

October 22, 2018

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, October 22, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Pres. Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Lisa Perry, Jared McEvoy, Darryl Arner, Autumn Abelovsky, Ryan Saunders, Jr. Councilor Addison Howland, and Jr. Mayors Brady Stubits, Kaden Walck, Sebastian Warner, and Trevor Roth. Joe Flickinger was absent.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Treasurer Cathy Smith, Solicitor James Nanovic, Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt, Mayor Clark Ritter, Police Chief Brian Biechy, Fire Chief Patrick Mriss, L&P Superintendent Lonny Armbruster, Public Works Superintendent Kris Kunkle and Recreation Director Tom Evans. Borough Secretary Brenda Kreitz was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Chris Walck of 532 Coal Street wanted to know what the turning radius is at an intersection. He is concerned about the Cypress Street and Poplar Alley intersection where there is a car with a flat tire that has been parked there for some time. You can't see when pulling out of the intersection.

Chief Biechy will have his department pay closer attention to that area.

Joe Dombrosky of 7 2nd Avenue wanted to know if more parking spaces could be added to the 1-25 block of 2nd Avenue. Would it be possible to widen the road or even make Bridge Street and 2nd Avenue one way in that area? Nicole said we would look into the matter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of September 24, 2018

Nicole stated that there still is an issue with the correction to the corrected minutes from August's meeting. Councilor Perry had corrected the minutes from August. The correct roll call vote for approving the amendment on the LASD Land Development was Councilors Abelovsky, Saunders, McEvoy, Arner and Hunsicker voting in favor and Councilors Perry and Flickinger voting against. All were not in favor.

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motion to approve the minutes with the correction and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration on approval of the 2019 Pool Pass Rates

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motion to approve the new rates and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve part-time recreation employees for the winter season

Councilors Perry/Arner made the motion to approve the part-time recreation employees for the winter and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to adopt Resolution R21-2018 pertaining to state aid

Councilors Saunders/Arner made the motion to adopt the resolution for state aid and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve 2018 Write-Offs

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motion to approve the 2018 Write-Offs and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion on remaining a member of the Mid-Eastern Counties Association of Boroughs (MECAB) – 1 or 2 delegates needed

Councilors Saunders and Perry asked what the organization was. President Hunsicker explained that it was similar to the PSAB but more regional. He has been a delegate for a number of years.

Councilors Abelovsky/Saunders made the motion to remain a member and that President Hunsicker remain the delegate and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on approval of the lease with the Lehighon Boys Basketball Booster Club for the use of the Annex gymnasium

Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motion to approve the lease and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on the 90-day wavier for the Bennett Land Development and Subdivision/Vacation Plan with time extension granted until December 28, 2018

The Planning Commission approved the extension and Bruce stated that he has not received the amended plans.

Councilors Abelovsky/Perry made the motion to grant the 90-day waiver and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on request from Jim Thorpe Lions for Fire Police help at the Jim Thorpe Halloween Parade October 27, 2018

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motion to approve Fire Police help at the Jim Thorpe Parade and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve Change Order #1 for the CDBG Stedman Avenue Project reducing project costs by \$9,598.86.

Nicole stated that the project is complete. Bruce stated the reason for the reduction in cost was due to reduction in the amount of curbing and that not as much excavation needed to be done.

Councilors Saunders/Arner made the motion to approve Change Order #1 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to advertise for part-time public works laborers

Nicole said this will be seasonal and as needed.

Councilors McEvoy/Perry made the motion to advertise for part-time public works laborers and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve the scupper and drainage repairs for the PFC Clyde Houser Building/Annex in the amount of \$13, 979

Tom stated that when there is a heavy rain water backs up and rain water has been leaking into one of the classrooms. He had a water restoration company come in who dried out 20 gallons of water out of the wall. He then had a roofing company look at the roof. They found the drain goes from a 4" opening to a 1½" opening causing the water to back up. It will be fixed so it is all a 4" opening.

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motion to approve the repairs to the Annex and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on approving police SOP for mobile video and body cams

Chief Biechy stated that the department had applied for a grant through PCCD and the grant process asks for the SOP.

Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motion to approve the police SOP and all were in favor with no questions or objections

Unfinished Business

Continued discussion on sidewalk ordinance

Councilor Saunders asked Nicole if she had gotten the criteria from Tim. She stated that she and Tim are working on it.

Follow up discussion on the logistics of the request to host the Schuylkill River Runners Half Marathon April 14, 2019

Nicole had provided council with a copy of the email pertaining to logistics. The Lehigh Outdoor Center would not be hindered in any way and Jerry McAward would be willing to work with them.

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motion to approve the half marathon and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Follow up comments on the Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association by-laws and draft resolution

Nicole stated that this would be brought back for vote at the next meeting

Officials Reports

Borough Manager

Nicole highlighted the Main Street meetings starting tomorrow night and Wednesday night. MS4 Annual progress report was completed. We do need additional updates to the program plans and requirements. We still have not met all the requirements. 2019 Budget meetings with the department heads and budget meetings with council would be set for mid-November, and notice was received for the Lehigh Library project to start. Nicole will be meeting with Melissa Hawk at the end of the week.

Borough Engineer

Nothing.

Mayor

Mayor Ritter handed out certificates of completion for the Jr. Mayor program to Brady Stubits, Kaden Walck, Sebastian Warner, and Trevor Roth.

Police

Brian said the new car is not in yet. The school district is purchasing Tasers for the 2 officers they hired. Chief Biechy was asked to train them until they can send someone to an instructor school to get the up and operational. Brian did request they send him a letter but hasn't received one yet. Part of the letter is to state that they will send someone to instructor school. It has been done in the past where we get them up and running but they have to send someone to school afterward. It is at the digression of council to approve the training.

Fire Chief

Nothing.

Light & Power Superintendent

Nothing. Councilor Abelovsky thanked the department for a great job on hosting Public Power Week.

Public Works Superintendent

Nothing. Councilor Saunders thanked the department for the great job on decorating the truck for the Halloween Parade. Kris recognized Levy Stern, Jonathan Tracy and Denise Niehoff for their part in making it all happen.

Recreation Director

Nothing.

President of Council

Nothing.

Solicitor

Solicitor Nanovic asked for approval to have President Hunsicker sign the license agreement for Troy Faust.

Councilors Abelovsky/Saunders made the motion to approve the license and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Treasurer

Additional bills totaling \$20,982.38.

Committee Reports

Finance and Administration – Councilor Arner stated that a meeting was held on October 17, 2018. Councilors Arner and Perry along with Borough Manager Nicole Beckett and Treasurer Cathy Smith were in attendance. Discussed was the 2018/2019 review, 2018 fund review, investment policy, capital reserves policy, borough manager and assistant manager’s duties. Nicole stated she would like to review her employment agreement before January 2019.

Annex rentals were discussed with Tom Evans, Recreation Director. Health insurance will be going up 9.8% next year. Employee salaries were discussed and must be made more equitable.

The committee will meet November 15th to discuss Nicole’s employment agreement.

Councilor Saunders questioned the increase in the health insurance. Nicole said it was due to some high claims we had this year. Ryan wanted to know if we have shopped around. Nicole asked the council if they would like us to shop around. Councilor McEvoy said he would help. Solicitor Nanovic asked council if they were in favor of Nicole shopping for insurance and all were in favor.

Economic Development, Buildings & Codes – Councilor Abelovsky stated that a new business opened.

Police, Fire & Safety – Nothing. Councilors Saunders apologized to Chief Biechy and Fire Chief Mriss for not being able to meet with them last month and was glad to see the police on bikes.

Autumn wanted to let everyone know the fire department put on a great presentation during Fire Prevention Week.

Light & Power Committee – Nothing.

Sewer Committee – Nothing.

Streets, Public Works & recreation – Councilor McEvoy thanked Public Works, Light & Power and the Police for their help with Rocktoberfest. He stated it was great to see the rental of the Annex.

Councilor Saunders thanked Scott Rehrig, who was in attendance, for a great job by the Halloween Committee on the Halloween Parade.

Acceptance of Officials Reports

Councilors Saunders/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/Perry made the motions to accept the accounts payable plus the additional list of bills as presented and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel

Councilors Saunders/McEvoy requested to go into executive session for personnel and real estate at 7:50 p.m.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Saunders/McEvoy made the motions to back into regular session at 8:06 p.m.

Action on Items from Executive Session

Motion to hire Monty Szukics as full-time maintenance operator

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

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Cathy Smith
Treasurer/Asst. Secretary