

July 22, 2013

The Regular Meeting of the Lehighon Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, July 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 Bird, and Darryl Arner.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Treasurer Kira Michalik, Solicitor James Nanovic, Fire Chief Gary Frable, Mayor Donald Rehrig, and Officer-in-Charge Joe Lawrence. Absent: Councilors Scott Rehrig, John Kreitz, Borough Secretary Brenda Koons (due to being hospitalized) and Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt.

Pledge of Allegiance

Hearing of Person's Present

Tanya Schaffer of 579 Seneca Road was present on behalf of Storm All Stars cheerleading team. She wanted to have permission to do a coin drop similar to what the firemen do for their boot drives. They have done them in Palmerton already and wanted to do one in the borough; possibly at 1st & Iron and 9th & Mahoning. She handed out a letter explaining what they do for council to look over.

The fire chief said all they ever do is to ask the police chief and he gets permission for them to do it.

Ms. Shaffer said they are waiting to hear back from the Bike Nite committee to have a stand at their event.

They are looking to start their own gym. The coaches are all volunteers and the girls come from all over the area.

They would like to do this on the day of a football game.

Councilors Arner/Bauchspies made the motions to allow the "coin drop" provided they let the police know when the event will occur.

Tina Horsham of 138 North 1st Street wanted council's help with her apartment. Her husband has dementia and has had 3 strokes. It is very hot in her apartment and they cannot open the windows due to the high weeds at 136 North 1st Street. She has been working with Steve for 2 months and he said he has been trying but not accomplishing anything.

Nicole said there are 5-7 properties where they are getting no action and she had spoken to Attorney Nanovic about it and we will be moving forward with it.

Ms. Horsham was very happy.

Courtney Dawn Van Fossen of 81 Jamestown Drive asked council about putting together an event to celebrate the borough's 150th birthday which will be in 2016. It would bring about a sense of community pride. If we start now, we have 3 years to work on the project and make it a huge success.

Council agreed that this is worthwhile and thanked Courtney and Autumn Abelovsky for coming up with the idea and offering to spearhead the committee.

The borough manager said that she feels all that is needed from council at this time is to have them allow her to work with the committee and use the borough's tools to help move forward with this. We can get the press involved and put a link on the borough's website to a 150th Celebration page.

Councilors Bird/Arner made the motions to allow Nicole to work with Courtney and Autumn on the borough's 150th Celebration event and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Approval of Minutes

No minutes were submitted.

New Business

Motion to adopt Resolution R-015-2013 authorizing the submission of a grant application to the DCNR Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program for improvements to the Colonel Jacob Weiss Park (amended grant request)

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

Motion to adopt Resolution R-016-2013 authorizing the Borough Manager to submit and sign the Application for the Traffic Signal to PennDOT

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

Motion to grant conditional approval to the Dollar General Land Development Plans as per the conditions stated in the July 15th

Correspondence

Councilors Arner/Bauchspies made the motions to grant conditional approval and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to accept the resignation of Mary Lou Brophy from the Zoning Hearing Board

Councilors Kogut/Bird made the motions to accept the resignation and have a letter of appreciation sent and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to advertise for vacancy in the Zoning Hearing Board

Councilors Bird/Arner made the motions to advertise along with any other board/commission vacancies and all were in favor.

Motion to approve the request from the Lehigh Area Lioness Lions Club to utilize the Grove & Recreation Center for a festival on June 6th, 7th, & 8th, 2014

Councilors Kogut/Bauchspies made the motions to allow the festival and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion on request from Mildred Nicholson regarding unnamed alley

Council decided to table this item until more research could be done on the alley at which time it will be brought back to council.

Motion to approve Change Order #006 from the Utility Relocation Project extending contract period to July 19th due to delays caused by rain

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

Discussion on Bike Nite Vendor request from Red Castle Brewery

He has the license and permits to hand out free 2 ounce samples during Bike Nite. The solicitor had no objections to it.

Mayor Rehrig was opposed to this request due to the fact this is a family event and children are present he doesn't feel alcohol should be at any of our parks.

Council discussed this request and some were in favor some were not due to the fact children were present at the event, the image this gives the community by allowing alcohol at the event, and what kinds of things could possibly happen at the event because alcohol was allowed.

Councilor Arner made the motion to allow the beer tasting provided it was coordinated to have Frank and the VFW in the same area to keep it sort of confined and a certificate of insurance was provided from Red Castle Brewery.

Motion died for lack of a second.

Councilor Bird gave president Hunsicker his letter of resignation from the CCMA Board. He felt after being on the board for 6 months it was someone else's turn to step up. When asked why he didn't want to be on the board he sidestepped answering the question.

Councilors Bird/Kogut made the motions to accept the resignation.

Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Continued discussion of the Hydroelectric Project

The borough manager said council received correspondence along with some comments. Tonight is the night they are asking for a yes or no on the project. Craig Engler is available by phone for questions or comments. He feels the key things to point out are the \$50,000 royalty payment, upside is minimum risk, lower energy prices for 20 years, \$55/Megawatt, the grant obtained with the help of Gravity and Summit along with the recovery of expenses the borough has spent over the last decade and the final most important point is that FERC may remove the Stay on the license if we don't proceed right away.

Jim Havrilla has concerns over the risk to the borough. The agreement does not agree to bonding to minimize the risk to the borough.

Solicitor Nanovic's concerns are that this is, meaning Summit, is a newly formed company with no backing to it other than a German investor whom we have no control over. There are no guarantees with this agreement.

Councilors Bauchspies/Arner made the motions to table this item until there is a full board of council. Councilor Kogut brought up the possibility of putting out an RFP for other companies to say, Hey we will do the project for you. Councilor Kogut recused himself from voting on this. The four remaining councilors voted to table this item until the August meeting.

Officials' Reports

Borough Manager

She commented that the fire station project was underway. The Light & Power building addition has been looked at by Entech Engineering and Lonny. The plan would be to demolish the old substation and the storage area for the new building. The site drawings will be here within the month and a decision

on whether to proceed will be made at that time. The land on the other side cannot be built on due to the unstable soil conditions.

Engineer

Absent

Police

Nothing

Mayor

He had the list together for the signs that need to be replaced or are missing. He will see that Al gets it so he can order the necessary signs.

Fire Chief

Nothing

President of Council

Nothing

Treasurer

She had additional invoices for approval totaling \$65,454.41. She also wanted approval to pay the fire station construction invoices upon receipt instead of waiting for next month's meeting. The construction manager was on vacation and just turned them in for payment.

Finance & Administration – Darryl Arner, Chair, George Kogut, Co-Chair – nothing to report but requests executive session for personnel.

Streets, Buildings & Codes – John Kreitz, Chair, Bessie Bauchspies, Co-Chair – absent. Councilor Arner asked if we could please publicize what streets are being worked on this summer. Ever since spring he has been hearing comments that no one sees the borough doing anything to the streets. He noticed this too. He knows the borough has the liquid fuels fund for this purpose. Nicole said there were no plans to do anything this year. In 2014 we plan to do a larger street repaving program until then we can recoup some of the funds. We purchased a relatively large piece of equipment a few years ago from the fund.

Police, Fire & Safety – Scott Rehrig, Chair and John Bird, Co-Chair – absent.

Light & Power Committee – John Bird, Chair, Scott Co-Chair – nothing to report.

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

Public Works & Recreation – George Kogut, Chair, John Kreitz Co-Chair He is working with Pastor House on a youth program.

Acceptance of Officials' Reports

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

Approval of Accounts Payable

Councilors Arner/Kogut 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

Councilors Bird/Arner made the motions to go in at 8:50 p.m. for personnel.

Motion to go back into Public Session

Councilors Bird/Arner made the motions to go out of executive session at 9:15 p.m.

Action on Any Items Necessary as a Result of Executive Session

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Arner/Bird made the motions to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. and all were in favor.

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary