

March 26, 2018

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, March 26, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Pres. Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Lisa Perry, Jared McEvoy, Joe Flickinger, Darryl Arner, Autumn Abelovsky and Ryan Saunders.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Secretary Brenda Kreitz, Borough Treasurer Cathy Smith, Solicitor James Nanovic, Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt, Police Chief Brian Biechy, Fire Chief Patrick Mriss and Jr. Councilor Addison Howland. Absent: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Mayor Clark Ritter.

Pledge of Allegiance

Guest Speaker – William Moyer – New Digital Sign Proposal

He wanted to ask council about bringing the dormant sign at the triangle with the welcome sign back to life. He provided council with a sample of what the sign would look like. It would be a one sided sign for people to see when they come into town. It is possible to do a vinyl sign on the back of the sign coming off the bypass.

Councilor McEvoy said he would like to see a two sided sign. Mr. Moyer said he would prefer to start with one side for now and then look into doing the other side later on in the future.

Councilor Flickinger asked about the affordable rates and if they only pertained to businesses. Mr. Moyer said he would manage the new sign like he does the one on the bypass. The 4x8 size sign would be the same quality as on the bypass. He could use the same ads from the sign on the bypass on the 4x8 sign. He will manage the signs independently but could run the two signs to complement each other. It's just a matter of how they are programmed. The rates would be handled the same for both signs.

Councilor Saunders asked what will happened to the dormant sign that is there now. Mr. Moyer said he would dispose of the digital panels.

Councilors McEvoy/Flickinger made the motions to allow Mr. Moyer continue on with the sign after meeting with the borough manager and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Jerry McAward from the Lehighon Outdoor Center wanted to let everyone know he is within 30 days of opening. He wanted to ask council again about leasing the corner of land by the old sewer plant as previously discussed. He saw some clearing going on and wanted to continue discussing possibly leasing that corner for bus storage.

Councilor McEvoy/Arner made the motions to allow Mr. McAward to use the space and all were in favor. The borough engineer had a question. Does the borough want to enter into a lease before the plant is demolished and is the borough going to take down the fence as part of the demolition of the treatment plant? The solicitor said it will go back to the borough manager who will deal with it. There is no final vote just an attempt to accommodate him in doing this to help the business at this time. Solicitor Nanovic does agree that there should be documentation to back this up after Mr. McAward meets with Nicole.

Greg Mriss of 316 North 8th Street was next to speak. He is glad that Mr. Moyer wants to take over the sign because he was going to recommend we remove it. Mr. Mriss said he has taken care of our parks for 24 years and wants council to give serious consideration to keeping the baseball field at Baer's. If the fence is removed along the bathrooms to Baer Memorial he feels that we could accommodate all the sports in that area.

Kevin O'Donnell, Information Officer for the Franklin Twp. Little League is also in favor of keeping the baseball field at Baer's. There are over 400 kids from ages 4-18. There are very few fields left in the school district anymore. The Orioles field is gone, Weissport park and McCall's Farm and chapel Field at Normal Square are all gone. Bunker Hill, Christman Field, Phiffer and Baer are the only ones left. Their 11-12 year olds had the largest sign ups this year with 7 teams. We are the feeder teams to the high school. Baseball is a very important sport in the area and he hopes council considers keeping the diamond at Baer's.

Councilor Flickinger asked Mr. O'Donnell if they have in fact utilized the field at Baer's for the last few years. Mr. O'Donnell said they have with asking the borough for basically nothing other than cut the grass. They understand the borough workforce is busy. They take care of it themselves. They installed a shed for their supplies.

Councilor Abelovsky asked if they pay a rental fee and was told yes for the season.

Mike Birnbaum, president of the league said they have filled out all the necessary paperwork and paid the \$400 fee for the last 4 years.

Councilor Flickinger asked if they would consider holding games at Baer's and Mr. Birnbaum said he has spoken to Tom about this and told Tom the league would get a workforce together to support the borough. Their league has people who are greens attendants at golf courses. The level of the field needs some upgrades to make it an actual game field. The down side is there is no concession stand. Councilor Flickinger asked if they could team up with football to use their concession stand. Mr. Birnbaum said that is a possibility but it is a fair distance from the ball field.

Councilor Abelovsky asked the length of their season. Mr. Birnbaum said from March through June. She then asked how many days a week they use it. He said 6 days a week. They do not use it on Sundays. They have used it in conjunction with the soccer club.

Jim Albert of the league spoke next. He also wants to see the field stay at Baer's. He thinks there is room down there to accommodate all the sports fields and even attract men's softball teams to play there as well.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of February 26, 2018

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

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of \$250 donation to the United Veterans Organization for memorial Services

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

Approval to hold Senior Games May 1-9, 2018 using Rec center and Baer Memorial Field

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

Approval of L.E.A.F. Coaster Derby – Closing Beaver Run Road from Coal Street to Middle School Parking Lot

Councilors Perry/Flickinger made the motions to approve. Councilor Abelovsky had a question as to who is actually running the derby and if they are following the past protocols that have been put into place like safety precautions and hay bales.

The borough secretary said she believed Rocky Arner was running the derby. Councilor Saunders said Rocky had trouble getting the hay bales for the last race.

Councilor Abelovsky said the requirements that they had set for past coaster races were not followed and there was an injury.

The solicitor asked if we had written guidelines. If we do we could approve it condition upon them complying with your guidelines. Councilor Flickinger said no there was nothing in writing. More like precedent from past events.

The solicitor said it could be approved based on them following up with Nicole and following her recommendations.

Councilors Perry/Flickinger made the motion to approve per the solicitors recommendations and all were in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to ratify Resolution R010-2018 – Declaring Snow Emergency

Councilors Flickinger/Saunders made the motions to ratify the resolution and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve new sketch for Baer Memorial Project

Motion to proceed with the Baer Memorial Project

Councilors Flickinger/Saunders made the motions to table both of these items until the April meeting and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 644-2018 – Amending Parking on Bridge Street

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

Motion to adopt Ordinance 645-2018 – Act 172

Councilors Perry/McEvoy made the motions to adopt with Councilor Flickinger abstaining requiring a roll call vote be taken.

Councilors Abelovsky, Saunders, Perry, McEvoy, Arner and Hunsicker voted in favor of adopting the ordinance and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

The solicitor said there is to be a resolution of the standards to follow the ordinance. He believes Nicole is working on that.

Motion to put L&P Expedition out for bid

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motions to bid the vehicle and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on Right-of-Way request from Lehighton Booster Club for Installation of internet at field house

Councilors Flickinger/Saunders made the motions to table this item until the solicitor can determine the location of the cable and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration to purchase manhole inserts as part of I&I study

The borough secretary said Kris got quotes for both sizes but will not order any dishes until the gentleman comes to measure the manholes. If we just order them we cannot return them so Kris is asking for permission to purchase them once the manholes are measured and he knows if the dishes will raise the manholes significantly and cause an issue.

President Hunsicker said his only question is do we want them with holes in them since we keep talking about water going into the system.

Councilor Abelovsky said this was discussed at length at the sewer authority meeting. They go under the manhole cover and are a collection bin to eliminate a lot of the infiltration into the system so they have to have the small vent holes.

Councilor Perry asked if the Sewer Authority would be paying for the dishes or if it will come out of the General Fund. President Hunsicker said it should come out of the Sewer Fund.

Councilors Abelovsky/Perry made the motions to approve the purchase for 100 inserts as part of the I&I Study and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Approval of Dual Temp Planned Maintenance agreement – 1 or 3 year Contract

Councilors Saunders/McEvoy made the motions to approve a 3 year contract and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on request from Tom Evans to approve Joe Hutta's Proposal to update plumbing fixtures at Grove Park Bathroom at a cost of \$8,980.30

Councilors Perry/McEvoy made the motions to table this item and request Tom to get two more bids and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration of Light Duty for Police

This item was held until Executive Session.

Unfinished Business

Continued discussion on selling/bidding triangle piece of property on Sgt. Stanley Hoffman Boulevard

President Hunsicker said he is not for it. Bruce said the area is 8,235.6 sq. ft. The solicitor said it has some sewer line running through it. Bruce said he thinks there is a storm sewer and storm sewer pipes on it.

Councilor Saunders said he spoke to Mr. Boyko about the property and Mr. Boyko agreed to put some sort of blacktop on it and maintain it if he was able to purchase the property.

Bruce said he had discussed this property with Nicole and suggested talking to her before making a decision to advertise or have it appraised.

Councilor McEvoy asked the cost of an appraisal. Bruce and the solicitor both said about \$400. Councilor McEvoy asked if it would be wise to get the fair market value of the property so they know what to look for as a minimum bid. He is open to selling it but wants to be sure the borough gets a fair price for it. President Hunsicker asked what happens if it's put out for bid and Mr. Boyko doesn't get it?

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

Continued discussion on the future of the Sno-Go Snow Blower – Unit 3636

The borough secretary said Kris said if it's sold it will depend on if anyone has the right piece of equipment to attach the blower too. The loader is the main issue. The blower won't fit on just any loader.

Councilor Flickinger said Kris was to get an answer on the length of service. He did try but there were so many different prices he could not get a concrete value.

Brenda said Kris told her they haven't used it in 2-3 years but in the event of a big storm they would definitely use it. It is nice to have but not a necessity.

Update on 9th & Bridge Street Right-of-Ways for traffic signal

The solicitor said the update is that we received the easement from Mr. March and are still waiting for PennDOT.

The borough secretary said she talked to Mr. Cleaver who said PennDOT is working on it but PennDOT is not sure how they will write it up.

Follow up from Attorney Nanovic on terminating the DCNR grant contract for the Grove project

Attorney Nanovic said he did look at the contract. It says nothing about how the borough can terminate it only how DCNR can terminate. He suggested Brenda contact DCNR to see if we can redirect the money elsewhere, which he doubts or how the borough would go about terminating it.

The borough secretary said she spoke to Mr. Bogart today who told her it just requires a letter from us. Since the borough didn't spend any of the money we will not get a black-eye from them if we apply for other grants. However, if we apply for anything else for the Grove 10-1 we won't get anything for a while.

Councilors Flickinger/Abelovsky made the motions to terminate the Grove Master Site Plan & Feasibility Study and all were not in favor. Roll Call: terminate –Councilors Flickinger, Abelovsky, Perry, McEvoy, and Arner; not terminate – Councilors Saunders and Hunsicker. Motion carried.

Update from Tom Evans on the Annex

Councilor Abelovsky said Tom should be thanked for getting this done so quickly. Councilor Flickinger said Mr. Conarty should also be thanked for continually hounding us until this got done. It shows how much we were actually losing out on all these years.

President Hunsicker felt we really weren't losing out because we went by what the school district had. Councilor Abelovsky said it doesn't matter. Now we have things matching the space that is there so there will be no confusion going forward. She then brought up the fact that Tom had in his report that he would like to advertise 3 vacant rooms and the gym. She said with the termination of the Karate School lease it has opened up the gym for rent and feels it would be better rented out than leased out. She understands leasing it would give us more money but renting it out would better serve the community.

Officials Reports

Borough Manager

Absent due to surgery.

Borough Engineer

Bruce commented on the request to get additional prices for the Grove bathrooms. He read what they want to do. When the bathrooms were put in both the Grove and Baer Memorial Penal was chosen because people went in there with baseball bats and broke the porcelain. If porcelain fixtures are going to be put back in there then you will have to police those areas or they will get broken again. That is why we chose the fixtures that we did to make them more vandal proof and it still didn't help.

Bruce also looked at the quote Tom got and it does not have the fixtures spec'd out. So if you want additional quotes you should get specifications for the fixtures and what manufacturers you are going to use for the fixtures so everyone is bidding apples to apples.

You would need to get the fixture list from the contractor that gave you the price and use those same fixture lists for the other contractors so you get a comparable quote.

Bruce clarified that the school district did get their HOP permits for 9th and Union Streets intersection and the expansion of the Mahoning Street intersection. They are still waiting for the 9th & Bridge Streets intersection.

Finally, Bruce wanted to update the infrastructure discussion. He has been noticing the new gas main going in on South 9th Street. They are moving the gas main further away from the curb and more to the center of 9th Street. The Water Authority put a new water line in on 9th Street. The problem you might face in future years is that if you have to replace the sewer line on 9th Street you will have problems of where you can go to get 10 foot separation from your sewer main and water lines and then staying 4 foot away from the gas line. They don't want you digging within 4 foot of the gas line with an excavator. He thinks the borough should take a proactive approach with the Gas Company and Water Authority and have a predesign meeting when they propose major updates so we know where they are going so that they don't build us into a corner when we need to go and work on our sewer lines when they need to be replaced. Bruce thinks the gas company could have moved their lines closer to the curb on 9th Street giving us plenty of room to put in a new sewer line or storm sewer for that matter.

Bruce is putting the finishing touches on the Stedman Avenue project and hopes to have that completed this week and up to the County for bidding. He is continuing to do the mapping of the storm sewers.

Police

He had an item for executive session.

Mayor

Absent due to surgery.

Fire Chief

Patrick thanked council for their action on Ordinance 172. He had staffing at the station during the numerous storms and nor'easter. He received his department's Chevy 3500 pickup utility body. He publicly thanked Lehigh Fire Company #1 for donating that truck to the department. Council had discussed getting the old Ford pickup truck out for bid on Muni-bid. The mechanic is working on getting the specs for that ready. Chief Mriss would like any funds that truck brings in to go back into their truck fund.

Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to have the funds from the sale of the old pickup truck go back into the fire company equipment fund.

President of Council

Nothing.

Solicitor

Solicitor Nanovic said he was instructed at the last meeting to contact Mr. Blocker regarding King Alley and let him know that if he wants it opened then Mr. Blocker must start the process and pay for the improvement to it. Mr. Blocker wasn't too happy about that part.

Treasurer

Cathy requested a budgetary transfer of \$200,000 from the L&P Fund to the General Fund as needed/if needed.

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

Committee Reports

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

Economic Development, Buildings and Codes – Joe Flickinger, Chair; Autumn Abelovsky, Co-Chair – Joe wanted to thank LDI for conducting their first walk for the Trail Town meeting. From what Mr. Saunders told him it was well received.

Police, Fire and Safety – Ryan Saunders, Chair; Jared McEvoy, Co-Chair – nothing.

Light & Power Committee – Lisa Perry, Chair; Joe Flickinger, Co-Chair – Lisa said that Lonny believes the electrical cords to the traffic signals on 1st Street were frozen. He was able to push air through there. Lonny is hoping that once it gets warmer and they dry out he can put new wires through there. He has been able to reset them but that only lasts a few hours.

Sewer Committee – Autumn Abelovsky, Chair; Darryl Arner, Co-Chair – Autumn said LSA is going to take a more proactive approach with delinquent accounts.

Street, Public Works & Recreation – Jared McEvoy, Chair; Ryan Saunders, Co-Chair – Jared thanked Public Works for the great job they did during the storms and all year. They are a great group of guys.

Acceptance of Officials Reports

Councilors Arner/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/Saunders made the motions to accept the accounts payable plus \$19,691.58 of additional bills and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Real Estate

Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to go into executive session at 8:15 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors McEvoy/Perry made the motion to go back in at 8:53 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Action on Items from Executive Session

None.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Flickinger/Saunders made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 PM and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Kreitz
Borough Secretary