

October 27, 2014

The regular meeting of Lehighton Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, October 27, 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 Darryl Arner, Bessie Bauchspies, and Scott Rehrig.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Borough Secretary Brenda Koons, Solicitor James Nanovic, Mayor Tom Mase, Police Chief Brian Biechy, Fire Chief Gary Frable and Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt. Absent: no one.

Pledge of Allegiance

Guest Speaker: Frank Potoczak – Report on 2014 Bike Night – Did not attend

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of August 25 and Special Meeting of September 30, 2014

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

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve the 2015 Pool Rates and Flyers

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

Motion to approve the Winter Recreation Program employees and pay rate

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

Motion to contract with Jaflo Inc. for tree trimming around primary power lines as per submitted proposal

Nicole said she is waiting on a revised quote from Jaflo in the amount of \$19,099 and would like approval to sign the contract at the new cost when it arrives.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to approve the cost of \$19,099 from Jaflo and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to adopt Resolution R-019-2014 to ratify the incurrence of indebtedness to finance the Fire Station Construction Project

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

Motion to appoint Ryan Saunders to the Zoning Hearing Board

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

Motion to approve proposal for the sidewalks and curbing at the new Light & Power Building

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to Chris Serfass doing the curb and sidewalks at a cost of \$8,740 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to reclassify Barry Fisher, Dennis Rodgers and Robert Novak to Lineman 1 on Employment anniversary date

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

Motion to approve the DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant

This item was tabled until the budget is finalized.

Motion to approve the 2013 Write-offs

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

Motion to amend the Timekeeping Policy as submitted based on meeting with the FOP

Council wanted to make one change on page 2. They would like it to say: "Failure will lead to R-011-2000 Discipline Policy."

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

Motion to amend the Badge & Identification Policy as submitted based on meeting with the AFSCME

Councilor Rehrig had a question. Was the supplemental sheet signed in 2002 or 2003? Will Section "K" be used? The solicitor said yes as per the agreement. President Hunsicker said it was a 50 year agreement and may have changed since 2002. The solicitor said for unemployment and employees issues since then.

The Borough Manager will see all employees receive full packets by November 1, 2014.

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

Discussion on altering Vehicle Code to include towing vehicles when "No Parking" is posted

Councilors Rehrig and Kreitz would like vehicle to be towed when streets are posted for maintenance work or snow removal.

Councilor Kreitz said he noticed when streets where posted for crack sealing that public works had to wait around for parked cars to be towed.

Chief Biechy said historically it has been at the discretion of council or the borough manager to ticket, not towing. But he agrees that if the street is posted "No Parking" any one parked there should be ticketed and/or towed.

Solicitor Nanovic said that it should be in the ordinance that towing will occur. Council the asked Solicitor Nanovic to amend the ordinance and advertise it.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to draft amendment for advertising and all were in favor.

Motion to hire Pamela Pauker as a Crossing Guard pending background check, pre-employment physical and drug screen

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to approve the pending hire as a substitute for now and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

#### Unfinished Business

Motion to adopt Ordinance 617 amending Chapters 192, 213 & the Quality of life Ordinance pertaining to snow removal, plowing and odd/even parking

Councilor Rehrig has a problem with the sidewalk guidelines. He feels it is targeting property owners. He feels all properties including the borough owned properties should be cleared of snow before tickets are given out. He also feels that property owners should be made to shovel a 36" path if applicable where there are no sidewalks. This is for the safety of people walking. He also thinks making the ordinances consistent by changing the ordinance to read this must be done within 48 hours of the snow stopping.

Councilor Kreitz said we need guidelines for society to follow. Without them - chaos.

Councilors Kreitz/Flickinger made the motions to make the changes to the ordinance and advertise it. Not all were in favor. A roll call vote was taken with Grant, Bessie and Scott voting no, Joe, Helen, John and Darryl voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 618 amending Chapter 78 to require building permits for certain types of construction

This item was not ready for adoption yet and will be back on the agenda next month.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 619 rescinding Chapter 212, §213-22 registration of solicitors in the ordinance

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

#### Officials Reports

##### Borough Manager

Nicole went over her report. She said the RACP Grant will be closed out and the wait list for the audit will be about 6 months.

Frank is resigning from LDIC soon and we need to find replacements for the group. Nicole has been putting out feelers and has some interested business people.

She will have the General Fund budget done by week's end. She has also scheduled a winter maintenance meeting with Public Works and Chief Biechy for this Thursday.

She also requested a \$250,000 transfer from the L&P Fund to the General Fund.

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

#### Borough Engineer

Bruce is working on cost estimates for project list for Nicole. He looked at the bypass, the sewer project on 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & Hamilton Streets and security for the billing office. He would like to discuss how secure council wants the office and will also be talking to Tim.

#### Police

Brian said last weekend was very busy. They had an armed robbery during the parade and lots of drug arrests.

#### Mayor

Nothing

#### Fire Chief

Nothing

#### President of Council

Nothing

#### Solicitor

Nothing

#### Treasurer

An additional list of bills was provided for approval totaling \$724.73.

#### Committee Reports

Finance and Administration - Darryl - Chair, Bessie - Co-Chair -Darryl - Nothing  
Streets, Buildings and Codes - Joe - Chair, Darryl - Co-Chair - Nothing

Police, Fire and Safety - Scott -Chair, John - Co-Chair - Scott had a letter from Weissport and Franklin Twp. requesting a meeting regarding Police coverage/contracted services. Council declined the meeting. Councilor Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to recommending advertising in the Times News for Fire Chief once Chief Frable's letter of resignation was given. They would like letters of interest and resumes to go to Nicole. They are seeking strong leadership. All were in favor with no questions or objections. Chief Frable said he will resign the end of the year.

Light & Power Committee - Helen - Chair, Joe - Co-Chair -Lonny is very appreciative of how his new building is coming along and the soon to be new Lineman 1's being on staff.

Sewer Committee - Bessie - Chair, Helen - Co-Chair - Nothing

Public Works & Recreation – John – Chair, Scott – Co-Chair – Scott is waiting for the cost of cameras. He said Tom would also like to start charging for the use of Baer Memorial (\$250) and 6<sup>th</sup> & Coal soccer fields (\$150) per season. Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to approve the fees with Tom determining any other fees for use of the recreation fields. All were not in favor and a roll call vote was taken. Helen, John, Bessie, Darryl, Scott and Grant – yes and Joe – no. Motion carried. It will be added to the fee schedule.

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/Flickinger made the motions to accept the accounts payable as presented including the additional \$724.73 in bills and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel

None required

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Action on items from Executive Session

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Koons  
Borough Secretary