

October 23, 2017

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, October 23, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Pres. Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Lisa Perry, Jarod McEvoy, Joe Flickinger, Helen Torok, Scott Rehrig, and Darryl Arner. Absent: Jr. Councilor Addison Howland.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of silence for the Passing of Judge Lavelle

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Clark Ritter wanted to have council's approval to add Christmas caroling to the Parks & Recreation list of events. They discussed having different groups caroling throughout town. They would like to advertise for carolers and make some phone call to people they already know to see if there is enough interest in doing it. Council approved the idea.

Mark Hoffman of the Shade Tree Commission wanted council's permission to allow the fire department to hold a control burn along a section of Lehigh Drive as part of an Eagle Scout project. He said he spoke to Chief Mriss who said there is an ordinance in place requiring council approving the controlled burn.

Dylan Bell would like to clear 150 feet behind Gary Schoenberger's radiator shop to view the rafters. He has to have the project complete before his 18th birthday in January so they are under a time constraint. If borough council approves the project Dylan must present it to the Boy Scout council for approval before he can begin. Mr. Shoenberger will maintain the property once the project is complete. Tom Evans is Dylan's sponsor and Dylan's grandfather will be helping with entire project.

Councilors Rehrig/Perry made the motions to allow the project and waive the ordinance provided all is approved by the borough manager and fire chief and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Theresa Chapman 239 South 7th Street read a letter her son wrote to council. He wanted council to know that good things do occur in the borough. He sold over \$3,000 in popcorn for Boy Scouts. He earned enough to go to camp this summer and the Boy Scouts will start a scholarship account for him with the rest of his earning to use for school in the future.

Ryan Saunders of LDI wanted to thank council for their support of Rocktoberfest and the borough workforce for all the time spent helping to set everything up for the event. It was very successful and LDI is looking forward to next year.

Mr. Ed Conarty of 235 Coal Street wanted to question council about the fact that the leases with tenants at 110 North 3rd Street are not kept up to date and why council never hired a building manager for that building as they voted to do. He went over papers from 2006 to present voicing his opinion of how council is mismanaging the building and taxpayer money used to fund the building for years. He again suggested selling the property.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of September 25, 2017

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to approve but Councilor Perry had a question. She thought last month council voted to approve getting estimates for the old sewer plant to see what it would cost to tear it down not bids to tear it down.

Solicitor Nanovic read the minutes, “Nicole wanted clarification that we will advertise for bids, not quotes” and was told yes by Councilor Rehrig.

The minutes were then approved by council.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to advertise the 1990 Ford F350 Pick Up Truck for the Fire Department upon delivery of new pick up

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

Motion to exchange Light & Power truck #14A with Public Works Truck #11 (1997 Freightliner and 2002 Freightliner)

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

Discussion/Action on the purchase of 2018 Ford F250 XL for the Light & Power Department in the amount of \$40,406.47

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

Follow up discussion on the comments of the Lehighon Sewer Authority regarding sewer inspection ordinance

The borough manager said council asked for more information from the Sewer Authority on this item. In the Sewer Authority’s minutes this month they came back and are recommending the zoning officer be empowered to inspect and oversee property owner’s sewer connection for code compliance. The Sewer Authority solicitor will research the proper language for a future meeting to allow the zoning officer to enter properties if he is refused entry. This may mean water shut off or other sanctions. This was a unanimous vote. Nicole said we had wanted clarification on who would oversee these inspections and this was their response and would save money down the road making this a worthwhile investment. There was no additional discussion.

Discussion/Action on Lehighon Sewer Authority recommendation to hire Entech Engineering to measure Inflow and Infiltration and develop a remediation plan as a means to dramatically reduce the fees to CCMA

Nicole said LSA had received 2 proposals – one from Arrow and one from Entech. The Sewer Authority is recommending council approve hiring Entech with an estimated target cost of \$1,500 to start. This also takes into account all the studies we have had done from 1978 forward.

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

Discussion/Action on the letters of interest for the Lehighon Water Authority Board

Councilors Flickinger/Perry made the motions to forward these letters to the Water Authority for their recommendation and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve the resignation of the Civil Service Commission Members (Jeffrey Bachman, Keith Schnell, John Rupell)

Councilors Rehrig/Perry made the motions to accept the resignations, have letters of appreciation sent to each, advertise for 3 new members and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to accept resignation from Brenda Koons as deputy EMC

Councilors Perry/Rehrig made the motions to accept the resignation and thanked her for all she does for the borough.

Councilors Rehrig/Perry made the motions to advertise for a replacement and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to adopt Resolution R019-2017 approving State Aid distribution

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

Unfinished Business

None

ADDENDUM

Discussion on "Our Town Lehighton"

Nicole said the borough has been approached by WVIA to do an "Our Town Lehighton." We would be the second in Carbon County to be selected for this. Jim Thorpe being the first. It is a show on WVIA portraying a day in the life of the people places and things to do in and around the Lehighton community. The show is put on by members of our community.

There would be two public meetings February 8th and 15th with a premier night of May 2018. In order to create this portrait of the community there would be sponsorships required and WVIA would seek out. Before she pursues this any further she wants to be sure council is on board with it.

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

Motion to approve the 2016 Write-Offs

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

Motion to approve the additional list of bills totaling \$14,336

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

Motion to approve \$300,000 transfer from L&P Fund to General Fund

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

Nicole said that in the Parks & Recreation minutes there was a resignation via email that needs to be acted on from Valerie Dailey.

Councilors Flickinger/McEvoy made the motions to accept the resignation and advertise for the vacancy and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Officials Reports

Borough Manager

Council received her report. She and a few of the administrative staff did a tour of CCMA and found it very informative. If council has the opportunity to go down and tour the plant they will not be disappointed. She will be attending a local government meeting on House Bill 1405. If anyone is interested in attending with her please let her know.

Borough Engineer

Nothing.

Police

Chief Biechy said he had two things. First, in November Officer Broyles will be going to a PA DUI conference. He was selected by nomination for our region. He won an award they give out called Top Gun for specific DUI enforcement in a local area. So congrats to Bruce! He is definitely one of the better DUI guys that we have in the county.

Also, as an informal stat. We have the license plate reader installed on a car the beginning of last month. There has been talk of purchasing another and it is a pricy item. In the last month and a half it has generated 105 contacts, in that number were expired registrations, 45 parking tickets in September 16 October, 39 moving violations in September, 41 in October, they include expired registrations and insurance, its generated 2 DUI's so far. No stolen vehicles yet but from every department that has one he's been told its coming. It has actually done a lot so far.

Mayor

He said last month there was discussion on council reports, that the officer reports were not in. He hopes council will notice that there are two months' worth in There. The reason being Karen was on vacation and that is why one was not provided last month.

He wanted to thank whoever was on the committee for the Halloween Parade. It was a beautiful parade and congratulations on a job well done.

Fire Chief

Nothing.

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 – Nothing.

Police, Fire and Safety – Scott Rehrig, Chair; Jared McEvoy, Co-Chair – Nothing.

Light & Power Committee – Helen Torok, Chair; Joe Flickinger, Co-Chair – Helen said a there will be a special meeting tomorrow to address the grease issue in our sewer system.

She also commented on the outstanding job done on the Public Works float. It was the first time they this was done and she thinks everyone should be included in it next year.

She wanted to congratulate the key decorators.

Lisa wanted to add to Helen's comments about the float. She said to see the kids' faces seeing that big snow blower coming down the street was great. Lisa wanted to extend a special thanks to Denise in the billing office for decorating the float mostly with her own decorations. It took a lot of time to do but she did a great job.

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

Public Works & Recreation – Jared McEvoy, Chair; Scott Rehrig, Co-Chair – Jared wanted to thank Public Works for the great job with Rocktoberfest. We asked a lot from them and they did a great job doing what we need and worked well with us. He also wanted to thank

the borough, Light & Power, and the community for volunteering and helping to make this a success. There were over 2,500 people there this year. It was great.

Also a special thank you to the Fire Police and Police Department for traffic control and making rounds. We look forward to doing it again next year.

Scott wanted to thank Public Works for putting up the new basketball hoops and lining the new and old courts. The new court is being heavily used.

Acceptance of Officials Reports

Councilors Flickinger/Perry 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 and Real Estate

Councilors Rehrig/Perry at 7:47p.m.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Rehrig/McEvoy at 8:13 p.m.

Action on Items from Executive Session

None

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Flickinger/Perry at 8:16 p.m.

Brenda L. Kreitz
Borough Secretary