

January 26, 2015

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, January 26, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Pres. Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Helen Torok, John Kreitz, Joe Flickinger, Bessie Bauchspies, and Darryl Arner. Scott Rehrig was present electronically via Skype.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Carl Teets 51 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue was present to suggest council change the time for odd/even parking from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. He said we did alternate parking before and it did/didn't work but thinks it's a good idea to do but the time needs to be changed. Also, he asked if Public Works could plow closer to the curb.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of December 15, 2014 and Special Meeting of January 12, 2015. Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to approve and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to reappoint Al Steigerwalt to the Planning Commission for another 4-year term

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

Motion to adopt Resolution R-001-2015 for Bituminous Materials in Small Quantities

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

Motion to appoint Mason Strausberger to the Shade Tree Committee as a junior member

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

Motion to reappoint System Design Engineers as Sewage Enforcement Officers for 2015

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

Appointment of Deputy Tax Collector

Attorney Nanovic said this is required now under statute passed last year. The tax collector picks her deputy and council approves her decision. The deputy would act in the absence of the Tax Collector. Mary would like Sherri Steigerwalt to be named as her deputy.

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

Approval of requests for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Earth Day hippie Run/Walk

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to approve the 5K to be held April 25, 2015 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Action on the proposal for the demolition of the Sewer Pump Station on Sgt. Stanley Hoffman Boulevard by Nimaris Construction at a cost of \$10,000

Bruce wants clarification on the foundation walls before the starting the project. Councilors Flickinger/Bauchspies made the motions to approve the project once the clarification is determined and all were in favor with no questions or objections. Motion carried.

Motion to grant waivers for Section 3.207 regarding utility easement width and Section 3.03 for irregular shaped lots – Sal Melo’s Ochre Street project

Solicitor Nanovic asked if the planning commission recommends granting these waivers and Bruce said yes.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motion to approve the waivers and all were in favor with no questions were objections. Motion carried

Bruce also said council should make a motion to grant final approval on Mr. Melo’s subdivision request. He has met all of the conditions from the planning commission and is now ready to receive final approval.

Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to grant final approval the subdivision and all were in favor with no questions or objections. Motion carried.

Discussion/Action on the Repository Sale of 134/136 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street

Nicole said she discussed this item with Tim Dow and the solicitor and both recommended not approving the repository at this time. Attorney Nanovic had explained that we will need a reason why we are not approving the sale. It was agreed the property has potential for borough purchase being it is located in the downtown.

Councilors Rehrig/Torok made the motions to not approve the sale and all were in favor with no questions or objections. Motion carried

Discussion/Action on offer from American Home Buyers, LLC regarding 209 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street

This item was tabled for discussion in executive session.

Discussion/Action on the financing of a 2015 Caterpillar 930K Wheel Loader

Nicole said this was a \$28,045.98 lease. Highway Aid funds can be used for part of this. President Hunsicker asked if it was a 2014 or a 2015 model. Nicole said she believes it is a 2015. It will be a 6 year lease and \$1 final payment. Councilor Kreitz said he wants us to move on this because if we wait too long we will move to another tier in emissions and that will increase maintenance costs and we want to avoid that.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to approve the financing through 6 year lease and all were in favor with no questions were objections. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Motion to adopt Ordinance 620–2015 placing stop signs at 5<sup>th</sup> & Coal Streets

Councilor Rehrig asked why this was being done. Councilor Flickinger said because you can't see coming up to Coal from Haas' Store and there are a lot of children playing in the area. Councilor Rehrig said you can't put a stop sign up for speed. A safety study needs to be done to see if the sign is warranted. The mayor said he and the police chief did a study. Visibility on 5<sup>th</sup> Street is the problem. Councilor Flickinger asked why they were taken down. Nicole said they were illegal and had to be taken down until the ordinance is passed.

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

Councilor Kreitz said he thinks we should also change the time to move cars in the snow ordinance to 7 a.m. Councilor Flickinger said he thinks we should wait till winter is over and make a list of what needs to be changed and everything at once for next year instead of changing it 6 times. He said it should stay at 7 p.m. He rode his bike from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and only counted 42 cars not moved. He talked to people about the odd/even parking and to Officer Broyles.

Councilor Rehrig asked if time was the only thing needing to be changed and was told yes.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to change the time in the snow ordinance from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. A roll call vote was taken. Councilor Flickinger opposed and Councilors Torok, Kreitz, Bauchspies, Rehrig & President Hunsicker were in favor. Solicitor Nanovic asked if residents have from midnight - 7 a.m. to move their cars to the correct side of the street and Councilor Kreitz said yes. Once street is cleared cars can be moved back. He said we can change the website, alter the signs without major costs being incurred and Councilor Rehrig said Chief Biechy should oversee the amendment. Motion carried.

Nicole asked what we do in the meantime and Councilor Rehrig said they should make the new rules voluntary until adopted. Councilor Kreitz said we need to take a proactive approach and get the information out to the public as much as possible. Nicole will do a story tomorrow for the Times News as a start.

#### Officials Reports

##### Borough Manager

Council received her December 2014 & January 2015 reports. She included a list of goals and projects for 2015 and would like council to let her know if there is anything to be added or prioritized on the list.

Nicole also told council that the borough secretary received a notice today that the DEP Recycling Grant was awarded in the amount of \$125,421. She and Councilor Rehrig congratulated Brenda on a job well done.

##### Borough Engineer

Nothing

##### Police

Nothing

### Mayor

Nothing

### Fire Chief

Chief Mriss thanked council for giving him this new role with the department and is looking forward to moving the department forward. Councilor Rehrig told Chief Mriss that we have the best fire department in the state.

### President of Council

Nothing

### Solicitor

Nothing.

### Treasurer

Nicole said the treasurer is requesting a \$200,000 total transfer from L&P to General Fund as needed. Councilors Flicking/Torok made the motions to approve the transfer and all were in favor.

### Committee Reports

Finance and Administration – nothing. Nicole said she is working with a Human Resource professional to complete the HR Manuals and job descriptions. She hopes to have both done by March.

Streets, Buildings and Codes – nothing.

Police, Fire and Safety – Joe & Scott welcomed the fire chief. John said Brian gave him a tour of the police station and commended him on doing a remarkable job.

Light & Power Committee – Joe said the new L&P building received its occupancy permit. Lonny is doing work on odds/ends to finish the building.

Sewer Committee – Helen said she was appointed co-chair of CCMA.

Public Works & Recreation – John commended AL on the handling the storm and kudos to his department for taking the initiative to get residents to move their cars so they could plow.

John will also be meeting with Tom and Scott to see about getting basketball courts at Baer Memorial and see about getting a new gym built at the Grove. He wants Tom to get a presentation together for council.

### Acceptance of Officials Reports

Councilors Bauchspies/Rehrig 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/Kreitz made the motions to accept the accounts payable as presented and all were in favor with no questions were objections.

### Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Litigation

Councilors Flickinger/Bauchspies made the motions to go in at 8:10 p.m.

### Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Flickinger/Rehrig made the motions to go back in at 8:30 p.m.

Councilor Kreitz said there is a parking issue at the Pyramid Gym and/or the dance studio. From 6:30–8:30 p.m. you can't find a parking place and cars are double parked on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street t the dance studio. This is really dangerous as cars coming up Ochre Street don't have to stop. It an accident waiting to happen at that intersection. What is it zoned? Nicole to the borough secretary to look into the matter.

Item #10 was discussed in executive session and council decided to have the solicitor do a title & lien search and the costs and report back to council next month.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Rehrig/ Bauchspies made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Koons  
Borough Secretary