

March 10, 2014

The Special Meeting of the Lehighton Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, March 10, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Joe Flickinger, John Kreitz, Bessie Bauchspies and Scott Rehrig. .

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Borough Secretary Brenda Koons, Mayor Tom Mase and Police Chief Brian Biechy.

Absent: Helen Torok and Darryl Arner.

Pledge of Allegiance

New Business

Motion to accept Georgia Traupman's resignation as part-time police secretary

Councilors Flickinger/Kreitz made the motions to accept the resignation with a letter of thanks and all were in favor with no questions or objections. No final date has been set yet so that will remain open.

Motion to advertise for part-time police secretary

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

Motion to waive open container ordinance for special events with Borough Council's approval

Solicitor Nanovic said you can't waive the open container without changing the ordinance because the ordinance said there are no open containers allowed on borough property. This can be changed and adopted by the April meeting.

Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to authorize the solicitor to prepare a revised ordinance for council's consideration which would provide that open containers would be permissible upon borough council approval at special events and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to allow BYOB at the Rec Center for special events as per the Recreation Director's request

The solicitor said this would be the same thing. Nicole said we would also need insurance to do this.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to authorize the solicitor to amend the ordinance to allow BYOB at the Rec Center upon the recreation Director's approval and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Frank Potoczak addressed council concerning Bike Nite. He still feels the bridge construction will be a problem. They decided to hold the event at the Grove. The area where beer will be served will be cordoned off and signed. Anyone outside of that area will be cited for open container the same as Slatington does. There will be additional people monitoring that as well. People will have ID's checked then be given a wrist band. We are taking it very seriously. We are going to give it a try. This is what the attendees have been asking to have for years so we will see how it goes. We want to make this a bigger and better event.

LDIC will be applying for special event insurance through the policy they renew every year as well as the 1 day permit from the LCB. President Hunsicker suggested using the tennis courts for the beer garden. Frank said they have been looking at this and from what they have learned is that putting folks who have been drinking in a confined area you have more of a likelihood of them saying hey, let's have another one quick before we go out and walk around causing more people to become drunk. Frank and Ty personally feel if the confined area is the park itself you are less likely to have issues.

Councilor Flickinger asked if it's not in a confined area how will it be monitored where minors are concerned. Just from going to other events where alcohol was confined it prevented minors from getting someone to get them a drink. If it's in the block radius how will this be stopped? Ty said if you're an adult and you furnish alcohol to a minor it's your fault.

Mayor Mase said he can't see how leaving people walk around in a big area will keep us from having underage drinking. He doesn't care how many people you have walking around it can still happen and an arrest will be made. Mayor Mase hope that the people Ty and Frank have doing security will not brush it aside and sill have them pointed out to the police to be cited.

Ty and Frank agreed completely. They do not want any problems and want this to be a part of the event for years to come. Chief Biechy said he would prefer for this "trial event" to have the beer in a certain area whether it be the tennis courts, gym or a tent. It can be looked at again after this year and changed if things go well.

Councilor Rehrig amended Chief Biechy's comment about using the gym. The recreation director does not want it used and port-a-pots will need to be brought in as the bathrooms at the Grove have been destroyed many times in the past years and will remain closed.

Councilor Rehrig said that a few years ago Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank graciously donated a scoreboard for the Annex gym and he would like to removed and installed in the rec center and the one at the rec center be given away or sold for scrap. Councilor Kreitz agreed and seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Adjournment

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

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary