

February 24, 2014

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, February 24, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Pres. Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Helen Torok, John Kreitz, Joe Flickinger, Bessie Bauchspies, Darryl Arner and Scott Rehrig.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Borough Secretary Brenda Koons, Solicitor James Nanovic, Mayor Tom Mase, and Police Chief Brian Biechy and Fire Chief Gary Frable. Absent: Bruce Steigerwalt.

Pledge of Allegiance

Guest Speaker: D&L Heritage Corridor – Scott Everett and Elissa Garofalo

Elissa said they are moving forward with the proposed trailhead. There is no money for design to explore options of where to go so she was asking for the borough's help with the alley between Castle Grill and RJ Walker. She would like to close that alley to motorists but not to emergency vehicles and put the handicapped accessible trailhead in behind Castle Grill. This would cause the D&L to encroach on LSA property and leave no room for Castle Grill to expand so she is looking at the alley instead. Elissa just wanted to update council on what was being looked at.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Mr. Ryan Saunders of 327 N. 2nd Street thanked council for snow removal. He said a business owner of a hair salon is concerned about the public lot not being plowed. He has clients and employees that utilize the lot and it would be great if it didn't take 6 days to get it plowed. By then the second storm ruined any hope of the lot being cleared. He does understand there is a lot of snow to be cleared but wants council to consider the business owners who are open and need places to park.

Angela Dejesus of 411 Mahoning Street wanted to know why PPL electric rates are two cents less per Kwh. She feels it is a lot for borough residents to pay.

President Hunsicker said we give you street lights at no charge but PPL charges for theirs. We provide traffic signals and have minimal power outages unlike PPL. Ms. Dejesus said but the borough is putting the burden on the renters and not the property owners. It's a different situation. President Hunsicker said all residents use electric and all residents are charged equally because it's the fairest way to spread the cost out and to keep taxes down. The Borough Manager had offered to meet with Ms. Dejesus to discuss the rates and financial structure of the Borough.

Mr. Bruce Morrison of 277 South 1st Street had a question about Temple Alley. The alley is cut downhill and he got stuck at 5:30 a.m. Thursday morning. It took him two hours to dig himself out. Friday he slid into a snow bank going up the cut and damaged his car. This has cost him two days of work. He was told this is a private alley and he does take care of his section but the neighbors do not.

He has been told repeatedly that it is a private alley and the borough does not do anything to it. However, the old timers who live there say the borough used to plow and cinder it. There is still 2" of ice there and he would appreciate the borough doing something. His concern is missing work as he only has so many days off. If the borough would at least take care of the cut he would appreciate it. President Hunsicker said the borough engineer would have to take a look at it and if it is ours we will take care of it. If it isn't then there is nothing we can do as we can't go on private property.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None were submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Action Item on ADP Proposal

The borough manager reported that at council's request she sought out examples of time clocks and time and attendance systems based on the 2014 budget talks. Out next step would be to develop the policies. She would like to work with the solicitor and treasurer to get that in place before we purchase anything.

Councilor Rehrig said that it was council's intent to do this and he made the motion to create a policy prior to implementation. Councilor Bauchspies made the second and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion/Action on Light & Power Building Construction

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to table item until we have the final design and budget numbers and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Action on request from employees pertaining to holiday time off

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

Unfinished Business

Motion to Follow the Planning Commission's Recommendation to grant waiver requests for sidewalk requirements and grant a partial waiver for curbing on the AutoZone project

Councilor Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to grant the waiver for sidewalks and curbing for the AutoZone project and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Officials Reports

Borough Manager

We are in the process of receiving the Local Share reimbursement back with the assistance of the treasurer. We have the 90-day temporary occupancy permit for the fire station project. We have one variance into Labor & Industry.

Nicole wanted to make council aware of the cost to the borough for the winter weather and what it cost to maintain our properties and roads. From December until February we have had over 900 hours of overtime equaling over \$30,000 which is over 50% of our budget. We haven't touched that in a year. 225 hours were in the most recent pay. We have over \$25,000 spent in winter maintenance supplies. We have over 20 miles of roadway to maintain, 7 properties, over 2 miles of borough owned sidewalks, 6 parks and 4 public parking lots in addition to our properties.

Borough Engineer

Absent

Police

Chief Biechy feels everything is running well with the department and between his department and the borough crew during the snow storms. There were one or two glitches that are being addressed but that is to be expected.

Mayor

He expected a lot of complaints on his phone but all he got were mostly garbage complaints. He knows that Brenda and the girls took up the slack on complaints and he thanked them for it.

Fire Chief

Nothing.

President of Council

Nothing.

Solicitor

Nothing.

Treasurer

There were additional bills to be approved totaling \$3,199.84, \$25,771.20 for Fire Station Construction Project and \$615,233.82 for L&P.

Committee Reports

Finance and Administration - Darryl - Chair, Bessie - Co-Chair - nothing.

Streets, Buildings and Codes - Joe - Chair, Darryl - Co-Chair - Joe spoke to public works regarding the storms. He feels they did a better job on the second storm than on the first and he will be following up with AI in the next few days.

Police, Fire and Safety - Scott - Chair, John - Co-Chair - nothing.

Light & Power Committee - Helen - Chair, Joe - Co-Chair - nothing.

Sewer Committee – Bessie – Chair, Helen – Co-Chair – Committee to meet with LSA at their March 4th meeting to discuss cost of EDU connection for subdivisions.

Public Works & Recreation – John– Chair, Scott –Co-Chair – Public works are working their tails off with the snow. John spoke with Tom and things are doing well at the Annex. He has been monitoring to see what the use of the elevator is and it is definitely a huge part of the power pull up there. It is used excessively and Tom is working on ways to curb its use.

Acceptance of Officials Reports

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to accept the official's reports as presented and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Acceptance of Accounts Payable

Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to accept the accounts payable as presented including the additional bills and all were in favor with no questions were objections.

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to go into executive session at 8:20 p.m. for reason of personnel and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to go back into regular session at 9:05 p.m. and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Rehrig/ Kreitz made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 PM and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Koons