

April 20, 2015

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, April 20, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Pres. Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Helen Torok, Joe Flickinger, John Kreitz, 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, Police Chief Brian Biechy, and Fire Chief Patrick Mriss. Absent: Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt.

Pledge of Allegiance

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

None present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of March 23 and Special Meeting of April 14, 2015
Councilors Flickinger/Kreitz made the motions to approve and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to increase wage rates for swimming pool employees

Councilors Rehrig/Bauchspies made the motions to increase wages. Under the question Councilor Rehrig wanted drug and background checks done on all employees, new and returning and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion/Action on AutoZone Development Agreement

This item was tabled.

Motion to adopt Resolution R-004-2015 amending the Fee Schedule

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

Unfinished Business

Discussion/Action on the Carbon County Council of Government's Agreement between CCCOG and Participants

The solicitor did look over the agreement. The agreement itself is not the problem it's the implementation and what it is going to be used for is the problem. Right now there is no COG. Councilor Rehrig asked the solicitor if he saw any problem in doing it and was told no.

Nicole said that in order for this to go into effect an ordinance would have to be adopted and the group is working on one advertisement for all municipalities so we wouldn't have to advertise separately.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to agree to become part of the COG and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion/Action on recommended 2015 Road Program and funding

Nicole said we are looking at doing 7th Street from Iron to Coal Streets, Ochre Street from 3rd to 4th Streets and an alternate would be South 4th Street from Bridge to Alum Streets

and 11th Street from Hamilton to Coal Streets. This is all tar and chip due to conversation with the Water Authority and their intentions on these streets. For the borough to do a reconstruction at this time would not be favorable as the Water Authority will be doing work in these streets. The tar and chip will last at least 5–7 years.

The entire project could be done from Liquid Fuels without curb upgrades and our Liquid Fuels budget is \$100,000 which is under the prevailing wage rate.

Councilor Rehrig/Arner made the motions to recommend the 2015 Road Program and funding. Under the question President Hunsicker asked if it was washed stone because if it isn't it will be very dusty. Nicole said she will make sure to put that in and can't see Bruce not using washed stone but she will find out. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Nicole commented that the bypass was discussed and will not be part of this project. It is a different kind of construction and will be done separately and that funding will come out of reserves.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to continue looking into doing Sgt. Stanley Hoffman Blvd. to get a cost and come back to council. Nicole said it is about \$240,000. The motion to continue looking into how to go about repairing the bypass was all in favor with no question or objections. Nicole will bring this item back to a later council meeting.

Discussion on adoption of ordinance requiring installation of sidewalks prior to transfer of ownership

Councilor Rehrig feels it is a good idea to continue looking at it and having an ordinance drawn up for council to look at before deciding. He thinks it's a good idea for the future but feels the ordinance will need to be redrafted a few times before adoption.

Discussion on Fire Protection Agreement with Mahoning Township

Councilor Rehrig feels council should accept the letter and whatever mutual agreements we have pertaining to mutual aid will still be fulfilled. Councilor Flickinger feels we should continue to evaluate it and monitor the responses. It's either contracted or automatic aid it's not mutual aid. The fire department has expensive apparatus and though the cost may be small it is still wear and tear on our equipment.

Councilor Rehrig said when he read the letter stating they declined the increase because they can't afford to pay it. According to the letter we will not be the first line of defense in their township anymore. Councilor Flickinger said unfortunately we are the first line of defense. President Hunsicker said the \$2,000 was to cover out to Bissell's Hill Road, Packerton and Jamestown. Chief Mriss said it goes to Mall Road now, Packerton and Jamestown. Councilor Flickinger said the fire department is on automatic call out for all of Mahoning Township which goes out to the county line.

Councilor Rehrig said his interpretation of the letter is that Mahoning Township is not requesting our services unless we are called out. Councilor Flickinger said the letter says they will only call us out for certain things but they listed everything but automatic alarms. The solicitor said he reads it as the agreement is no longer in affect. Councilor Flickinger said yes but they are still calling for us. If you look at the calls from last year almost 50% of our calls are for out there.

Chief Mriss said the way he understands it is Mahoning will handle any nonthreatening calls and will assist Leighton with anything else. Councilor Rehrig asked Patrick to get clarification on this and get back to them ASAP if there are any issues, otherwise it can be worked out between the chiefs

Officials Reports

Borough Manager

Nicole had nothing to discuss other than asking if there were any questions about her report from March and April. There were none.

Borough Engineer

Absent

Police

Brian said he received a call from the Nolan Ritchie Foundation. Councilor Flickinger said it is the Stay-A-Float Foundation started by the family of the child who drown 2-3 years ago behind Dunbar's. They try to bring awareness and safety equipment to emergency responders to try and minimize incidents. Chief Biechy said he has been talking to Councilor Flickinger about this because one of our officers was in the water that day. They have been discussing some type of safety equipment for the police department that would be fairly easy for the police to use. The Nolan Ritchie Foundation called up out of the blue and are donating 4 throw bags to the department. This will cover the 4 vehicles currently in service. When the bags arrive Chief Biechy would like to set up a training class through Chief Mriss on how to use the throw bags properly.

KME hooked up Car #5 with the cameras and track system. There are now 2 cars hooked up with computers and computer software for the electronic ticket writing.

He also received a letter from the county who is looking to build a training center. They propose to build the facility in Nesquehoning. It will mainly be for fire training but will also have areas to hold law enforcement training. He would like council's blessing to send a letter of support. Councilor Rehrig advised against this until more information is available.

Chief Biechy said the active police list for hiring has expired. He would like permission to advertise to hold Civil Service testing again.

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

Mayor

Tom said Arbor Day will be April 25, 2015. He will be attending the middle school Arbor Day ceremony on April 24th and invited all members of council to attend.

Fire Chief

Chief Mriss said the department received their certificate from the Office of the State Fire Commissioner for the participating department. Over 50% of the members are voluntarily certified to a national standard.

The weekend of October 2nd and 4th the department is looking to hold dedication and open house for the fire station and the new engine.

President of Council

He asked for a motion to send Officer Bender to Camp Cadet as done in past years.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to allow Officer Bender to attend and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Solicitor

Nothing.

Treasurer

Additional list of bills totaling \$9,584.62 and requested.

Committee Reports

Finance and Administration – Darryl said he saw the cost for Barry Isett were rather high. They have been with us for several months now doing property maintenance and negligent properties are being reported but not cleaned up. The one's he has personally been monitoring have not been cleaned up at all.

Councilor Rehrig said a group went for a ride with the zoning officer and saw some things. It was especially bad on the road to the sewer plant. It was enforced on Friday and cleaned up by Monday. Other properties are taking longer. Nicole asked Councilor Arner to give her the addresses of the properties he is having an issue with and she will have them brought to the zoning officer's attention.

Streets, Buildings and Codes – Scott said the Lehigh Fire Department is second to none in the state of Pennsylvania and they continue to be that way. He also commended the Lehigh Police Department for their enforcement of things in the borough and their continued progress that they are making within the department.

Police, Fire and Safety – nothing.

Light & Power Committee – nothing. Joe added that the painting of the switchgears were completed on Thursday. The project for Bridge & Irons Streets are in the design phase at this point.

Sewer Committee – nothing.

Public Works & Recreation – nothing. Councilor Rehrig said he would let Nicole speak about the improvements at the pool if she wished. Nicole said we will be one of the first public pools in the state to have solar heating allowing us to extend the summer swim season.

Acceptance of Officials Reports

Councilors Rehrig/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 Rehrig/Arner made the motions to accept the accounts payable as presented and addition list of bills and all were in favor with no questions were objections.

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Real Estate

Councilors Kreitz/Flickinger made the motions to go in at 7:40 p.m.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Arner/Flickinger made the motions to go back in at 8:45 p.m.

Action on items from Executive Session

Councilors Rehrig/Arner mad the motion to adopt job descriptions for Public Works and Light & Power assistant's supervisors and all were in favor.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to hire Kris Kunkle as assistant superintendent for Public Works at a salary of \$45,700 and Barry Fisher as assistant superintendent for Light & Power at a salary of \$66,300 pending clearances, physicals, drug testing and background checks come back clean. They will start May 4, 2015 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilors Flickinger/Bauchspies made the motions to change job status for Joel Snyder and Travis Zanders from Seasonal part-time help to permanent part-time help for Public Works 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 8:46 PM and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary