

February 22, 2016

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, February 22, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Pres. Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Lisa Perry, Joe Flickinger, Helen Torok, and Darryl Arner and Jr. Councilor Addison Howland. Scott Rehrig was present electronically via Skype.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Tarone Blocker of Blocker Enterprises North 7th Street was present for two reasons. He said he was here 5 months ago questioning the reason he is not receiving any calls for towing. In the 5 months since coming before council he has not been called once. He said he has been part of this community forever, pays taxes here and utilities. His towing business does not cost the borough a cent yet all the towing calls go to companies from out of town who do not pay anything to this borough and who do not live here. Tarone said he would be called 65% of the times in the past. He is here to help the community, pays over \$20,000 in taxes and electric and yet does not receive any calls. All he wants to do is to work with the town. And to help make the town better. He is not asking to be friends or buddies or preferential treatment he would just like to be given towing calls to keep his company in business.

His 2nd reason for being here tonight is to ask why he wasn't notified the street would be shut down for 4 days. He had to go through his back yard for street access. A call would have been nice or a warning sign between the alley and 7th Street. He hopes council see the light and helps businesses out that help the community.

The Mayor said he has a report of one call that came in and the response was a ½ hour to an hour till truck could get there. The Mayor did not like being told he has not done his job. Tarone said there was never any missed calls on his phone and finds it hard to believe he received 1 call out of 20.

The Mayor said there were 5 accidents last month - 1 no tow, 1 to Frank's towing, and the rest to All Points. Tarone asked those at the meeting how many of them had AAA and less than half the people present raised their hands. Tarone then walked out.

Jerry McAward of Jim Thorpe River Sports was present to let council know he is working hard on his project to make it a reality and is looking forward to moving the project along. Councilor Rehrig said on behalf of council that they are anxiously awaiting his arrival.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of January 25, and Special Meeting of February 3, 2016.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to grant conditional final approval to the Land Development Plan for Jim Thorpe River Sports as per the conditions in the February 17th review letter from Bruce Steigerwalt

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

Motion to work with Jim Thorpe River Sports developer on bike/pedestrian path along Lehigh Drive

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

Motion to approve proposal from Chris Serfass Concrete Contractor in the amount of \$4,980 for the concrete in the 5th bay of the new Light & Power building

Councilors Flickinger/Torok made the motions to approve the proposal and all were in favor. Councilor Rehrig questioned if this was the lowest bid and was told by the Borough Manager that it was the only bid. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the List of records for destruction and adoption of Resolution R006-2016

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

Motion to approve Freedom Fire Protection proposal for Sidewall Sprinklers at L&P building – Cost \$1,970

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

Discussion on Security System Upgrades

Chief Biechy said the proposal from VistaCom is one we can grow with. It will be monitored through the police department. Every building has a standalone system and will give the police department equipment to add cameras however needed. The cost is about \$52,000 for cameras at the police department, equipment and monitors. He chose the 64 camera package to add throughout the borough as necessary. These are high-end cameras, pole-mounted with facial recognition; not just a body image. VistaCom does this for the federal government level and this is the reason for the cost.

The Borough Manager said networking and a demonstration needs to be worked out and brought back for action next month.

Brian said this is not a monitoring station. You can pull back the feed to see what happened and who was there. He would also look into one or two portable units.

Solicitor Nanovic asked if they will be visible. Brian said inside it would be a standard wall mount or a pinhole. At the pool it would be visible.

Council Torok asked who will determine the privacy of these cameras as there are liabilities with cameras. Brian said himself, Nicole and Tom. Brian said they will be in open public access areas, not in bathrooms but in hallways and on poles at the pool and maybe in Tom's office. Having worked for Homeland Security and the FBI she was concerned over the legalities of the camera placement.

Councilor Rehrig said he doesn't think council should know where they are placed. Councilor Torok thinks council should know. Brian said we are an open public entity with barely any reasonable place to violate privacy. Cameras used in chambers won't be same as at the Grove or his foyer. Nicole stated that VistaCom is a Costars vendor so no bidding is required.

Unfinished Business

None

Officials Reports

Borough Manager

She welcomed Mr. McAward to the meeting and told council she enjoys working with him very much. The Gypsy Hill culvert will be replaced in April and then the paving will be done. A pre-construction meeting for the lower park will be held next week and she has a meeting in Pittston tomorrow for the South 1st Street sidewalks.

Borough Engineer

Land Development projects are going on. The ad is out for the 2016 Street Paving Projects – Tar & Chip. The Gypsy Hill Project will be done by Public Works as training for their new equipment.

Police

Like the beard? Brian said with the 150th coming soon he sent a memo out to the department telling the guys if they want to support the Brothers of the Brush event by growing a beard they can do so. July 3rd they will be gone.

The hospital staff have requested training and the police department will be working with them on active shooter training.

Mayor

He will not give any more accident reports. Finished. You get what you asked for and that's it.

Fire Chief

Nothing.

President of Council

Nothing.

Solicitor

Nothing.

Treasurer

Nicole said the treasurer has provided an additional list of bills totaling \$91,067.63 for approval.

Committee Reports

Finance and Administration – nothing.

Streets, Buildings and Codes – nothing.

Police, Fire and Safety – Councilor Rehrig said good job to police and fire departments.

Light & Power Committee – nothing.

Sewer Committee – nothing.

Public Works & Recreation – absent. Councilor Rehrig feels we should start looking at building a new gym. It seems to have fallen by the wayside again and should be brought back to the agenda.

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 Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to accept the accounts payable plus the additional list of bills as presented and all were in favor with no questions or objections.
Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel

Councilors Flickinger/Arner made the motions to go in at 7:35 p.m.
Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Arner/Flickinger made the motions to go back in at 8 p.m.
Action on Items from Executive Session

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to appoint Jeff Smith as the Assistant Supervisor for the Public Works department effective March 1, 2016 with a 6 months' probation period and annual salary of \$46,000 and all were in favor with no questions.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to advertise for an Assistant Supervisor for the Public Works Department and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to advertise for part-time Public Works employees at the digression of the borough manager and all were in favor with no question.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to accept Joel Snyder's resignation 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 8:05 PM and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary