

February 13, 2017

The Special Meeting of the Lehighon Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, February 13, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Lisa Perry, Jared McEvoy, Helen Torok and Darryl Arner. Scott Rehrig attended via Skype. Absent: Joe Flickinger. Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Borough Secretary Brenda Koons, Mayor Tom Mase and Police Chief Brian Biechy.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of January 23, 2017

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

New Business

Discussion on proposed traffic signal at 9th & Bridge Streets

The borough manager said council received a check list of items necessary to pursue the traffic signal at 9th & Bridge Streets due the construction of the elementary center. The list items are required by the school district's Highway Occupancy permit and the permit to do this work. Nicole went over the list. Council's approval is required to submit the application for the new signal. A resolution authorizing the borough manager to submit the application for the traffic signal. The borough would be the applicant/authorizing agent to apply for the HOP. The borough would apply on behalf of the school district. The borough would need to give approval and agree to the parking restrictions shown on the plans. An ordinance would need to be adopted and the borough would maintain the no parking signs. Once the ordinance is adopted a copy must be provided to PennDOT prior to the issuance of the HOP permit. Borough comments must be submitted along with the school district's resubmission. The borough must address property owners whose access is impacted by the auxiliary lanes. Specifically properties impacted by the proposed left turn lanes along with signatures. Attorney Schwab did obtain the signatures. Signal easements would need to be obtained and Attorney Nanovic would proceed if approved by council to move forward.

We removed the right turn only and delineators from 9th Street being it would have caused trouble with the traffic study and delay the traffic study and HOP process. Are we still looking to pursue this? We are also discussing whether we would need separate agreement for the legal and engineering costs for the traffic signal paperwork or whether it would be covered under the development agreement. Attorney Nanovic said it should be covered by the development agreement but we can ask for a letter from the school confirming that it is covered under the development agreement. Should council decide to move forward with this there has been discussion on considering a memorandum of understanding and an escrow account for the traffic signal maintenance. These are the items we would need to act on if council wishes to proceed.

Councilor Rehrig asked about the properties affected by the left turn lane. Attorney Schwab said the only person having an issue with the project is Kim DePue but everyone has signed off on receiving the plans.

Councilor Rehrig asked Attorney Schwab if he knew what the width of the road is going to be after the turning lanes are installed. Attorney Schwab said 12 feet for the turning lane and 14 feet on either side for the others.

Nicole said that the developer would be responsible for the construction and construction costs. The borough would be responsible for maintenance, repair and

ownership of the traffic signal. Attorney Schwab said the borough would also be responsible for the signs, ADA crosswalks with timers on them. ADA crosswalks will go in at 9th & Mahoning, 9th & Union also.

The Borough Engineer said the borough will be required to apply for 2 HOP permits for the traffic signal and the intersection at 9th & Union Streets because they are borough streets intersection the state highway. The intersection at Mahoning & Indian Lane is the school district. The school district will apply for that because it is a private road entering on a state highway.

Councilor Rehrig asked why the borough will maintain the road markings at 9th & Union when 9th Street is a state highway. Bruce said because we will be the applicant and the HOP owner of that intersection and we will be responsible for all street markings, crosswalks, and transition zones.

Nicole said Attorney Nanovic, the police chief, mayor, L&P superintendent, Public borough engineer, councilor president and herself all attended a meeting at the district and that is where they received this list of items for the project.

Councilor Rehrig said under the word "safety" we still want to consider the right hand turn after the project is completed onto 902. He doesn't feel the borough should have their police force there on a morning and afternoon basis. Originally he and president Hunsicker asked for 2 traffic signals. One at 9th & Union and the other at 9th & Bridge. He is happy to be getting half of what they asked for. Councilor Rehrig proposes having the ordinance ready so when the school district is finished with their project the borough can activate it. Bruce said the borough would have to get a new HOP permit to make that change. Bruce said he thinks applying for the HOP now will affect the traffic patterns and counts already done by the school district assuming that you are going to have a center lane to go left or straight onto Union Street and then turn right onto 9th Street. By requesting that change in an HOP it will change all the traffic counts at that intersection as well as at 9th & Bridge Street. From what we learned at the PennDOT meeting they would then have to modify their traffic study to reflect the change at that intersection at this point in time. Councilor Rehrig said we can wait and do it later. Bruce said we can but the borough might have to pay for a traffic study. Bruce said with the signal in place there will be an interruption in traffic flow on 9th Street which will impact the traffic study.

Councilor Rehrig said no one knows what amount of traffic will come from the development in this area of town and the PennDOT project on 443 but he is looking ahead to be sure these intersections are safe. Bruce said maybe something should be put into the memorandum of understanding with the school district to revisit that intersection after the completion of the project. If another traffic signal is warranted that will come with a hefty price tag no one will want to pay for. Councilor Rehrig said he doesn't feel the borough should have to foot the bill for all this when the traffic being brought into the borough is not being brought in by us. It is a state highway intersection borough roads and the traffic influx should have consideration of 50/50 or something but he can't see why Lehighton should have to sacrifice or be put out by a large influx of traffic on 9th Street.

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to move forward with the application along with all the additional items and also authorize Attorney Nanovic to work with Attorney Schwab on an MOU as far as what conditions will be where and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve Resolution R002-2017 authorizing the Borough Manager to submit application for Traffic Signal Approval

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

Motion to approve amendments to the Police Civil Service Rules & Regulations

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

Motion to approve request from Lehighton Outdoor Center to reduce Letter of Credit

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

Motion to approve payment to Service Construction for work completed on Light & Power Building

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

Discussion on request from River Blue, LLC

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

Additional Agenda Item

Request from treasurer for \$20,000 transfer from L&P Fund to the General Fund for payroll

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

Adjournment

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel

Councilors Arner/Perry made the motion to go in at 7:20 and all were in favor.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Rehrig/McEvoy made the motions to go back into regular session at 7:37 and all were in favor.

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Councilors McEvoy/Arner made the motions to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. and all were in favor.

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary