

March 21, 2016

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, March 21, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Pres. Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Lisa Perry, Joe Flickinger, Jared McEvoy, Helen Torok, Darryl Arner, Scott Rehrig and Jr. Councilor Addison Howland.

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.

Pledge of Allegiance

1st CDBG Public Hearing – David Bodnar, Director of Planning & Development -- See attached.

GUEST SPEAKER – William Moyer – Digital Billboard Proposal

Mr. Moyer said the sign will be approximately 6x12 foot installed near the Deaf Welcome building on borough property. He said the idea started a few months ago. He had installed a sign for the Borough of Northampton and it worked well. Mr. Moyer lives here and thought it would work just as well for the Lehighon Borough to inform residents what is going on in the area. He and his brother David Moyer would be doing the graphic design. They will lease the property and all upfront cost will be paid by them. There will be 2 full slots for the borough's use with access for updating the sign done by the borough if preferred. If not, then the borough would submit their information to Mr. Moyer who will send a proof to the borough for approval and then he will update the sign for us.

Councilor Rehrig said he was ok with the project as long as Mr. Moyer was held responsible for putting up and maintaining the sign, the liability, and all costs and goes through the borough manager and the borough secretary for anything he would need from the borough. Councilor Arner asked who would pay for the electric. Mr. Moyer said he would be paying for it.

Nicole said she has been working with Mr. Moyer for the past 4 months. She said he is very thorough and is highly referenced by Northampton borough.

Solicitor Nanovic asked Mr. Moyer if he has the lease drawn up. Mr. Moyer said each municipality handles this type of thing differently and prefers to work with the borough solicitor to draw up the lease.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to allow the borough manager and solicitor to work with Mr. Moyer to get everything in place and bring back to council.

Mr. Moyer said he has already spoken to the zoning officer who said a Special Exception is required but the lease needs to be approved prior to that occurring.

GUEST SPEAKER – Brent Green – COG

Mr. Green wanted to address council about the nearing deadline to advertise the COG Ordinance. If council decides to be part of the COG then they need to approve paying their portion of the advertising costs amounting to \$35-\$40. They are working on making the COG official. They are looking to do one advertisement for the ordinance. They are looking into going for the LSA grant to purchase a milling machine. Any participant wishing to use the equipment purchased through the grants would pay a fee and maintenance charge for using it. They will look into purchasing office supplies and insurance for employees next to see if a better rate can be gotten.

Mr. Green said a newsletter will be coming out soon. Councilor Rehrig asked if there are by-laws yet and was told yes.

President Hunsicker asked where the equipment would be stored and was told in a pole building that went in through a grant. It will be up by the Communication Center on county property if they receive the grant award.

Nicole asked if we decide to drop out what must be done. Solicitor Nanovic said 30-60 days written notice must be given. Councilor Rehrig asked if we can be a silent member and Mr. Green said yes.

Councilors Flickinger/Rehrig made the motions to approve the fee and all were in favor.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of February 22, 2016

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

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve the Carbon County Senior Games May 3 thru May 12th and use Baer Memorial Field and Rec Center

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

Motion to approve Resolution R007-2016 – match funding for either Baer Memorial Park project or Grove Rehabilitation project if awarded grant

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

Motion to approve donation to United Veteran's Organization for Memorial Day services (\$250 paid in the past)

Nicole said they have also asked to use the upper park and amphitheater for a Memorial Day service as it is getting harder for those walking in the parade to walk.

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

Motion to advertise Pool Palm Tree and Soft Ice Cream Machine

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

Approval of Change Order #1 for Colonel Jacob Weiss Park Construction project

Nicole asked to have \$21,000 deducted. We received 3 credits. One for sidewalk scoring, one for allowing them to use our dump site and then the crosswalks.

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

Request to hold 5K at Trailhead on October 8, 2016.

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to approve provided organizers meet with the borough manager, police chief and mayor first to see that there are no issues and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion/Action on the 2016 Paving Program Bids

Nicole said 2 bids were received, Bruce and Attorney Nanovic have reviewed them, and they meet PennDOT approval. Asphalt Maintenance Solutions had the lowest bid of \$54,519.15.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to award the project to AMS at a cost of \$54,519.15 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion/Action on the Sand/Stone/Bituminous Material Bids

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to award the bids as presented and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion on Gypsy Hill Road Weight Limit restrictions on Trucks

Nicole said the culvert has been replaced and once the road is repaved and open again trucks should be rerouted a different way or we will have wasted our time and money repaving it as the infrastructure is not there to handle it. This can be done either by placing a road weight limit or restricting trucks to local deliveries only. The latter being the easiest. The solicitor said he will need to look into how to go about prohibiting the trucks. He knows the weight limit requires an engineering study. Bruce said Mahoning Township looked into it for Ashtown Road and said it basically is just signage. Council is in favor of restricting trucks to local deliveries only and post weight limit signs for trucks.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to have the solicitor look at the rules and regulations and report back to the next meeting and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion/Action on the PLIGIT Procurement Card Resolution R008-2016

Nicole said this is a credit card that pays us back for what we spend and the treasurer is completely on board with the idea. It will replace the credit cards we currently have and we will be using it to pay some of our vendors. She will be able to control the spending limits and users from her computer. There is never a balance at the end of the month. On the 30th or 31st of each month the money is transferred directly to pay for it. The program comes highly recommended.

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to approve the cards and adopt the resolution and all were in favor. Nicole said policies will follow.

Discussion/Action on the Unifirst Proposal for Fire Resistant Clothing for the Light & Power Department

Nicole said Lonny wants this. He spent \$1,600 last year. This company asks for a 5 year agreement. The solicitor does not like some things and thinks we should check with other companies to see what they offer and their cost before deciding anything.

Councilors Rehrig/McEvoy made the motions to have Nicole and Lonny to look at other vendors for cost comparison, contract requirements and fees prior to making a decision.

Approval of purchase of gift certificates for Administrative Professionals Day

Councilors Arner/Rehrig made the motions to approve the purchase of \$30 gift certificates and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve Kobalt payment application #1 in amount of \$45,000

Councilors Rehrig/Torok made the motions to approve payment #1 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Request to hold 5K Kids Gone Mad Run/Walk at Trailhead on May 14, 2016

Sarah Liable was present to answer questions from council and tell them about her idea. She would like to create a website that lets kids know where they can volunteer and who needs volunteers in their area. They asked if she had liability insurance for the race and her mother, who was also present said no but would see that it was obtained prior to the race if someone could tell her how to go about getting it. Nicole explained the process and was assured the

insurance would be in place for that day. Chief Biechy was confident that his department and the fire police can handle the event.

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

Unfinished Business

Motion to adopt revised Garbage Ordinance

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

Continued Discussion/Action on Surveillance System Proposal from VistaCom

Council feels further review is in order. They asked if a demonstration would be given prior to purchase and Brian said there is one scheduled for April 14th at 6 pm. He is having PenTeleData come in and look at the wiring and things for the project

Councilor Torok asked if the board would know the locations the cameras are placed and Councilor Rehrig said he did not think that was a good idea. He felt only the police department should know where the cameras are placed. He said Nicole and Brian should continue to work on this project and when they are satisfied with the equipment they wish to purchase they should bring it back for approval as they have put a great deal of time and thought into this project.

Councilor Rehrig said he has a few unfinished business items he'd like brought back. 209 N. 1st Street is one. He'd like the cost of what it will be to take the building down. He asked if any firemen were sent to fire inspection training and Patrick said yes. They have sample ordinances that have to be adopted before inspections can be done. Scott then asked if there were any legalities to be taken care of before it can be brought down. The solicitor said the owner is willing to give it to the borough but he has to be sure there are no insured liens against the property. He will look into it.

Councilor Rehrig also wants the new gym brought back with engineering studies and other required studies done to get that project started.

Councilors Rehrig/McEvoy made the motions to have a feasibility and engineering study done and all were not in favor. Councilor Flickinger asked why build a new rec center if we lose \$20,000 a year. If utilized to the max how can we be losing money? Nicole stated that the recreation Director's salary is not considered a loss to the building. Council pissed away more money on the hydro project for nothing. Councilor Rehrig asked Councilor Flickinger to watch his language. A roll call vote was taken with Councilors Perry, McEvoy, Torok, Arner, Rehrig and Hunsicker voting yes and Councilor Flickinger voting no. Motion carried.

Officials Reports

Borough Manager

Nicole went over her report. She said the lower park is underway and Kobalt Construction is great! She is working with police department, Jerry McAward, and the D&L Trail on the pedestrian trail.

Borough Engineer

He reported that the bill for the inlets at 4th and Cedar Streets is missing. He is waiting for PennDOT certifications. They were to come with the inlets but were not received. Bruce said we may want to use Liquid Fuels to cover the cost when the certifications arrive.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to approve the \$3,840 payment pending certifications being received and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Bruce said Corner Cone said they are pushing the 90-days. Planning Commission has been working on this. He feels council should grant conditional approval of the land development plan conditioned upon his last review letter.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to grant the conditional approval and all were in favor with 0 questions or objections.

Bruce said the streets project last year came in at \$1.90 sq. ft. and this year has come in at \$1.37 freeing up more money for other projects.

Bruce also reported there are outstanding issues with Jim Thorpe River Sports, Blakeslee Commons and AutoZone.

Councilor Rehrig said the bypass is still in bad shape and wonders if the work should be contracted out. Bruce said yes. He said in the spring of 2015 the estimated cost given was \$240,000 - \$250,000.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to go ahead with the project and put bid specs together and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilor Rehrig said the north and south end of the bypass is terrible. The north end has a body shop and the south end is worse. It needs to be cleaned up on South 1st Street and both sides of the bypass. Councilor Torok has photos of the slum.

Police

Chief Biechy said his department is moving in the right direction. Officer Szozda was named Officer of the Year and is at the Legion receiving his award.

Car #3 has the in-car camera in it and it's up and running. The hospital and schools are making improvements on their projects.

Chief Biechy also pointed out the new police report and hopes it is what council wanted,

Mayor

He will have a proclamation for Arbor Day at the next meeting.

Fire Chief

Chief Mriss said 3 members now meet the NFPA standards.

President of Council

Nothing.

Solicitor

Nothing.

Treasurer

Nothing.

Committee Reports

Finance and Administration - nothing.

Streets, Buildings and Codes - Councilor Flickinger said thanks to public works for a great job on Gypsy Hill Road.

Police, Fire and Safety - Councilor Rehrig said police and fire departments are doing an exceptional job. Councilor Flickinger said they will be doing a smoke alarm event on the north end of town in April.

Light & Power Committee - Nicole gave the L&P department kudos for doing a great job during the storm on Lehigh Alley.

Sewer Committee - nothing.

Public Works & Recreation - Councilor McEvoy said public works did a great job over the winter and hopes they come through strong in spring.

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.

Addendum to Agenda

Motion to grant 60-day waiver request on LASD New Elementary Center Land Development Plan – Approved by Planning Commission at March 8th meeting

Bruce said the school district is requesting we waive the 90-days and grant an extra 60 days to act.

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

Motion to approve additional bill totaling \$1,755.29

Were approved with the list of bills.

Motion to approve Lower Park Project bills totaling \$11,201.85

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to approve 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 8:20 p.m.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Rehrig/Perry made the motions to go back in at 8:40 p.m.

Action on Items from Executive Session

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to remove Travis Zanders from the part-time public works roster and all were in favor with no questions.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Flickinger/Perry made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary