

November 23, 2015

The regular meeting of Lehighton Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, November 23, 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, Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt, Mayor Tom Mase, Fire Chief Patrick Mriss, and Police Chief Brian Biechy. Absent: Addison Howland.

Pledge of Allegiance

Acknowledgement/Recognition of Austin Barrett and Jeremy Greene for police assistance on November 8th

The Mayor and Police Chief presented Mr. Greene with a citation and letter of appreciation for his help in following a vehicle involved in a hit and run on November 8, 2015. Mr. Barrett was not present and will receive his citation and letter at a later date.

GUEST SPEAKER – Dennis DeMara, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

He was present to answer any question council might have regarding the resolution on tonight's agenda pertaining to the pedestrian bridge project in Jim Thorpe. The borough has partial interest in two (2) small parcels that will become part of the trail.

Council had no questions and will proceed to vote on the resolution tonight.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Carlos Teets of 51Third Avenue thanked council on behalf of the Water Authority Board for the loader and skid roller. He also told council that the equipment and personnel will be made available should the borough need of it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of October 26, 2015

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

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to accept Al Weaver's resignation from the Police Civil Service Commission

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to accept with a letter of appreciation being sent and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to appoint John Ruppell and Jeff Bachman to the Police Civil Service Commission

Councilors Rehrig/Torok made motions to appoint both men and all were not in favor. Councilor Flickinger requested each candidate be appointed separately. Councilor Rehrig rescinded his motion seconded by Councilor Flickinger.

Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to appoint Jeff Bachman to the Police Civil Service Commission and all were not in favor and a roll call vote was taken with Councilors Torok, Kreitz, Bauchspies, Arner, Rehrig and Hunsicker voting in favor and Councilor Flickinger voting against. Motion carried.

Councilors Kreitz/Bauchspies made the motions to appoint John Ruppell to the Police Civil Service Commission. President Hunsicker had a letter from Councilor Flickinger stating he was abstaining from the vote because he is related to the appointee. Councilors Torok, Kreitz, Bauchspies, Arner, Rehrig and Hunsicker voted all in favor with Councilor Flickinger abstaining. Motion carried.

Motion to advertise the Garbage/Recycling Ordinance

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

Motion to adopt Resolution R011-2015 Land Acquisition for the D&L Pedestrian Bridge

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

Motion to hire Jeremy Greene as part time seasonal laborer for Public Works pending receipt of pre-employment physical and clearances

Councilors Flickinger/Kreitz made the motions to hire provided pre-employment conditions are met and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion on have free parking in the downtown until the New Year

Councilors Rehrig/Torok made the motions to allow free parking and all were in favor with no question or objections.

Motion to approve audit engagement letter for the 2015 services

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

Motion to approve Gehl Paver to go to the Lehigh Valley Municipal Surplus Auction (retroactive)

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

Motion to sell John Deere lawnmower to Mahoning Twp. for \$200

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to sell the lawnmower to Mahoning Twp. and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to grant waiver requiring contours for Blakeslee Commons Minor Subdivision/Lot Line Adjustment

Bruce recommended granting the waiver.

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

Motion to give conditional approval for the Blakeslee Commons Minor Subdivision/Lot Line Adjustment

Solicitor Nanovic Asked what the outstanding conditions are. Bruce said they were minor conditions cited in his October 13, 2015 letter and November 18, 2015 email to Lehigh Engineering.

Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to give conditional approval as per Bruce's list and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to adopt the proposed budget

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

Motion to advertise the 2015 Tax Levy Ordinance

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

Discussion on the purchase of the 2015 Weiler Asphalt Paver

President Hunsicker said he and the public works department saw the paver demonstrated and feel it will help the department do their job more efficiently. The cost is \$149,750 and will be taken out of capital reserves.

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

Discussion on the Winter Maintenance Meeting

Nicole said the meeting was held October 28th with the police and public works department. She wants to be sure council will support the police department towing cars not moved for snow plowing. Brian will spread the towing calls between the towing companies but wants to be sure council will back his department in doing this prior to the season starting. Council agreed to support the towing of cars.

Discussion on LASD request to consider a reduction in permit fees for school district projects

Nicole suggested tabling this item until BAI comes back with their comments.

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

Unfinished Business

Adoption of Ordinance 624-2015 pertaining to the construction and maintenance of sidewalks in the borough

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to re-advertise the ordinance as per the way Solicitor Nanovic wrote is and all were not in favor. Roll call vote taken with Councilors Torok, Kreitz, Rehrig and Hunsicker voting in favor of re-advertising and Councilors Flickinger, Bauchspies and Arner voting against re-advertising. Motion carried.

Discussion/Action on Sewer Use Ordinance

Nicole still has a few items to go over with Bruce and the attorney. She would like to add language for rooming houses, inflow and infiltration also. She will meet with Bruce and bring this back to next month's meeting.

Officials Reports

Borough Manager

Nicole said she will be applying for grants for South 1st Street for sidewalks and new lights like was done on the north side of 1st Street.

Lorah Excavating gave a cost of \$9,421 for repairing the 4th & Cedar Street inlet. Councilor Rehrig wants it inspected to be sure if will be safe through the winter.

114-116 South 3rd Street property appraisal will cost \$600. Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to approve the appraisal and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Borough Engineer

Bruce is still doing inspections at the stadium. He is working on plans for the D&L Trail and LSA at R. J. Walker's but there are still issues to resolve.

Police

Brian is going to meet with Eastern Time to fix smoke detector problems at the police station. Officer Bender did a Car Seat Safety Program. If enough parents attend the program the county will pay the officer's schooling. Brian also reported that of the 15 DUI's 5 were drug related impairments.

Mayor

Mayor Mase welcomed the new councilors in the audience tonight. He also said that there were two accidents in October. One was not towable and the other went to All Points towing. He also commented on the service for the relocation of the Sgt. Stanley Hoffman memorial.

Fire Chief

Patrick said the Red Cross along with volunteers installed 53 smoke detectors in town and educated residents on the importance of having them in homes and checking batteries to be sure they work.

President of Council

He read a letter from Public Works thanking council for having faith in them to do the work they were hired to do.

Solicitor

Nothing.

Treasurer

Additional list of bills totaling \$124,477.29 and a transfer from L&P to General Fund \$551,450 as needed.

Committee Reports

Finance and Administration – Councilor Arner thanked everyone for passing the budget.

Streets, Buildings and Codes – Nothing.

Police, Fire and Safety – Councilor Rehrig thanked both departments for continuing to do a good job.

Light & Power Committee – Nothing.

Sewer Committee – Nothing.

Public Works & Recreation – Nothing.

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 Flickinger/Torok made the motions to accept the accounts payable as presented and the additional list of bills totaling \$124,477.29 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 go in at 7:37 p.m.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Flickinger/Rehrig made the motions to go back in at 7:55 p.m.

Action on items from Executive Session

None

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary