

July 28, 2014

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, July 28, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Pres. Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Helen Torok, Joe Flickinger, John Kreitz and Darryl Arner.

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

#### Pledge of Allegiance

#### Guest Speaker: Charles Patrick McKelvey

Mr. McKelvey spoke on behalf of Mrs. Barbara Barilla who owns several properties along the bypass. He is a developer and wanted to know if the borough owned building near a warehouse Mrs. Barilla owns could be torn down. He had pictures of the building that he said is in disrepair. He is looking to develop the warehouse and feels the building being torn down along with the improvements to the warehouse will improve the bypass considerably. It would be a benefit to the borough because of all the traffic going by. If we can get that area cleaned up it will make people want to come back here.

President Hunsicker said it was an old pump station. Nicole said she will work with the borough engineer to see if it is feasible to do, the estimated cost the cost and the timeframe to tear it down. President Hunsicker and Councilor Kreitz want to move forward with this ASAP. Bruce said an environmental assessment needs to be done first due to the possibility of asbestos being in there. The property will need to go out for bid. It cannot be deeded over to Mrs. Barilla.

Councilors Kreitz/Flickinger made the motions to make this happen and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

#### HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Andrea Fairchild of 224 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street said her property was plowed up 3 times last winter and the yard was never repaired. She said she was in to the borough manager and borough secretary about this issue and nothing was done to date. The grass was plowed down into her driveway and a piece of macadam was taken out of the driveway.

Ms. Fairchild also feels a 4-way stop at 5<sup>th</sup> & Coal Streets is needed due to the number of near accidents there. President Hunsicker said it can be looked at and asked the mayor to have the police patrol that area. It was also decided to have crosswalks at 6<sup>th</sup> & Coal Streets painted.

Chris Walck of 523 Coal Street said that Coal Street is a drag strip and agrees with putting up stop signs and patrolling. Several cars have been hit.

Clay Chilson of 442 Cypress Street said he put up 2 sheets of plywood and wanted to know why he needed a permit when it's not permanent. He said the borough's zoning is ridiculous. There is a safety issue at the end of 5<sup>th</sup> Street with 2 vehicles parked on roadway and high hedges. He called it in and nothing was done. He wanted his property inspected today and no one came up. He is being harassed. Why does he have to pay to put up a gazebo or put a screen across the porch? It's all about money. The police go on his property illegally to get a number off a car so he put up surveillance cameras. If they want to come now they can write him a letter stating when they are coming and why.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of March 24, April 28 and Special Meeting of April 9 & 24, 2014

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

#### NEW BUSINESS

Motion to appoint Floyd Brown to the Sewer Authority

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

Motion to adopt Resolution R-013-2014 pertaining to the Police Excessive Force Policy

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

Motion to accept the resignation of Brenda Koons as Emergency Management Coordinator with stipulation she becomes the Deputy Coordinator

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

President Hunsicker then asked for a motion to appoint Brenda Koons as a deputy Emergency Management Coordinator.

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

Motion to appoint Joe Flickinger as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the borough

The solicitor said the governor appoints him. Council can only recommend him. Councilor Flickinger recused himself from voting. Councilors Arner/Torok made the motions to recommend Mr. Flickinger as the new EMC and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion/Action on bid results for L&P's 1995 Freightliner Digger/Derrick Truck (\$6,100 bid)

Councilor Kreitz/Flickinger made the motions to accept the \$6,100 bid and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion on request from Barbara Barilla to remove borough owned building on bypass

This item was discussed and voted on during Hearing of Person's Present.

Motion to allow Lehighon Takedown Club to hold a Car Show around the upper park

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

Motion to release Dollar General Escrow funds as reported

Councilors Kreitz/Flickinger made the motions to release the escrow and the line of credit and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to report delinquent utility accounts to the Credit Bureau through Creditech

Councilors Kreitz/Arner made the motions to report the delinquent accounts. Councilor Torok had a question. She asked how this would be an advantage to the borough. The borough manager said it will help us collect on the bills and help the landlords with the bills they are left with. Right now, if a tenant leaves the bills go back to the landlord. This is not for bills that are over due 6 months. These are for bills that go back more than a year to five years. Motion carried.

2014 National Night Out Proposal

Councilors Arner/Kreitz made the motions to hold the National Night Out and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion on the Brickman Proposal

Councilor Kreitz/Flickinger tabled this item until the August meeting and all were in favor.

## Unfinished Business

### Continued discussion on the masonry work required on the Annex and funding options

Councilors Kreitz/Arner made the motions to table this item until the August meeting and all were in favor.

### Discussion/Adoption of Timekeeping: Employee Time Clock Policy

This item was tabled.

## Officials Reports

### Borough Manager

She gave an update on items pertaining to the light and power building. She commented on the ADP time clock progress. She has spent over 50 hours on this alone on this transition and does not include the treasurer or assistant treasurer's time spent on the transition as well.

She said Bruce is working on the 2014 paving project for Stedman Avenue.

Councilor Kreitz asked Nicole if she had Al scheduled to get the rest of the line painting done in town and was told it was his first day back and he is playing catch up but they are working on getting it done. They did some last week.

### Borough Engineer

He said the bridge at Ashtown was paved. Council asked that a thank you letter be sent to Mahoning Township for helping to get the project completed. Bruce said there is some scouring work to be done yet but the work that is done had been expanded and will hopefully last longer that way. He also said that Public Works need to keep up with removal of debris that gets lodged around the center pier after rain storms. Trees and branches and things get washed down the creek during heavy storms and if left go will clog the tubes causing flooding in the event of a really big storm.

### Police

Brian said he feels everything is running smoothly. He is currently working on a few new policies. These should be ready in a month or two and will be put in place for the beginning of next year.

They did receive another grant for Aggressive Driving. He's not sure if Coal Street will fall under the allotted area of the grant but they can work on that through other sources of patrol.

He is supposed to meet with KME tomorrow and get the proposal for the new SUV.

Mayor

Nothing

Fire Chief

Absent

President of Council

Nothing

Solicitor

He brought up Councilor Kreitz's request for an update pertaining to parking at Keystone Alley. The solicitor said it was circulated back in February and we are just waiting on how you want to put it into effect. Do you want to put no parking in any of them until a permit is issued or as people come in to get them?

Treasurer

An additional list of bills was provided for approval totaling \$4,830.33.

Committee Reports

Finance and Administration – Darryl – Chair, Bessie – Co-Chair – Nothing  
Streets, Buildings and Codes – Joe – Chair, Darryl – Co-Chair – Joe reported that Al had his guys out working in the alleys and they are looking better than they did a few months ago. As far as buildings go he does agree with going along with the building on the bypass. Joe also said that Captain Mriss and himself from the fire station had gone through the sewer treatment building and found it will not be suitable to use for training due to mold and dilapidation. Joe feels that the sewer plant should be looked at to be torn down while we are looking at tearing down the one on the bypass. The fenced in area should be kept fenced in and used for training as in the past.

Police, Fire and Safety – Scott – Chair, John – Co-Chair – Absent.  
John has nothing but said the snow committee will meet tomorrow to see what can be worked out.

Light & Power Committee – Helen – Chair, Joe – Co-Chair – Helen said she and Joe will sit in on the construction meeting.

Sewer Committee – Bessie – Chair, Helen – Co-Chair – Absent

Public Works & Recreation – John – Chair, Scott – Co-Chair – Nothing. Helen said on August 22 around noon at the pool they will be celebrating Social Security's 79<sup>th</sup> birthday. Everyone is welcome to come for a piece for birthday cake.

Acceptance of Officials Reports

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

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel

Councilors Arner/Flickinger made the motions to in at 8:10 PM and all were in favor.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Arner/Flickinger made the motions to go back into Regular Session at 8:35 PM and all were in favor.

Action on items from Executive Session

The fire truck was discussed. KME gave 2 cost options. The base cost is \$370,261 and a sale agreement cost is \$374,000. Option #1 with 125 gallon foam system is \$2,797. Option #2 with a 250 gallon foam system is \$3,739. Councilor Flickinger said with the ethanol fuel in vehicles you may need to use foam.

Councilors Flickinger/Torok made the motions to purchase the truck up to \$374,000 and withdraw the funds from the investment accounts.

Councilors Kreitz/Arner made the motions to adopt the Timekeeping: Employees Time Clock Policy and all were not in favor. A roll call vote was taken with Grant Hunsicker and Joe Flickinger being opposed and Councilors Torok, Arner & Kreitz voting in favor of the policy. Motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Arner/Flickinger made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Koons  
Borough Secretary