

December 21, 2015

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, December 21, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Helen Torok, Joe Flickinger, John Kreitz, Bessie Bauchspies, Darryl Arner, and Scott Rehrig.

Officials in attendance were: Solicitor James Nanovic, Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Borough Secretary Brenda Koons, Mayor Tom Mase, and Police Chief Brian Biechy. Absent: Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt, Fire Chief Patrick Mriss, and Addison Howland.

Pledge of Allegiance

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of November 23, 2015

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

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Action on LASD request to reduce building permit fees for Middle School and High School Projects

Councilor Flickinger asked if council reduces the rates for the school district will council be willing to reduce the rates for others. The Borough Manager said it could set a precedent for other projects.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to not reduce the fees and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve winners of the 2015 Christmas Light Contest

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

Motion to approve the 2016 Reappointment List with permission:

Planning Commission – Allen Young, Manny DaCosta, Donald Hahn; Sewer Authority – Alton Steigerwalt, Larry Stern, Floyd Brown

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

Water Authority – David Harleman

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

Zoning Hearing Board – Ryan Saunders

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

Property Maintenance Board – Brian Schnell, Allen Young

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

Approval to hold 3rd Annual 5K Earth Day/Hippie Run/Walk April 23, 2016

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

Motion to advertise the 2016 Meeting dates

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

Motion to adopt the 2016 budget

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

Motion to adopt Ordinance 627-2015 setting the tax levy rate for FY 2016

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

Motion to adopt Resolution R012-2015 setting the 2016 rate of contribution to the Police Pension Fund

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

Motion to give conditional approval on Blakeslee Commons Land Development Plan

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to give conditional approval as set forth in Bruce Steigerwalt's letter dated September 14, 2015 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve lease with Carbon County Area Agency on Aging

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

Motion to approve invoices to be paid prior to December 31st

Councilors Flickinger/Torok made the motions to approve and all were in favor with no questions or objections. A full list will be provided to council.

Motion to adopt Resolution R013-2015 setting salaries of Non-Uniform Employees for FY 2016

Councilors Arner/Flickinger made the motions to adopt and all were not in favor. A roll call vote was taken with Councilors Torok, Flickinger, Bauchspies, Arner, Rehrig, and Hunsicker voting yes; Councilor Kreitz voting no. Motion carried.

Discussion/Action on Rocky's Doors and Windows proposal for 7 replacement garage doors at a total cost of \$16,275

Nicole said 3 proposals were obtained and this was the lowest.

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

Motion to approve proposal from Levkulik for revision to drawings for L&P 5th bay fit out

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

Motion to approve Resolution R014-2015 updating fee schedule

Nicole said this includes updating the equipment rentals, labor rates, pool rates and rentals and the Annex rental.

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to adopt the resolution with no questions or objections.

Unfinished Business

Motion to adopt Sidewalk Ordinance 624-2015

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to adopt the ordinance and all were not in favor. Roll call vote was taken with Councilors Torok, Kreitz, and Rehrig voting in favor of the ordinance and Councilors Flickinger, Bauchspies, Arner and Hunsicker voting against the ordinance. Motion did not carry.

Motion to adopt Garbage Ordinance 628-2015

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

Follow up on discussion to reduce speed limit on Lehigh Drive

The solicitor said this was brought up at the last meeting. If council wishes to proceed with this item a traffic/engineering study must be done first.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to have the study done and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Officials Reports

Borough Manager

Nicole said the RACP audit for the fire station project is scheduled for January 5th & 6th. January 8th will be the bid openings for the lower park project.

Borough Engineer

Absent.

Police

Brian wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked everyone for their help this year. He also said the arrests are pending on the bomb scares in the county.

Mayor

Mayor Mase reported on the accidents in the borough requiring towing. He said they either requested Triple A or All Points towing. One requested Blocker's and were told it would take half an hour to one hour to get there so that one also went to All Points.

Mayor Mase said he attended a heroin overdose clinic with President Hunsicker, Chief Biechy and Councilor Kreitz. He was present for Santa in the Park along with President Hunsicker and Councilor Kreitz. The Mayor also sadly said good-bye to Councilors Bauchspies and Kreitz and said he will miss them both as they were great people to work with. Tommy wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Fire Chief

Absent.

President of Council

Grant wished everyone a Happy Holidays and thanked Councilors Bauchspies and Krietz for serving on council and told them he will miss them both.

Solicitor

Jim wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Treasurer

Additional list of bills totaling \$63,289.10.

Committee Reports

Finance and Administration – Councilor Arner thanked everyone for approving the budget and for expressing their concerns beforehand. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Streets, Buildings and Codes – Nothing.

Police, Fire and Safety – Councilor Rehrig wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and said the police department is doing an outstanding job and are very busy.

Light & Power Committee -Nothing.

Sewer Committee – Councilor Bauchspies thanked everyone for their kindness and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Public Works & Recreation – Councilor Kreitz said he spoke to Kris about the 2 holes at 2nd & Ochre Street where the base is through to the pavement. He said it was a pleasure to work with everyone and wished the new councilors good luck. Happy Holidays.

Acceptance of Officials Reports

Councilors Arner/Kreitz 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 Flickinger/Torok made the motions to accept the accounts payable as presented and the additional list of bills totaling \$63,289.10 and all were in favor with no questions were objections.

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel

Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to go in at 7:24 p.m.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to go back in at 7:40 p.m.

Action on items from Executive Session

Motion to ratify buyouts/carryovers of vacation time for Tom Evans, Kris Kunkle, Brenda Koons and Barry Fisher

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

Motion to Ratify police chief's contract for 2016

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to ratify and all were not in favor. A roll call vote was taken with Councilors Torok, Kreitz, Bauchspies, Arner, Rehrig and Hunsicker voting yes and Councilor Flickinger voting no. Motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 PM and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary