

June 24, 2013

The Regular Meeting of the Lehighon Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, June 24, 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, Darryl Arner and Scott Rehrig. Late: John Bird.

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 Officer-in-Charge Joe Lawrence. Absent: Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt.

Pledge of Allegiance

Hearing of Person's Present

Tom Boyko, 119 Railroad Street addressed council about the letter he received from the borough pertaining to his long standing lease with the borough. He wanted to know what the problem was and if it could be resolved. Why was his lease of over 10 years not being renewed?

The solicitor said at the last meeting this item was tabled. Council did not need to make a decision right away and it was tabled. No decision was made to renew or not to renew the lease only to table the item and keep council's options open. There had been discussion during the meeting about the condition of the property and what was on it.

Mr. Boyko said the condition of the property is what it is because he has no money to fix it at this time. His business, like many others in this neighborhood, has been through hard times in the last 5 or 6 years. Because of this Mr. Boyko has had to find another job to pay his bills and feed himself. His home is currently up for sale and when sold he will be making some renovations to his property in the borough. He understands the concerns on the condition of the property and he does not like how it looks either.

Carl Teets of 51 3rd Avenue was next to address council. He commented on the good job the borough did on his street but said the engineering was lousy. He asked if any painting would be done at the intersections and driveways. He also commented about what he read in the paper regarding a traffic light at Bridge Street. He thinks we should do it and not wait for Penn DOT or for someone to get killed. The borough manager said in September when the kids go back to school will be the time to do the required traffic count since that intersection will be at its busiest.

Approval of Minutes

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to approve the minutes of the Regular Meetings of December 17, 2012 and January 28, 2013.

New Business

Approval of SS Peter & Paul School hosting a Soap Box Derby, Saturday July 20th and a Community Block Party, Friday-Sunday July 19-21, 2013 (same request as last year)

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

Motion to release Certificate of Deposit and Escrow Balance for the Howland Land Development Project upon receipt of the As-Built Drawings and Penn DOT correspondence

Councilor Rehrig recused himself from the vote.

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

Motion to approve the seasonal employee's list for the Recreation

Department

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

Motion to adopt Resolution R-014-2013 authorizing the submission of a grant application to the DCNR Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program for improvements to the Colonel Jacob Weiss Park

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

Approval of the Barry Isett & Associates proposal for landscape architecture and engineering services for the Colonel Jacob Weiss Park in the amount of \$49,000

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to approve the proposal and all were not in favor. Roll call vote was taken with 6 yes and 1 no by John Bird.

Unfinished Business

Continued discussion of the Hydroelectric Project

The solicitor said he had made comments to Summit. They have made changes to the agreement. Summit sent an email asking if the solicitor would now recommend the agreement with the changes made and our solicitor said no he would not. There is still risk to the borough. Summit is a newly formed company which has no financial backing except for a letter from a guy in Germany. Jim Havrilla sent an email to Solicitor Nanovic around 4 p.m. today stating Mr. Havrilla does not think this agreement is in the best interests of the borough.

After much discussion, council decided to do nothing and see if Summit comes back with something better or not.

Continued discussion on the Checkered Flag Lease

Discussed earlier.

Officials' Reports

Borough Manager

She presented two change orders for the Utility Relocation Project. One was for replacing unsuitable soil conditions encountered during the conduit install \$23,010. The second is to change the completion date of the project

from June 21st to July 5th. This extension is for rain delays and additional work due to the replacement of the unsuitable soil.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to pay the two change orders and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Nicole received two donations toward the Judge's Stand from the Leighton Auto Club. One was for \$2,442 for restoration and preservation of the Stand from Greg Bayer and George Hahn. The second donation is in the amount of \$1,221 in memory of Ralph Hunsicker for the restoration and preservation of the Stand.

Councilors Rehrig/Bauchspies made the motions to have a letter of recognition sent to each of the donors to the project and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Nicole said she had researched ARLE grant funding for the traffic signal at 9th & Bridge Streets. Applications are due June 30th and before submission we will need to complete a traffic signal warrant which will be completed in September. She had obtained all the necessary information and contacted the grant coordinator. Without that warrant it would be unlikely for us to be funded.

We had received an announcement of a \$15,000 grant award from the Realtor's Association for a Downtown Revitalization Study. Kathy Henderson needs to be thanked for all her hard work. There is a lot of work involved in this. This project turns out to be a \$17,500 project. They are asking for a contribution from the borough for the study in the amount of \$2,500.

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to contribute \$2,500 for the study and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Nicole said she will need volunteers between July and August to get involved in this.

Engineer

Absent

Police

Nothing

Fire Chief

Nothing

President of Council

Nothing

Treasurer

She had an additional bill from F. A. Rohrbach, Inc. for the trailhead curb and sidewalk modification in the amount of \$16,950 to be added to the list of bills to be approved.

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

Streets, Buildings & Codes – John Kreitz, Chair, Bessie Bauchspies, Co-Chair – nothing to report.

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 mayor said he is getting the list of street signs and speed limit signs that are missing for public works to order.

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

Public Works & Recreation – George Kogut, Chair, John Kreitz Co-Chair
Pool is open and membership is up this year. If possible, please stop down.

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 \$16,900 in additional invoices and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to pay the fire company construction bills totaling \$302,530.41 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Adjournment

Motion to go in to Executive Session for personnel and litigation

Motion to go back into Public Session

Action on Any Items Necessary as a Result of Executive Session

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to adjourn at 8.34 p.m. and all were in favor.

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary