

October 28, 2013

The Regular Meeting of the Lehighon Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, October 28, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: John Kreitz, John Bird, Darryl Arner and Scott Rehrig. Late: George Kogut

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Hearing of Person's Present

Susan Cavanaugh of 106 South 3rd Street was present to let council know that this past Saturday her car was towed the weekend of the Halloween Parade. She is aware that 24 hour notice is given when cars are required to be moved. She is asking that residents are given 48/72 hours notice.

Ed Conarty of 235 Coal Street was next to address council regarding his many times present at these meetings with questions pertaining to the Annex Building; some of which were published in the Times News.

He was present tonight to direct his questions at Councilor Bird. Ed said that prior to election Mr. Bird came before council and asked the same questions of council and received no answers. Mr. Conarty stated that Mr. Bird, now a councilman is now in a position to give the answers and he would like to know how many rentable spaces there are in the Annex.

Councilor Bird said that was back in 2007 that Mr. Conarty was referring too. He did inquire of the questions that Mr. Conarty is talking about. Councilor Bird believes it was and is an issue and it is frustrating to him. He doesn't know how many spaces there are off the top of his head but is sure the number can be found out and given to Mr. Conarty. Ed pointed out that at the time Councilor Bird was very concerned and thought that Councilor Bird would follow through and find out and make the information available.

Mr. Conarty would also like to know how many of those spaces are occupied and how many of those spaces appear in leases. Councilor Bird didn't know and Mr. Conarty said he thought Councilor Bird would pursue that. Councilor Bird said he pursued the issue in terms of what cash flow we are bringing in and what's going out. Councilor Bird said it is was and still is frustrating to him.

Mr. Conarty questioned why Councilor Bird did not pursue his questions until he received good solid answer to which Councilor Bird said he felt he did and Mr. Conarty disagreed and will continue on his own to get the answers he seeks.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of March 23, 2013 and Special Meetings of September 16 & 17, 2013 and Special Meeting of October 24, 2013

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

Motion to release funds to Fireman's Relief Association

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

Motion to re-class Denny Rodgers and Barry Fisher as Apprentice Lineman II

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

Motion to re-class Jeff Repsher as Lineman II

Nicole said his anniversary date was July 9th. It will be retroactive to that date. Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to re-class and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve AARP's request to use the Rec Center February 1 to April 15, 2014 for tax preparation (same as last year)

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

Motion to give conditional approval on the Lisa Serfass Subdivision

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to give conditional approval and all were in favor.

Motion to approve 2012 Write-Offs

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to approve the write-off and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve closing borough hall December 24 & 31, 2013 (same as last year & vacation time will be used)

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to approve closing borough hall on those dates and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Approval to sign PA 1 Call Agreement to remove L&P Department from Water Authority account (L&P Dept. will have their own account)

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to approve L&P department having their own account and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve listed items for Municipal Surplus Auction on Saturday, November 9, 2013

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

Motion to waive Land Development Process for the Light & Power Building as shown on plans

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

Motion to donate the listed radios and pagers to the Lehighton Fireman's Relief Association as requested by Lehighton Fire Department

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

Motion to purchase playground system and swings for the Grove in the total amount of \$7,211

Councilor Kogut questioned if this purchase was to replace equipment damaged by vandalism and was told that it was leftover budget money being used.

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

Motion to advertise for Chief of Police

Motion to re-class Robert Novak as Apprentice Lineman Second year on November 12, 2013

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

Motion to approve Resolution R 022-2013 appointing Borough Treasurer or Borough Manager as liaison with Berkheimer

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

Motion to allow assistance from public works for winter maintenance of Cortez Alley as requested from Mahoning Township

Council decided to table this item until the location of the alley could be found.

Motion to approve Change Orders for Fire Station Project:

#1 – Popple Construction – pave rear parking lot and north portico \$55,144.50 (previously approved)

#1 – F. A. Rohrbach – Additional underpinning at 31 and Elevation for column Line #1 - \$4,472.50

#1 – Reynolds Iron Works – Supply Revised Lintel LL-7\$716

#1 – Albarrell Electric – Increase Elevator Feed Size less credit for condenser unit \$775

#2 – Albarrell Electric – Social Hall Panel Replacement \$3,450

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

Unfinished Business

Discussion on request from Mildred Nicholson regarding unnamed alley

President Hunsicker believes that alley isn't in the right place. More research needs to be done before anything can be decided.

Continued discussion/approval of the purchase of new police cruiser

Sgt. Lawrence said he contacted 4 companies for quotes. One company said they could not provide a quote because the equipment is only allowed on PSP vehicles. They heard from 2 other companies. One quote switched some of the equipment that PSP uses and Sgt. Lawrence doesn't feel it is the same quality and the other quote is incomplete. He doesn't think they will get any closer than these 2 bids and is asking for permission to try and tweak what they received on the quotes to get the best they can for their money.

This item will be brought back next month.

Officials' Reports

Borough Manager

She went over her report.

Engineer

Absent

Police

Nothing

Mayor

Nothing

Fire Chief

Absent

President of Council

Nothing

Solicitor

Nothing

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.

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

Public Works & Recreation – George Kogut, Chair, John Kreitz Co-Chair

Councilor Kogut said he talked with Tom who would like to see the Rimby's salary raised from minimum to \$8.50/hr. Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to approve the raise and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Acceptance of Officials' Reports

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

Approval of Accounts Payable

Councilors Arner/Rehrig 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 8:16 p.m. for personnel.

Motion to go back into Public Session

Councilors Rehrig/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

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to advertise externally for the chief of police position in the Times News, Borough News and FOP Journal if possible and all were in favor.

Councilors Arner/Bird made the motions to hire Beth Mesko as per the collective bargaining agreement with an introductory period and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. and all were in favor.

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary

