

September 22, 2014

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, September 22, 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 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: Darryl Arner.

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation of Awards to 150th Sesquicentennial Logo Contest Winners

Autumn Abelovsky and Clark Ritter presented Beth Franks and Kevin Long with a check for \$100 each for their logo submission to be used in various ways to promote the 150th Anniversary of the Lehighon Borough.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of July 28 and Special Meeting of July 3 and August 15, 2014

The Borough Secretary had one correction to the July 28th minutes. The time clock policy was voted on after Executive Session but was also listed where it fell in the agenda. The motion is listed twice and the Borough Manager feels it should be removed from the agenda side of things.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to advertise Chapter 213, §213-22 registration of solicitors in the ordinances

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

Motion to advertise Ordinance 617-2014 amending Chapters 192, 213 & the Quality of Life Ordinance pertaining to snow removal, plowing and odd/even parking

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

Motion to approve the 2015 Minimum Municipal Obligation Worksheet for the Police Pension Plan

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

Motion to approve the 2015 Minimum Obligation Worksheet for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan

The Borough Manager had an amendment to this worksheet with an adjusted amount of \$142,444; an increase of \$24,193 up from 2014.

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

Motion to approve Resolution-15-2015 pertaining to the General Municipal Pension System State Aid

This item was tabled.

Motion to release the 2014 Minimum Obligation for both pension plans

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

Approval of ACE Grant Compliance Letter to help enable the Lehigh Area School District to apply for DCED funding

Nicole said this is for the proposed primary elementary center. She said if this goes through she would recommend putting in the letter that it appears to conform but the project will still need to go through all the land development and zoning processes.

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

Approval for Shull David PTO to hold a Zombie Zoom 5K Run or Stalk Saturday, October 25, 2014

Councilors Kreitz/Flickinger made the motions and all were in favor with a question from Councilor Rehrig who asked if they will have a certificate of insurance given to the borough prior to the event taking place. Nicole said they will. Motion carried.

Discussion/Action on the purchase of lockers for the police locker room

Chief Biechy said he spoke to Reynolds Business Systems who said 10 lockers would be \$12,279. Nicole said this is not a 2014 budgeted item but the police do have some money left from Bike Nite to spend from 2013 plus what they receive this year. Brian talked to Frank at Castle Grille who thinks there will be about \$4,500 total for the police to use toward the lockers. Brian said the borough would have to contribute about \$8,000. Council was of the impression this was the best the event has been and thought there would be more money contributed to the departments. Brian said he was told the money is supposed to be divided between Lehigh Area Police and Fire Departments and Franklin Twp. Fire Department and LDIC.

Chief Biechy said Lowe's has finished their end of the changing room project up stairs and the lockers would complete that project.

Councilors Rehrig/Bauchspies made the motions to approve purchasing the lockers at a cost of \$12,279 with approximately \$8,000 coming from the borough.

Motion to approve capital donation to Lehighon Ambulance Association for Life Pack 15 Monitor/Defibrillator

President Hunsicker said he knows there are no funds available right now. Councilor Flickinger said he had spoken to Nicole prior to the meeting and was told the same thing. She did suggest looking at it as a line item for the 2015 budget with a possible amount of \$10,000. Councilor Flickinger went on to say that this is required for all EMS and if all municipalities do not start chipping in there will be no EMS.

Joni Gestl said this is a requirement and they must purchase these pieces of equipment. She did apply for a grant but was turned down. They have about \$12,000 towards this purchase and have taken a 5 year loan out to pay for them.

Councilor Rehrig asked what other municipalities have contributed and was told none to date. He recommended tabling this item until they can see what other municipalities are contributing.

Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to work on a figure to put into the budget for that specific item and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion of Ordinance 618-2014 Amending Chapter 78 to require building permits for certain types of construction

The Borough Manager said this is a follow up from the previous council meeting suggested by Barry Isett & Associates. The ordinance was drafted in house and the change is to require a building permit for a structures having a building area of 250 sq. ft. or greater including but not limited to carports, sheds, greenhouses and detached garages.

Solicitor Nanovic said that if we are interested in this there is a process that must be followed because we are under the uniform construction code. This has to be sent to the Department of Labor & Industry for approval before we can approve it.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to send the ordinance to L&I for approval and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve Payment Application #1 for C. E. Ankiewicz for L&P Building construction

The revised payment amount is for \$184,183 for work performed through September 19th.

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

Unfinished Business

None

Addendum to Agenda

Motion to Approve Lehighton High School Bonfire Thursday, October 31, 2014

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

Motion to approve closing Borough Hall December 24, 25 and 31, 2014 for the holidays (employees to use vacation time)

There was one correction. The employees would also like to ask for December 26th off using vacation time.

Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to approve closing borough hall December 24, 26 & 31, 2014 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Officials Reports

Borough Manager

Nicole went over her report. She touched on helping the treasurer with closing out the RACP grant for the fire station.

We did receive notification of a \$245,000 award for the multimodal grant from DCED requiring a 30% match. The project would be \$350,000 and our match would be \$105,000. She is still waiting on the Penn DOT grant.

She also made council aware that the 2014 budget amount has been reached for Barry Isett & Associates due to increased hours. She knows council is pleased with them but wanted them to be aware of the cost and that will carry into the 2015 budget.

Councilor Rehrig said they had previously discussed doing building inspections and asked Nicole if she knew where the fire department was at concerning these inspections on First Street. She said that was discussed in April and a meeting was to be scheduled with Tim and the fire department but isn't sure if that has happened or not. There was only one officer certified to do these inspections and the fire department was going to try to have other officers certified to do these inspections.

Councilor Rehrig is concerned with the fact that we are going into winter and that will push inspections off until next spring. In the meantime there are deficient buildings that need immediate attention on First Street. It would be inadvisable to send firefighters into them should something happen. Nicole said one issue is their work schedule conflict and we would need to have additional hours from Barry Isett.

Councilor Rehrig said there is one building where the landlord lives in New Jersey and is very hard to get a hole of. What can be done with this particular property? Nicole said Tim is working on it and its owner is being very uncooperative. The question is, does the borough want to take the building down and lien the property? Solicitor Nanovic said if council decides to raise the building then we need a court order to do so.

Councilor Flickinger said he had recommended several months ago to start doing annual inspections of the properties which may help Tim. Then there would be a reason to get into the buildings because now the borough is requiring annual inspections of all commercial properties. Councilor Flickinger believes the information was given to Tim for review and that's where it stopped. The Downtown Assessment had a sample ordinance that could be adapted to fit our needs. Council directed Solicitor Nanovic to work on a draft and bring it back to council.

Councilor Flickinger said it will not be cheap to have the firefighters certified. It would be \$300-\$500 a person minimum. It is a week long course with a pro-board certified test at the end. Joe was directed to look into getting information and costs on the course.

Councilor Rehrig then brought up problems at the parks. There is damage to the fence on 6th Street and constant damage to the Grove. He feels the Grove should either be shut down or cameras should be installed to catch those who are vandalizing the equipment. He would like good quality cameras that will help the police catch those who are responsible. Councilor Kreitz/Torok made the motions to contact LPC Electric from Jim Thorpe to come down and give us a quote. They do the Jim Thorpe School District cameras and they are of high quality. All were in favor with no questions or objections.

Borough Engineer

Nothing other than that the projects we have discussed are continuing to be worked on.

Councilor Rehrig brought up Sgt. Stanley Hoffman Blvd. It is bad from one end to the other and the longer we wait the more it is gonna cost. Bruce said they are working on the ADA ramps for Stedman Avenue. The contract is basically prepared except for finalizing the ramps. Replacing the sewer main was discussed for Ebbert's Park. He had spoke with Al about doing a rough overlay there until the go ahead to replace the sewer line is given.

Councilor Rehrig said he thinks they should pay off the Annex loan and keep the CDBG monies to do streets.

Police

Brian said the pylons have been installed in the back of the building. He thanked council for purchasing the lockers. Lonny will run the electrical to them and there should be no problems.

Mayor

Tom thanked Public Works for the yellow zones on the driveways on South 8th Street.

Fire Chief

Gary asked council for permission to hold a "Boot Drive" at the Lower Park on October 12 & 19, 2014 from 3-7 p.m.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to permit the "Boot Drive" and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

President of Council

Grant read a thank you letter from Tom Chew, Carbon County Fire for the demolition of the training tower.

Solicitor

Nothing

Treasurer

An additional list of bills was provided for approval.

Committee Reports

Finance and Administration - Darryl - Chair, Bessie - Co-Chair -Darryl -- absent.

Streets, Buildings and Codes - Joe - Chair, Darryl - Co-Chair - Joe reported that he met with Tim to see what things can be handled in the borough and a few other items are being followed up on.

Police, Fire and Safety - Scott -Chair, John - Co-Chair - Scott said that sight distances need to be looked at.

Light & Power Committee - Helen - Chair, Joe - Co-Chair - Joe said the new building is on schedule and floor should be in by week's end.

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

Public Works & Recreation - John - Chair, Scott - Co-Chair - John said Al submitted a new report to give better perspective on work being done in the borough..

Acceptance of Officials Reports

Councilors Kreitz/Bauchspies 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 Rehrig/Arner made the motions to accept the accounts payable as presented including the additional \$434.04 in bills and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to in at 8:48 PM and all were in favor.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Flickinger/Kreitz made the motions to go back into Regular Session at 9:55 PM and all were in favor.

Action on items from Executive Session

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to adopt revised Time Clock & ID policies as outlined by the Borough Manager and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Flickinger/Rehrig made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 PM and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary