

November 25, 2013

The Regular Meeting of the Lehighon Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, November 25, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: John Kreitz, Bessie Bauchspies, John Bird, Darryl Arner and Scott Rehrig.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Borough Secretary Brenda Koons, Solicitor James Nanovic, Fire Chief Gary Frable and Officer-in-Charge Joe Lawrence. Absent: Councilor George Kogut, Mayor Donald Rehrig, and Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt.

Pledge of Allegiance

Hearing of Person's Present

Mike Sulek, owner of the old Elks Building addressed council regarding the proposed bus stop location. He was concerned for the safety of his tenants and the parking issues it would cause.

Trudy Kunkle of Trudy's Pooch Parlor was present to address council about the bus stop as well and the issues it is causing for her business and her clients.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of April 22, 2013 and Special Meetings of November 6 & 13, 2013

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

Motion to adopt Ordinance 607-2013 enacting the Local Service Tax at a rate of \$52 annually

Councilors Rehrig/Bauchspies made the motions to adopt. All were not in favor and a roll call vote was taken - John Bird, no; Scott, Darryl, Grant, Bessie, John Kreitz, yes and George was absent. Motion carried

Motion to appoint Berkheimer Tax Administrator as the tax collector of the Local Service Tax at a rate of 2.05% Flat Fee

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

Motion to waive Penn DOT Highway Occupancy Permit requirement for a dedicated left-hand turn lane in the AutoZone Property Entrance on Route 443

Council decided to table this item and bring it back when more information on the proposed Penn DOT Route 443 project is better defined.

Motion to contract with Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh for the 2013 Audit as proposed

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

Motion to hire Barry Isett & Associates for PA UCC/Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer Services as proposed

Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to hire w/contract and all were in favor.

Motion to hire Tom Evans as the Property Manager for the Annex at a total salary of \$7,500

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

Motion to follow Planning Commission's recommendation to grant waiver request for sidewalk requirements and grant a partial waiver for curbing on the AutoZone project

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to table this until next month and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion/Action on the request to vacate the portion of 3rd Avenue South of Millway as described in correspondence

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to start the process to vacate. All were not in favor with a roll call vote taken. Bessie, abstained; Scott, Darryl, Grant, John Kreitz and John Bird, yes. Motion carried.

Approval to purchase new sound and recording system from CSI at a cost of \$14,065 on the COSTARS Contract

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

Motion to have Builders Doors & Hardware, Inc. replace 3 sets of double exterior doors at the Recreation Center at a cost of \$5,800

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to table this item until costs for solid doors could be obtained which will keep more of the heat inside the building and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to accept bids for Road Materials and Aggregates as presented with hi-lites

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to accept the bids as presented and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Unfinished Business

Discussion on request from Mildred Nicholson regarding unnamed alley

Council decided to keep it unnamed and have it removed from the agenda.

Continued discussion/approval of the purchase of new police cruiser

Sgt. Lawrence said he received 2 complete quotes. Sunbury Motors for \$46,272 and the other was from Whitmoyer Auto Group \$47,170. Sgt. Lawrence said he would go with Sunbury and has all the things a PSP car has. The financing is for 3 years with a \$1 buy back at 5.5%. President Hunsicker said wondered if it wouldn't be cheaper to bid out the financing.

Sgt. Lawrence said the detailing and video is separate due to the fact we have to go to the manufacturer to get the video. The car supplier could not buy this brand of in car camera themselves.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to approve the \$46,272 lease/purchase with Sunbury motors and the agreement with Ford and buying the video equipment and detailing and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Continued discussion of Cortez Alley

Councilors Rehrig/Bauchspies made the motions to maintain Cortez Alley for Mahoning Twp. with the understanding it will be last on our list to do.

Officials' Reports

Borough Manager

She went over her report. The Lower Park project is moving ahead and it will be about a \$600,000 project. The Downtown Assessment had been received and reviewed.

She is going over the budget to see where she can make cuts. She is hoping to have the final document to council by Wednesday.

In going over the Downtown Assessment with some of the businesses there was talk of incorporating businesses in to the Christmas Light Contest. We do 10 \$25 winners for our residents and she is looking to have 4 \$100 winners for our businesses.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to approve adding the businesses to our Christmas Light Contest with 4 \$100 prizes being awarded to the businesses and 10 \$25 prizes awarded to the residents. The \$100 prize is to be deducted from their electric bill and all were in favor with no questions objections.

Nicole is going to contact Pool Pals, Shade Tree and some of the participant of the Downtown Assessment to do the judging.

Engineer

Absent

Police

Sgt. Lawrence asked if free parking downtown is really until February 1st instead of January 2nd as in previous years. He was told it is until February 2nd as per the motion at last month's meeting.

Councilor Rehrig commented that it is in the works to have 15 spots behind PNC Bank and in East Alley at 2nd Street designated as 2 hour parking for downtown. The parking meters on 1st Street will be changed to read 2 hours parking for 25¢ from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Once the tags appear in the meters it will be in effect. We will be notifying the residents on 1st Street prior to the changes going into effect.

Mayor

Nothing

Fire Chief

Absent

President of Council

Nothing

Solicitor

He requested a brief executive session.

Treasurer

Nicole had a few additional bills to add. We had received our PA UCC Solvency Fees invoices in the amount \$4, 718.67. There were also a few transfers needing to be approved as well.

Finance & Administration – Darryl Arner, Chair, George Kogut, Co-Chair – Darryl said he will be meeting with Nicole to get things all in line with the budget.

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

Police, Fire & Safety – Scott Rehrig, Chair and John Bird, Co-Chair – He thanked the police and fire police for doing a great job as always and for their help

with the Veteran's Day parade on behalf of Council and the Legion and the United Veterans Association.

Scott said on the safety side of things he feels every borough employee, council person and solicitor should wear ID tags. He would also like time clocks to be looked into for the employees to hold them accountable for their time. He didn't say they are doing anything wrong but council must be accountable to the taxpayers.

Carl Teets told Scott that the Water Authority had those years ago and if council follows through on this he would have the Water Authority do the same.

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
Absent.

Acceptance of Officials' Reports

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

Approval of Accounts Payable

Including requests to transfer \$225,000 from L&P fund to the General fund for operating expenses, a transfer of \$69,238 to the Annex loan, transfer \$40,000 to Wells Fargo for the fire equipment fund and \$160,000 from the General fund to the Fire Station Construction fund and a lease payment to the Lehighon Sewer Authority \$14,000 for the 2012 & 2013 payments and \$4,718.67 for the PA UCC Solvency fees.

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

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to go in at 8:20 p.m. for personnel.

Motion to go back into Public Session

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to go out of executive session at 8:55 p.m.

Action on Any Items Necessary as a Result of Executive Session

Councilor Rehrig promised to stop saying yes to things just because! There has to be a reason!!

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to accept Steve Schickram's absence from work for 3 consecutive days without notification to borough manager as a voluntary quit.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. and all were in favor

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary