

January 25, 2016

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, January 25, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Pres. Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Lisa Perry, Jared McEvoy, Joe Flickinger, Helen Torok, 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 and Fire Chief Patrick Mriss. Absent: Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt and Jr. Councilor Addison Howland.

Pledge of Allegiance

Guest: Attorney William Schwab

Attorney Schwab presented borough council with over 150 photos of the borough as a 150th anniversary gift. He said Lehighon Borough as formed from Mahoning Township and the photos represent a timeline of the borough's history. Attorney Schwab felt it would be nice for the residents to know where they came from.

Council thanked Attorney Schwab for his generous gift.

Recognition and Thanks to Patricia and Arlington Everett for \$5,000 donation towards the Colonel Jacob Weiss Park Project

Nicole said the Everett's donation will be used to add new benches in the park. Council told Mr. Everett, who was present at the meeting, that the donation was greatly appreciated.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Autumn Abelovsky of North 10th Street asked borough council to consider changing the monthly meeting date due to the fact that people cannot attend the council meetings and the school board meetings because they are on the same night. She has addressed this with the school board at one of their meetings and would like both boards to work something out. She said years ago the meetings were on different nights and would like to see that again.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of December 21, 2015 and Reorganization Meeting of January 4, 2016.

The Mayor said there is one correction. He did not say it would take 4 ½ hours for Blocker's to respond to a tow. He said it would take a half hour.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to adopt Resolution R004-2016 appointing Chief Biechy, Councilor Rehrig, and Borough Manager Nicole Beckett to the Police Pension Committee

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

Motion to sign AMP Master Service Agreement for Agent Designation

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

Motion to approve the 2015 Occupational Exoneration List

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

Motion to grant conditional approval on the Jim Thorpe River Adventures Lot Consolidation Plan based on the conditions set forth in the review letter dated December 8, 2015

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

Discussion on the 2016 Street Program

Nicole said the list of street that will be part of this project were decided on after discussion with the Public Works Supervisor, Public Works Department, the Borough Engineer and herself. The cost will be approximately \$75,000.

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

Discussion/Action on the bids for the Colonel Jacob Weiss Park Project

Nicole said she met with Kobalt Construction today and feels a special meeting should be scheduled to award the contract. She suggested February 3rd at 6:30 pm to hold the special meeting and council was in favor of this.

Nicole stated the bus stop has been moved and will not be brought back. She also would like the parking meters be removed on North & South Streets at the park and to go with pavers for the interior walkways of the park. Council was in favor of recommendations

Discussion/Action on Shade Tree request

Nicole explained that the commission's goal is to plant 150 trees for the 150th anniversary of the borough. They need a way to recognize everyone who donated the trees and thought a tree mosaic on a wall in borough hall would be nice. It would be similar to the one at the hospital.

Councilors Flickinger/Torok made the motions to have the recognition tree put on the wall nearest Nicole's office and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Unfinished Business

None

Officials Reports

Borough Manager

Council received her report. She thanked the Public Works and Police Departments for a job well done during the storm. She also thanked the 150th committee for all their hard work in reaching their goal. Nicole said the auditors will be in next week; RACAP will close in March and she is working with Bruce on the many projects in the borough.

Borough Engineer

Absent

Police

Things are running well in his department. Brian said Public Works did a phenomenal job handling the storm. His department did not receive a single call or complaint. He is having a few building issues. The smoke detectors that were installed when the building was renovated are now covered by the drop ceilings. He has been in contact with Eastern Time who feels disconnecting them and installing new ones will be the most cost effective. They estimate it will cost about \$8,100.

Their other issue is that when the heating unit was installed there was no service contract put into place. Brian would like to contract with L&S to fix the problems as well as have L&S correct the smoke detector problem.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to spend the \$8,100 to fix the smoke detector issue and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Mayor

He also congratulated the Police and Public Works on a job well done. There were 5 accidents in December. One went to Frank's, 3 to All Points and one required no towing.

The Mayor said he is receiving complaints from residents about the time garbage is allowed to be put out. He feels putting trash out starting at noon the day before pick up would be better.

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to have the time changed to noon the day before pick up to start putting garbage out for pick up and noon the day after pick up to bring cans back in and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Fire Chief

Chief Mriss said once the emergency was called the fire station was staffed and he wanted to thank the members for being there. He also said their ISO audit was done and the rating went up from last year.

President of Council

He thanked Public Works, Light & Power and Police Departments for being out in the snow storm and doing an outstanding job.

Solicitor

He wanted to remind council the COG joint advertisement deadline is getting close. Council still has time to decide whether or not they wish to remain part of it or not.

Treasurer

Nicole said the treasurer is requesting a transfer of \$250,000 from Light & Power and has provided an additional list of bills totaling \$11,076.39 for approval.

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

Committee Reports

Finance and Administration – nothing.

Streets, Buildings and Codes – Public Works did a fantastic job all weekend.

Police, Fire and Safety – nothing.

Light & Power Committee – nothing.

Sewer Committee – borough employees are doing a fantastic job compared to other years.

Public Works & Recreation – very impressed with Public Works.

Acceptance of Officials Reports

Councilors Arner/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/Torok 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 and Litigation

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to go in at 7:41 p.m.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to go back in at 8:05 p.m.

Action on Items from Executive Session

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to appoint Barry Fisher as the Assistant Supervisor for the Light & Power department 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 terminate employee #69 and all were in favor with no question.

Councilors Flickinger/Rehrig made the motions to allow the Borough Manager to respond to any grievances filed by employee #69 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

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