of requiring a left hand turning study. It isn't required but it

-is an option should council want the study done. If the study is done and a turning lane is required as a result of the study, then we will be taking limited parking away from the residents who live there but there are also safety concerns. The study would be done at the Dollar General's expense.

Chief Ebbert didn't see an issue. He doesn't see a problem. He has a problem with the left hand turn off the bypass. He has asked former borough managers to look into this. When you come off the bypass after the triangle to go down 1st Street there is no sign prohibiting that and that is more of a hazard than coming from Jamestown and turning into that lot.

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to not require the study and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve the purchase of Altec Digger/Derrick truck for the Light & Power Department at a cost of \$181,569 (budgeted item)

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to approve the purchase as budgeted and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to accept Bill Mushock's resignation from Light & Power Department effective immediately

Councilors Rehrig/Bird made the motions to accept the resignation and all were in favor with no question or objections.

Unfinished Business

Continued discussion on Downtown Parking

Councilor Kogut said a second email was sent out by Brenda to the 60 or so businesses and residents and received 4 or 5 back. In talking to these people it's like a catch 22. At the last Economic Development Summit meeting this was a main concern. As a result, the business community is leaning toward keeping the meters than taking them out. At this point George would like to convene a "parking only" meeting with the businesses and resident who live down there. We need to get as much input as possible on this issue before formulating a plan.

Ms. Horsham had a question. She wanted to know if it would be possible to purchase a permit to park at a meter. She is asking because her husband can't walk that far and rides a scooter. They live right next to the cable company on 1st Street. In order to park she must park down past the cable company. It is impossible for him to go from the cable company, up the alley to their home. She needs to find some way to charge his scooter every night. She would gladly purchase a permit to park at a meter on a monthly basis. There was nothing council could come up with. Chief Ebbert was going to try to contact the landlord to see if there was a way to access a garage for Ms. Horsham to charge the scooter.

Continued discussion on the creation of the Hydroelectric Municipal Authority and the future of the Hydroelectric Project

Councilor Kogut wanted to make a data request from Summit. A very detailed 1 or 2 page simplistic finance report of what the bottom line would be; the overall for one year i.e. the cost requirement and revenue requirement. This may be more easily understood than going issue by issue. Nicole said she will put in the request. She has a request for a whole pile of stuff and will have this be put in to start.

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to table this item but added Councilor Kogut's request as part of the motion until the next meeting and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Officials' Reports

Borough Manager

We did receive the bids for the ADA curbing down at the trailhead. F. A. Rorbach had the bid price of \$16,950 and they were sent a notice to proceed.

She met with UGI officials after the last meeting. They assured her they conduct annual surveys as mandated by PUC and that they follow proper preventative maintenance. The code enforcement official does receive their red tag gas lines.

She and Lonny are meeting with the architects on Wednesday to discuss the L&P building addition. The geotech report was returned and we need to sit down and discuss design a little bit further due to the ground structure.

She is working with the billing office on the Red Flag laws and billing and will probably have a follow up or something next month.

Engineer

Absent

Police

Chief Ebbert requested Solicitor Nanovic to look over the towing ordinance and approval under Section 213-73 to approve 2 towing companies here in town last month. Solicitor Nanovic sent back his opinion in reference to insurance policy. Chief Ebbert has yet to receive in writing from the 2 companies what was requested. He would like conditional approval of the 2 companies once the requested paperwork arrives.

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to give conditional approval of the updated towing list and all were in favor.

The construction crew has been fabulous to work with at the fire station and all minor issues are being worked through.

Chief Ebbert has received 2 resignation letters from 2 part time officers. One officer has been offered a full time position elsewhere and the other officer is resigning due to lack of time. Chief Ebbert did a background investigation on another officer and would like council to make a motion to hire Bruce Broyles as a part time officer for the borough. He works part time for Palmerton and lives in the Effort area. Brian Zulic and Frank Lorah are the 2 part timers that resigned.

Councilor Rehrig/Bauchspies made the motions to accept the resignations with no questions or objections.

Councilor Rehrig/Bauchspies made the motions to hire Bruce Broyles as a part time officer and to look for other part times officers to have 2 officers on each shift with permission to go over budget on the part time officers and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Mayor

He read a Proclamation proclaiming April 26, 2013 as Arbor Day in the Borough of Lehigh. Along with that, marks the 20th year that Lehigh is a Shade Tree USA community. That is a great accomplishment for our town and the Shade Tree Committee deserves a big thank you for all that they do to keep our Shade Tree status. The middle school will be holding their annual Arbor Day program at 8 a.m. on that day.

There have been a few changes made to our Solicitor Permits for people who go around selling door-to-door. This came out of our Crime Watch meetings. There were a few concerns. What happens is that you come to our office and give us your information and keep it on file in our office. What we want to do is have a card like he presented to council with all their information right on it on a lanyard around their neck to wear while they are out in the community selling whatever. The police department logo will be on the card. It will also state the times they are allowed to out on the streets and these cards will need to be returned to the police department each night at the end of their solicitation time. This way we know if any call come in from residents that someone is at their house it is illegal and we can go check it out. The mayor is not sure if the police needs permission from council to do this or not but the department would like to do it.

Councilor Rehrig/Arner made the motions to produce solicitation permit lanyards and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Fire Chief

Absent

President of Council

Nothing

Solicitor

Nothing

Treasurer

Kira said that the fire station project has started and we need to start preparing the RACP grant. We need to show the monies are secured requiring us to transfer our funds. She provided council with a report of the amount to be transferred along with the breakdown of what accounts the money will be coming out of.

Councilor Rehrig/Arner made the motions to transfer the money as per her report and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Committee Reports

Finance & Administration – Darryl Arner, Chair, George Kogut, Co-Chair – nothing to report.

Streets, Buildings & Codes – John Kreitz, Chair, Bessie Bauchspies, Co-Chair – absent

Police, Fire & Safety – Scott Rehrig, Chair and John Bird, Co-Chair – nothing to report.

Light & Power Committee – John Bird, Chair, Scott Co-Chair – nothing to report. The drop box fee for community events was brought up by Nicole. A fee has not been set yet. Councilor Rehrig suggested a \$30 fee with no refund. Nicole said we are currently working on updating the Electric Ordinance.

Sewer Committee – Bessie Bauchspies, Chair, Darryl Co-Chairman – nothing to report.

Public Works & Recreation – George Kogut, Chair, John Kreitz Co-Chair
The bocce ball court is being installed and should be completed shortly. There is the possibility of a league starting.

The basketball court idea will be revamped to see if funding is available.

Another point of discussion is the possibility of a second recreation center due to how successful the current one is. It is booked solid. A second center would be very profitable and we could build it right next to the current one.

Councilors Kogut/Rehrig made the motions to get a committee together with the borough engineer to put specs together for a new rec center and all were in favor with no objections.

Acceptance of Officials' Reports

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to accept and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to approve the accounts payable plus the additional invoices and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Adjournment

Motion to go in to Executive Session for personnel and litigation

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to go into Executive Session at 8:44 p.m. and all were in favor.

Motion to go back into Public Session

Councilors Arner/Rehrig made the motions to go back into Regular Session at 9:20 p.m. and all were in favor.

Action on Any Items Necessary as a Result of Executive Session

None

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Arner/Rehrig made the motions to adjourn at 9:26 p.m. and all were in favor.

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary