

October 24, 2016

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, October 24, 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, Darryl Arner, Scott Rehrig and Jr. Councilor Addison Howland.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

2<sup>nd</sup> CDBG PUBLIC HEARING

See attachment. Grant had a question. Why 902? For curb upgrades being it is PennDOT owned? Nicole said because it's part of the sewer rehab project and she figured we would need to include it being it is our project. Bruce said after sewer rehab on 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and Hamilton Streets we were planning to mill the street down and put paving over it. If we want to use liquid fuels to pay for over lay we need ADA ramps at corners. The school will increase the turning lanes to the school due to the new elementary center going in. Nicole said we are a year out before we can use it.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Theresa Chapman 239 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Her son sold over 2,000 in popcorn sales for Cub Pack 82 so much thanks to the Lehighon community.

She asked speed bumps a possibility at the Grove? Chief Biechy said speed bumps may not be necessary. The neighbors have been addressed. Cars have been talked to. If you say you call then actually call. The kids are more spiteful when you take matters into your own hands. The police do run 2 people per shift and are doing what they can. Theresa said it's to the point of being done out of spite. Brian said he sees the logs and his guys are there. She flags the officers down to let them know what is going on and gives the officers times to come and check. Councilor Arner thinks speed bumps would be a problem when plowing snow. The kids play in the street to cause problems. She just wanted to let council and Chief Biechy know what is going on.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of September 26, 2016

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

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve the 2015 Utility Write Offs

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

Motion to adopt Resolution R018-2016 – State Aid

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

Motion to advertise Iron & Bridge Street 12,470 Volt Circuit Upgrades with date to be determined

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

Motion to approve purchase for new computer system and server for the Utility Billing Office

Nicole said this is for the new billing software that is coming in.

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

Discussion/Action on the Letter of Interest for the Parks and Recreation Board

Nicole said we advertised for the 7 member board and must be a resident of the borough. Do you want to advertise opening it up to nonresidents, or go with a 5 member board? Nicole said quite a few members of the 150 Committee are not borough residents and would like to stay active. We have only received 4 letters of interest so far.

Councilors Flickinger/Perry made the motions to advertise to change the ordinance to allow nonresidents. Not all were in favor. Roll call yes-Councilors Perry, McEvoy, Flickinger, Arner, Rehrig, Hunsicker. No- Councilor Torok. This will be voted on at the November meeting.

Councilor Torok made the motions to advertise again for residents to join board. She explained there were complaints about residents and neighbors not being involved in the 150<sup>th</sup> so they can now offer participation. No second to motion.

If more residents send in letters council can decide to keep the ordinance as it stands now. Scott said maybe we should table this item until next month. Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to table any action on advertising for more letters of interest and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion/Action on the recommendation of the Lehighon Sewer Authority on the monthly monitoring of the flow metering

Nicole said the LSA minutes of October 4<sup>th</sup> have been provided in your packet. Proposals for I&I were presented. They recommend phase one be to go for proposals for flow metering sufficient to measure long term flow at 7 locations as identified by the map and monitoring of them as approved by LSA. Kris said we currently have 3 flow meters. Only one person knows how to use them. More people need to be trained; then he can determine how much time it will take to monitor. Kris is not one of the people who knows how to use them. The borough manager and Kris are looking into training and purchasing more meters.

Discussion on request from Tax Collector to consider increase

Grant said if she doesn't get reelected it's for the new person. Solicitor Nanovic said if council wishes to do this it must be done by February of next year by resolution. Nicole said her last increase was in 2010. You can't wait for the election. It must be done prior. Nicole can look into how we compare to other municipalities.

Discussion on request from Tom Evans to raise daily admission fees for non-county residents

Grant said there is a problem at the pool. He believes when Beltzville is full they come to our pool. There were numerous problems with these people this past summer. Our members complain and the police have been called a few times.

Councilors Rehrig/Perry made the motions to go with Tom's suggestions and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Nicole asked for motion to rehire rec employees for the winter program.

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

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### Discussion on moving forward with the Zoning Ordinance/SALDO update

Councilors Rehrig/Perry made the motions to move forward with this item and adopt the resolution for funding with assistance from Carson Helfrich to apply for grant funding and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilor Rehrig is also working diligently to bring down buildings on First Street. He would like funds put aside in the event structures need to be brought down in a hurry. Nicole said she took training provided by PSAB and gave council a handout with funding options and names of people who they can speak to about what can be done. She said she will speak with the Gulotta Group to obtain a proposal. Councilor Rehrig said we have exceptional fire and police departments and he does not want them in those buildings should something happen.

##### Officials Reports

###### Borough Manager

Council received her report. She would like input by October 31<sup>st</sup> for the 2017 budget. The employee manual was distributed to the union for comments and is requesting it back by November 18<sup>th</sup> to have it finalized by year end. The letter for the South 4<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalk issue has been sent. If no response, the constable will deliver the letter to the property owner. She also needs council to approve holding the Officer Down 5K and Community Day on April 8, 2017.

Councilor Rehrig/Arner made the motions to approve the 5K and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilor Rehrig said 4<sup>th</sup> & Cedar Streets is horrible yet. He was told the contractor would be in but he hasn't seen anyone yet. Nicole said she is in contact with the contractor but asked if she should get someone else to do the work. The borough engineer said they are waiting for the ADA ramps. Nicole will follow up tomorrow and if the contractor can't do the job she will get other bids.

###### Borough Engineer

Nothing

###### Police

Chief Biechy said Vista Com gave him the final drawing. They will start the install on November 28. Larry Diehl talked to him about getting some fire extinguishers in the building. He will see it's taken care of.

As far as training, two officers will be attending school in December for bomb recognition school outside of Philadelphia. Brian did speak to the director of the Carbon County Terroristic Taskforce and they have no money for training unless you have a fully functional bomb tech or SWAT team in place.

###### Mayor

Nothing.

### Fire Chief

Chief Mriss Patrick checked into the same type of training as the police but it is during working hours on December 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. Councilors Rehrig/Arner made motions to allow Patrick to attend with pay if allowable with the Water Authority and his wages paid by Lehighon Borough.

### President of Council

Nothing

### Solicitor

Nothing

### Treasurer

She provided an additional list of bills totaling \$788.82 for approval and a \$200,000 transfer from Light & Power to the General Fund.

### Committee Reports

Finance and Administration – Darryl Arner, Chair; Lisa Perry, Co-Chair – Darryl said that he went to Palmerton on October 16<sup>th</sup> and noticed all the streets were paved. He contacted the borough manager there who said they contacted the Public Finance Management Group to orchestrate a project. This group had them take out a \$2.5 million bank note to do roads. He thinks we should look into this as they did not increase millage but did improve property values in town.

Streets, Buildings and Codes – Joe Flickinger, Chair; Darryl Arner, Co-Chair – Nothing.

Police, Fire and Safety – Scott Rehrig, Chair; Jared McEvoy, Co-Chair – Scott said the fire department is doing a good job. He personally witnessed our police at a funeral and they were topnotch. We need to look at every intersection in the borough to correct sight distance problems. We need to take down whatever we need to and crosswalks need to be painted at every intersection. The streets need to be marked before winter as well.

Light & Power Committee – Helen Torok, Chair; Joe Flickinger, Co-Chair – Helen had a request from Lonny to finish his building before the permit expires. He is hoping to secure bids and have the work done over the winter. She read a letter from Lonny stating the new building will be for use by his department and the old building will be for storage. Nicole said the new building needs the 5<sup>th</sup> bay, breakroom and offices completed.

Councilors Flickinger/Perry made the motions to move on Lonny's request and all were in favor with no questions or objections. Nicole said Lonny plans to be off late October to January.

Sewer Committee – Lisa Perry, Chair; Helen Torok, Co-Chair – Nothing.

Public Works & Recreation – Jared McEvoy, Chair; Scott Rehrig, Co-Chair --Jared praised Public Works for the improvements to the Grove and thanked them for their help with Rocktoberfest.

### Acceptance of Officials Reports

Councilors Flickinger/Perry made the motions to accept the official's reports as presented with additional list of bills and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to approve a transfer of \$200,000 from L&P Fund to the General Fund 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 budgetary transfer and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel

Councilors Arner/Rehrig made the motions to go in at 8:10 p.m.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to go back in at 9:21 p.m.

Action on Items from Executive Session

Motion to promote Corporal Scott Prebosnyak to Sergeant effective January 1, 2017

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

Motion to hire Dane O'Brien pending pre-employment screenings – effective December 1, 2016 – on recommendation of Police Civil Service Commission

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

Motion to hire Jonathan Tracy as a full-time Public Works employee pending pre-employment screenings

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to hire with a probationary period.

Motion to reclass Ren Wentz as Lineman II effective November 9, 2016

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

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Arner/Flickinger made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 PM and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Koons  
Borough Secretary