

August 28, 2017

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, August 28, 2017. 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, Scott Rehrig, Darryl Arner 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

GUEST SPEAKER: Lehighon Memorial Library

Jane Roberts

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of June 26, 2017

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

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to advertise vacancy on the Lehighon Water Authority (term ends 12/31/18)

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

Motion to approve Resolution R016-2017 authorizing submission of DCED Multimodal Transportation Grant in the amount of \$371,065 for the Upper Park Connectivity Improvements

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

Motion to approve funding commitment letter in the amount of \$159,028 for the DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant

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

Discussion/Action on the Public Works 1988 GMC Dump Truck

Nicole said the truck is almost 30 years old and beyond repair. She discussed with Solicitor Nanovic whether we needed to put it out for bid or salvage it being that the value is less than \$1,000. At this time it is Public Works and her recommendation to salvage it and get what we can.

Councilors Rehrig/Perry made the motions to salvage the truck and all were in favor with no objections.

The borough engineer asked if it could be put out as part of the COG auction sometime in September. Nicole said she can look into seeing it is worth doing that and council can amend the motion to include salvaging or auctioning the truck.

Councilor Rehrig rescinded his motion.

Councilors Rehrig/Perry made the motions to salvage the truck or auction it off as part of the COG auction; whichever is more feasible and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion/Action on the NextEra Power Contract Extension

Nicole said that the contract isn't due until September but she wanted council to be aware of what the pricing will be for the next 5 years of the contract. She also presented the blended pricing and straight extension structure. She would like to get an idea of we are looking at – blended or straight extension.

Councilor Rehrig said that one starts immediately and the other doesn't. Nicole said yes and you have the choice to proceed with the contract extension, pursue a contract supply from another supplier or continue in the existing contract remaining with the delivered pricing as we move forward.

Motion to advertise No Parking Ordinance on Ninth Street

Nicole said we did complete all required submission for the traffic signal. She has been working with the solicitor on the no parking ordinance and the required easements. She met with Chief Biechy and Jeff Smith onsite regarding additional options for parking on Bridge Street. If we allow for parking on the South side of Bridge Street we can create 14-16 additional spaces. This ordinance includes all the requirements of the 9th Street Signal for the project. It also, at the recommendation of the chief would include no parking on both sides of 9th Street to 443 with no parking on both the East and West sides. If you are interested, before we advertise we could amend the Bridge Street Ordinance. Solicitor Nanovic said however the distances are not correct in the draft. Nicole said we would go 60 feet off the curb from 9th Street back and then down to Blue Ridge Pressure Casting with about 20 feet to spare giving us an additional 14-16 spaces. President Hunsicker asked if we would mark it then and Nicole said yes. The solicitor said we could include the Bridge Street Ordinance change in with this to save money on advertising.

Councilors Rehrig/Perry made the motions to advertise once the corrections have been made and to include parking on Bridge Street and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion on request regarding Carbon Street and borough owned property

The borough manager said this request came from Tami Berkes. She is requesting Council consider making Carbon Street one-way in its entirety from North 3rd Street to North 1st Street. There have also been issues with the borough owned property at 1st & Carbon Streets. It's a grassy area with some pavement on it. We are looking into ways to rectify that.

Ms. Berkes said she submitted a letter outlining the problems. She owns a property there that takes up the whole block of North 1st Street. There is the property across the street that we have been using along with other people for parking. Her main concern is that there have been a few accidents in that one block. Her side of the street has no parking at all and can only use the property there that the borough owns. We would like to see it become all one way so we would have parking.

President Hunsicker said this was looked at before and he believes that one block was kept as two ways in case there was an accident or something happened on 1st Street traffic could be rerouted up Carbon to 2nd Street.

Nicole said there is a parking issue down there. She did talk to the other property owners in the area. Parking was taken away on 1st Street and there are parking restrictions for the driveway to the property we own.

Ms. Berkes said her tenants do park in the lot but there have been some people changing the dimensions and adding cinder blocks to save their spot. She can understand what was said about the street being the way it is to defer traffic but none of the other streets are like that. She wasn't sure why Carbon Street was like this but she thought it was worth asking about because she has 4 units in that building.

Nicole said this is not a parking lot. It is a grass area that the borough has not maintained in years. There is asphalt on part of it as a driveway for Mr. Wentz who paid to have it put there. We have some sort of agreement with him. The solicitor said yes Mr. Wentz had already put it in and he believes we gave him some sort of license agreement 5 or 10 years ago so he wouldn't try and make a claim. We can revoke it at any time. Nicole also told council that this property was on the list of borough properties to be sold. There is definitely an issue there with parking in a lot that we do not maintain. The adjoining property owners maintain it.

Councilor Flickinger asked the borough engineer if the area was large enough for a parking lot. Bruce believed it was. Councilor Flickinger asked Ms. Berkes if the property went up for sale would she be interested in purchasing it for her tenants. Mr. Berkes said then the issue becomes the driveway and those are the people we are having problems with. Not Mr. Wentz.

Council decided to have Bruce look into the agreement and see what we have and to bring the matter back to next month's agenda.

Unfinished Business

Discussion/Action on the Police Facebook Page Proposal

Chief Biechy said council has been provided the preliminary look at what the department wished to do. Councilor Perry has agreed to help out with it. Councilor Flickinger said it's almost a necessary evil today. Chief Biechy agreed. He wants this to be an avenue for one-way information to the public. The department's doors are always open for residents to contact them any time if they need to speak with someone. This page is not a place where we want residents to voice their concerns or opinions but a good way good way for us to get information out.

Councilors Rehrig/Perry made the motions to allow the Police Facebook Page and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilor Rehrig had one item to discuss under Unfinished Business. He would like council to start the process to demolish the old sewer plant. Nicole said they did get a cost estimate about 5 years ago and it was around \$100,000. Councilor Rehrig said there reason he brought it up is because it is a liability to the borough. Nicole said she knows we have to bid it. President Hunsicker asked if we have to go back to the Sewer Authority with this request. Nicole said we can notify them of it and if they have an issue they can let her know. That is what she did with the pump station. They did talk to her about it already and so has Public Works. Because they are a non-operating authority everything ultimately comes back to council. This item died for lack of a second.

ADDENDUM

Request from Dayne Callaby to set up Sno Cone stand at Trailhead – Beyond scope of the Food Truck Ordinance

Discussed at beginning of meeting.

Motion to advertise 1994 Freightliner body with condition that bidder is responsible for removal

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

Appointment of council representative for Zoning/SALDO Ordinance meetings and an alternate – First meeting scheduled for 6 pm August 3rd at Borough Hall

Councilor Arner agreed to be the representative with Councilor Rehrig being the alternate and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve the additional list of bills totaling \$74,905.45

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

Officials Reports

Borough Manager

Council received her report. She did follow up on the request from Bonnie & Clyde's making multiple site visits. It appears to be a civil issue between the neighboring property owner and Bonnie & Clyde's. There really is nothing more the borough can do unless we can get Mr. McConnell to cooperate. As an FYI, she did meet with Bruce regarding the asphalt zipper maintenance. The equipment was purchased as part of a grant received by the COG. The borough mechanic will do the maintenance of it and we will bill the COG for anything that is done.

Borough Engineer

Nothing.

Police

Chief Biechy said Officer Green's training is going very well. Hopefully he will be out and in the car by the end of August. We did complete the grant for the bullet proof vests again this year. We applied for 5 and that was approved. The guys have been fitted and they are ordered. He did contact Alert. One of the in-house projects being worked on is to convert some of our record management system into a kind of electronic based system to go a little greener on some of our more minor reports. Quarterly evaluations are done and should be handed out within the next week. He and the borough manager did complete and submit the COPS grant and are waiting for a reply. He has been in contact with Verizon who thinks they can offer his department a wireless modem that they call a Cradle Point. This will assist his department in transmitting high impact data which will help them with their camera situation in transferring that data back to wherever we put the camera back to the police department. He and the borough manager have a meeting with them on Wednesday.

Mayor

Mayor Mase asked if Chief Mriss and Mr. McAward met to discuss use of the sewer plant area. Chief Mriss said they talked after the meeting last month and again the other day. We will do a site visit in the next week or two. Mayor Mase said he was thinking that

council should get involved in this. A businessman asked for parking and he is left in limbo.

Councilor Flickinger said it is his impression from the conversation he, the fire chief and Mr. McAward have had that is going to be worked out. Mr. McAward will be able to use utilize the location. Mr. McAward said he agrees with Councilor Flickinger that all has been positive and will be worked out.

Councilor Rehrig asked the fire chief is they enter the old sewer plant and Chief Mriss said no. President Hunsicker said there are two doors open on the building right now. Nicole said she has been dealing with some damage we have had down there and that is why the liability issue was brought up. That was part of bringing it up for demolition

Fire Chief

Chief Mriss said their annual Strategic Planning Meeting is scheduled for August 5th at 9 a.m. at the fire station. All of council is welcome to be there.

He asked to have Pennsylvania Act 172 of 2016 added to the packets. State legislators passed the Act last year allowing local municipalities to grant a tax credit at the local level to volunteer emergency services either on the property taxes or earned income taxes. He asked to have council read it to be aware that it does exist. It would be a great asset for the volunteers from a retention and recruitment aspect as our numbers are dwindling. From what he read it would be a very minute amount but every little bit helps.

President of Council

Nothing.

Solicitor

Nothing.

Treasurer

Nothing.

Committee Reports

Finance and Administration – Darryl Arner, Chair; Lisa Perry, Co-Chair – Nothing.

Streets, Buildings and Codes – Joe Flickinger, Chair; Darryl Arner, Co-Chair – Joe said obviously our Public Works department has done a phenomenal job so far this summer keeping up with their stuff. Jeff has really stepped up to the plate of taking over in the interim. Code wise, we still need to work on getting some of the property maintenance taken care of. It is an ongoing process.

Police, Fire and Safety – Scott Rehrig, Chair; Jared McEvoy, Co-Chair – Scott told the police and fire departments to keep up the good work and thanked them for their services.

Light & Power Committee – Helen Torok, Chair; Joe Flickinger, Co-Chair – Helen said she will be setting up a meeting with Lonny to talk about some cyber concerns.

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

Public Works & Recreation – Jared McEvoy, Chair; Scott Rehrig, Co-Chair – Jared said great job keeping up on the parks. They are doing a great job. It seems that everyone is enjoying the pool. It is always packed.

Acceptance of Officials Reports

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

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel

Councilors Rehrig/Perry at 7:54 p.m.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Rehrig/McEvoy at 8 p.m.

Action on Items from Executive Session

None.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Flickinger/Perry at 8:15 p.m.

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary