

June 12, 2017

The Special Meeting of the Lehighon Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, June 12, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Lisa Perry, Jared McEvoy, Darryl Arner, Scott Rehrig and Jr. Councilor Addison Howland. Absent: Joe Flickinger. Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Borough Secretary Brenda Koons, Mayor Tom Mase and Police Chief Brian Biechy. Late: Helen Torok

Pledge of Allegiance

Hearing of Persons Present

Kim DePue of 499 South 9th Street wanted to voice his objections for all the reasons previously stated about the proposed light. He wonders how PennDOT can be so powerful that they can do whatever they want to do. They are basically telling the borough and the citizens what to do and something just don't seem right with all that. Mr. DePue said he is a tax paying citizen and he knows that his voice has been heard but it seems like when it comes to PennDOT; it's deaf ears. He has been on that corner before 9th Street was even a state road. Some of you have been here long enough to remember when 902 went straight down to 209. From what he understands from the new altered plans is that Mr. Rupell and Blocker's will be getting some spots up by Mr. Rupell's house making Mr. DePue the only hardship in that area now. We all know what they propose for down there will not work. He doesn't know how people can make left hand turns or right hand turns coming up 9th Street onto Bridge Street. He thinks it will create a lot of problems that will need to be addressed later. He doesn't understand why they just don't leave it alone. The only thing he can do at this point is to thank council for going to bat for him. He does hope that the borough will provide some lined parking on Bridge Street and Ashtown Road. It will affect his business and his tenants upstairs without parking on those two streets.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of March 27, 2017

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

New Business

Discussion/Action on the Memorandum of Understanding with the Lehighon Area School District for the traffic signal at 9th & Bridge Sts.

The solicitor said it is ready to be acted upon if council so chooses. The only change from the prior draft is before we had it unlimited that the school paid for it. Now the school is offering to put \$10,000 in escrow and the borough will be responsible for any amount beyond the escrow.

Councilor Rehrig asked that before we went any further we put lined parking on the street in that area. Mr. DePue said he would prefer some parking on the North side so you're not crossing Ashtown Road to the light on the PennDOT side of the road. Council President wasn't sure that would work. He was looking at parking all on one side of the road. Not splitting it. Then with the light there they should be able to cross easy enough.

Mr. DePue said if he was asked his preference it would be the north side. People coming up from 443 can turn in there to park. If parking is on the other side of the street they have to go down, turn around and come back towards the light to park.

Nicole said she will meet with Public Works and review the ordinance to see what can be done. Mr. DePue said that in the meantime if we could get some lines painted on Bridge Street it would be very helpful. Mr. Rupell said that he thinks Mr. DePue means actually

on Bridge Street. Mr. Rupell thinks Mr. DePue is referring to the west side as Ashtown Drive. Mr. DePue agreed. He is asking for lines between his business and Blocker's on Bridge Street.

Nicole looked at the ordinance and there is restricted parking on both sides of the street in whole. The solicitor suggested waiting to make a decision on the parking until after the light goes in.

Councilors Rehrig/McEvoy made the motions to approve and sign the memorandum and all were in favor. Councilor Arner had a question about paragraph 5 – Responsibilities of the borough. It says it's the responsibility of the borough to complete the application for the traffic signal. Then it says any fees which may be required to be submitted with the application shall be paid by the school district and/or reimbursed by the school district to the borough. Does that mean we may have to lay out money if they don't want to do it upfront? The solicitor said no. We can simply tell the school this says you are to pay this so send us a check in the amount of ? payable to PennDOT. We don't have to lay out money if we don't want to. Motion carried.

Motion to hire Noah Rodgers and Dominic Bierman as lifeguards for the 2017 swim season

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

Discussion on submittal of the COPS Hiring Program Grant Application

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

Discussion/Action on the Police Civil Service Eligibility List

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to go into executive session to discuss this item and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Adjournment

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motion to go in at 6:56 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 7:18 and all were in favor.

Action on items from Executive Session

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to hire Trevin Green as a full-time police officer effective July 1, 2017 upon successful completion of pre-employment testing and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to hire Joel Gulla as a full-time police officer effective July 1, 2017 upon successful completion of pre-employment testing and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Nicole asked how seniority will be determined. Brian said he believes it goes by rank of civil service list but he will check to be sure.

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Councilors Rehrig/McEvoy made the motions to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. and all were in favor

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary