

April 1, 2019

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, April, 2019. 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, Joe Flickinger, Ryan Saunders and Jr. Councilor Addison Howland.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Borough Secretary Brenda Kreitz, Solicitor James Nanovic, Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt, Police Chief Brian Biechy, Fire Chief Patrick Mriss, L&P Superintendent Lonny Armbruster and PW Superintendent Kris Kunkle. Absent: Mayor Clark Ritter, P&R Director Tom Evans.

Pledge of Allegiance

GUEST SPEAKER: Andrew Bakken, A&H Equipment – Sewer Vac/Hydro Excavator Demonstration

Mr. Bakken is a dealer of municipal equipment and has 3 facilities in Pennsylvania and services parts of West Virginia and Ohio. They brought a sewer vac for council to look at and get a little demonstration of what it does and how it can benefit the borough. Vactor is their main product but they also sell street sweepers, snow/ice equipment and other products. He has been working with the Public Works department for about a year now and talking about their equipment and what his company can offer the borough. One of the main items is the sewer cleaner. His company did do a live demonstration last year.

1st CDBG Public Hearing

See attached.

Public Hearing – Mallard Markets, Inc. Intermunicipal Transfer of Liquor License`

Attorney Mishinsky representing KP Patel, owner of Mallard Markets wanted to explain to council the reason for the request. Mr. Pate wants to sell 12 packs and 6 packs of beer in his store creating 8-10 new jobs. All employees will be RAMP certified. There will be limited hours of operation and will not be a nightclub/bar. He will be installing a sophisticated camera system and will add more lighting. Mr. Patel is trying to be competitive with Giant.

Councilor Flickinger/Arner made the motions to adopt Resolution R5-2019 approving the transfer of the liquor license for Mallard Markets, Inc. and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Jerry McAward wanted to let everyone know about the event he is working on with LDI. The Wine on the River event will be May 4th and Locstock Celebration on Labor Day Monday. He is hoping both events will be very successful.

He is branching out into bicycles because of the huge bike presence on the Trailhead.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of March 4, 2019

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

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve Lehigh Fire Police assisting Weissport Borough's Armed Forces Day Parade May 18, 2019

Councilors Arner/Flickinger made the motions to approve if Fire Police are available and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve time extension for Debra Kaye & Joseph Bennett Land Development Plan, Subdivision and Vacation Plan until June 30, 2019

Councilor Saunders asked Bruce what his findings were on this project. Bruce said there is still no signed petition from the property owners over there to vacate those streets and Mr. Bennett cannot move forward with the subdivision and vacation plan until the petition is submitted to the borough.

On the land development plan there are issues with the placement of electrical, questions on the water service and stormwater. Their NPDES permit was reviewed by the County Conservation District and returned for deficiencies on that. Once they have all that information done we have to enter into a developer's agreement and post security for all of it and nothing has been completed and submitted to date.

Bruce said they are required to have their HOP permit modified and the one they want to use is for the AutoZone so they can share that access but there still hasn't been a scoping meeting with PennDOT to discuss what has to be done as far as the work. Bruce doesn't think they have reviewed the plans as far as internal circulation and volume of cars using all the facilities now. This new land development plan is going to have 2 additional buildings in addition to the AutoZone. The current HOP has never been finalized. Part of the finalization was a 10 foot ROW deeded to PennDOT along the entire frontage of the entire Bennett property from Lehigh Ford to the NAPA property but that never happened.

Bruce doesn't think the borough has received comments from the Water Authority's engineer to date as far as a water service to the 2 facilities. There are many items outstanding and they have been outstanding for a long, long time.

Councilor Perry asked about the ramifications if we don't approve it. Bruce said we would need to make a motion to deny it with the reasons being the deficiencies on his last review letter.

Nicole asked Bruce to comment on the work that was done over there and how it affects the Existing Conditions Plan. Bruce said as far as he is concerned the Existing Condition Plan that they submitted with their original plans has now changed. The existing conditions are no longer the existing conditions. As of today the excavation permit was denied because there was no plan showing what the disturbance was going to be or how much material they were going to move or where they were moving it. There was no E&S Plan when they started the excavation so that was denied and we haven't received any new plans. They are sitting there with a denied Excavation Plan and Bruce is not sure if they have an approved E&S Plan but it's under review for an NPDES Permit. He doesn't know what the ramifications are being in violation of the Conservation District's E&S Program for a site that is under review for an NPDES Permit. A denial means they have to start from scratch.

Councilor Flickinger said no matter what we decide it is going to be like dealing with the school district and he is going to do whatever he wants. Bruce doesn't think granting the extension will affect the borough in any way.

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

Motion to approve Lehighon Police and Fire Police assisting with traffic control for Memorial Day Service May 27, 2019

Councilors Perry/Abelovsky made the motions to approve if Police and/or Fire Police are available and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve Lehighon Fire Police and/or Police assisting with traffic control for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day June 8th and the veteran's Day Parade November 10th, 2019

Councilors Flickinger/Saunders made the motions to approve if Police and Fire Police are available and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Approval for Lehighon U.V.O. to sue various Borough properties for holding Memorial Day Service May 27, 75th Anniversary of D-Day June 8, and Veteran's Day Parade November 10, 2019

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

Motion to approve the 2019 List of Baer Memorial Pool Employees

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

Motion to approve L&P Department assisting Lehighon Water Authority install leak detection equipment on poles

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

Motion to adopt Resolution R6-2019 requiring municipal officials to give bond for faithful performance in various borough positions

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

Consideration of purchasing 9 gift cards for Administrative Professionals Day April 24th (\$40 each)

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

Motion to approve Joseph & Kathleen Tibensky's Subdivision Plan

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

Consideration on request from the Lehighon Area School District for police vehicle donation

President Hunsicker said this is for the Ford Crown Victoria. Councilor Saunders asked what the school would use it for. Grant said to travel to the different school buildings. Councilor Perry asked if they are going to take the Lehighon Police Department decals off the sides first and Chief Biechy said yes unless he does it first.

Councilor McEvoy asked what the value of the car is and Brian said they are usually put out for bid and if they get \$1,500 for one they are lucky.

Councilor Perry asked if we could make it contingent upon clearing up all the outstanding items from their projects and was told no. Councilor McEvoy asked if they did what they were supposed to do for the Certificate of Occupancy and Bruce said no.

Bruce commented that they still don't have their NOT for their NPDES Permit because everything has not been stabilized yet. They planted grass on the barrow area below the administration building but none is growing there yet. The detention pond behind the elementary center has no grass growing in it and he is not sure grass will grow there because of being submerged all winter. They don't have their NOT yet. They never submitted final as-built plans. The as-builts they gave were before any of the final paving went down. It doesn't show any parking spaces. Any of the parking spaces that were to be out there aren't marked. They aren't marked the way they are on the original plans. There are many, many things lacking.

Bruce said he does have easement drawings but he hasn't had time to look at them yet. The NOT is the big thing for the elementary center.

Jared said we granted a 90-day waiver in August and Bruce said yes that is long gone. Nicole said they don't have their Temporary Certificate of Occupancy. That expired at that time. Bruce said he thinks the fire chief has some issues with parking all around the building. Chief Mriss said some of those have been addressed. He spoke to some administrators there. They were parking underneath the loading docks which is a non-sprinklered portion of the building. If they wanted to make parking there they should have put dry sprinkler heads in. He did see that they have been parking out further. He did ask for signage in front of the building at the drop off points that there is no parking. It inhibits his department's ability to get into the building in the event of an emergency. It has been improved but it's not 100%. Chief Mriss still questions the signs on 9th Street where it says no parking by order of the fire marshal.

Nicole said the one thing they did submit in the time period were the easements but they are still under review.

Councilor McEvoy said he feels before we donate any vehicles we should see something in good faith back first. We granted them the occupancy permit and they haven't followed through on their end.

Bruce said if you look at the plan and the Zoning Permit that was issued there were supposed to be so many parking spaces out there and he isn't sure if everything has been lined off. He knows it hasn't been lined off in the parking lots between the high school and elementary center the way it was supposed to be as shown on the plan. There are supposed to be marks out there that are green dashed lines on various parking lots that represent parking spaces for event parking. They needed 96 of those to meet their total calculation on parking spaces. There is no green paint marking event parking anywhere. Bruce's questions if the district complied with their zoning permit that was issued based on the parking spaces they said they would achieve as part of the plan. The plan shows things on it like approximate location of water lines. There should be nothing approximate on the as-builts only exact locations so the Water Authority knows exactly where they are at prior to the district turning them over to the Water Authority. They will become Water Authority owned water mains. Same goes for the gas.

Nicole said we are not looking to get rid of that vehicle anytime soon.

Councilors McEvoy/Arner made the motions to table this item.

Consideration on the acceptance of portable classrooms from Lehigh Area School District to be used for Fire and Police Departments

Chief Mriss said he was contacted by a member of the school district who said they were looking to get rid of the portable classroom at Shull David and would he be interested in it. Chief Mriss said he would definitely be interested in it as it would give his department something to train in. The classroom could be set up to be more like a house or do advance hose line and search training. The mayor also said it could be used for his department to use for training also. Chief Mriss said the portable could be put at the old sewer plant location which council had already approved them using for training purposes.

Councilor Abelovsky said Franklin Twp. had made the same request at the last school board meeting and the request was approved at the meeting. It was mentioned that the borough was interested in one as well. At the time the school board said they were also looking to get rid of the 2 larger portables at the middle school. She contacted the superintendent today to be sure she heard things correctly. They are looking to get rid of them as well but would require a lot of extra work to get them out of there but they are available if interested.

Chief Mriss said the school district does have the hitch and wheels for the one at Shull David and he spoke to Jarrod from All Points who is willing to tow and move the classrooms if they can be split for moving purposes.

Councilors Flickinger/Saunders made the motions to have a letter sent to the school district stating we will accept the donation of the portable classroom from Shull David for emergency services training for the Borough of Lehigh Area and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to advertise the Upper Park Project for bid upon completion of drawings and specifications

Councilor Arner/Perry made the motions to advertise and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on the approval of repairs to the roof at Borough Hall provided by Gehring Corporation

Councilors Perry/Flickinger made the motions to do the repairs for a cost of \$5,428.00 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion on Sample Ordinance to implement a program to charge user fees for the deployment of Public Safety Services

Nicole said this was discussed at budget time and is just a sample ordinance on how to proceed. Councilor Perry asked if this was mostly paid out already by most insurance companies and was told most policies have something like this built in to it; yes.

Councilor Flickinger said he thinks we will really have to look into this as well. It will be an outside firm doing the billing and that may make it not so beneficial.

This item was also tabled.

Consideration on request from Alfie's Pizza to place dumpster in the Keystone Alley Parking Lot

Nicole was approached by Leroy Gaston and Tim from County Waste. Advanced Disposal will no longer be servicing them and now that they have a new hauler they don't

have the option to have the dumpster where it is currently at. Leroy has a bit of an issue with collections. He is requesting the corner of the Keystone Alley parking lot. She did tell him to provide a picture and a statement as to what they propose to present to council. Nicole said she is not sure council will be in favor of this. Attorney Nanovic wondered if renting them a space would be an option.

Since they can no longer get the size dumpster they need for the space and have it picked up twice a week they have a real problem.

Council asked if Alfie's owned any property going south and was told no the Radler property has them surrounded. Councilor McEvoy asked how much we would rent the space for. Councilor Saunders said you would also have to make sure of the place because of other vehicles being there when the dumpster is emptied.

Councilor Perry/McEvoy made the motions to allow Alfie's to have a dumpster placed in Keystone Alley as long as they work with Nicole and Kris for the placement of the dumpsters and the lease agreement for 1 year with the amount to be determined and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on the purchase and financing of 2019 Ford F150 for the Police Department in the amount of \$45,686.70

Councilor Arner said the Finance and Administration Committee met and went over the options and feels that Mauch Chunk Trust has the best option for financing.

Councilor Abelovsky said she went over her questions with Nicole as to why a truck. She doesn't understand the need for a pick-up truck in a borough setting and then asked if we shopped around because she believes we can get a better price.

Chief Biechy said KME is Costars and we have been purchasing equipment from them and they have serviced our vehicles purchased through KME and given the borough great service. KME approached him with the concept as it is becoming more popular with other departments and a cheaper option than the SUV by about \$1,000.

Council requested the chief to shop for other prices and bring this item back once he has them.

Consideration on the purchasing and financing of 2019 Ford F550 for the Public Works Department in the amount of \$75,453

Councilor Arner said the committee again checked with various lenders and feels a 3 year term through Mauch Chunk Trust is the best choice. Nicole said this truck would have no down payment being there is nothing in the budget for it and the first lease payment would be due in 2020. At that point in time the Mack would be paid in full so we would have funds available at that time in the General and Sewer Funds to cover it. She provided council with the Liquid Fuels equipment balance and have discussed at the Finance and Admin meetings retaining that balance for the purchase of equipment. She also provided the current equipment budget so council could see what is being spent annually on equipment.

Councilor Flickinger commented that from 2016 thru 2018 Public Works has been consistently under budget all 4 years. So they do a great job saving funds while still getting the job done and this piece of equipment is roughly 20 years old so we did get our money's worth out of it. As we look at grant options needing us to put funds towards,

Public Works is one of the workhorses in the borough and we need to be sure they have what they need to continue getting the work done.

Nicole said she and Kris have started working on a Capital Replacement Plan so we can see how we will start funding these items in the future.

Councilors Flickinger/Saunders made the motions to approve the purchase with financing through Mauch Chunk Trust at 3.90% for 3 years.

Councilor Perry had a conflict and recused herself from the vote. Roll call: yes – Councilors Abelovsky, Saunders, Flickinger, McEvoy, Arner and Hunsicker. Motion carried.

Discussion on establishing an ordinance for residential and commercial property inspections

Councilor Saunders asked to have this on the agenda and provided a sample of Slatington's newly passed ordinance. In just this past year Councilor Saunders has received phone calls from residents complaining about their landlords and the condition of the rental properties. He thinks this would be a great way to curb all that and a lot of the current slumlords and absentee landlords here in the borough to make sure a lot of the quality of life things are taken care of here in the borough prior to them being able to rent them out. These landlords take advantage of the low to moderate income residents in the borough and take advantage of the fact that people just need a place to live. Broken windows and mold issues are not things anyone should have to live with when renting.

Nicole said she has dealt with 2 different versions of this when she worked in Lansford. Anytime someone would move out, an inspection would be done before a moving permit would be issued to a new tenant.

President Hunsicker said you might have a lot more apartments sitting there because the people can't afford to fix them. Councilor McEvoy said if you have the landlords investing into fixing everything up to our checklist then the rent will go up. We want people to have safe places to live in but we also need them to be affordable.

Councilor Abelovsky said she was surprised to see this on the agenda because it is similar to what she brought up a few months ago pertaining to having inspections done on homes prior to the sale except this is for apartments.

Councilor Flickinger asked what Tamaqua did. Nicole said this has come to the table numerous times. We have discussed this type of ordinance and Landlord registration. She has experience in dealing with both. The work load is cumbersome but you can get it to pay for itself depending on the fees you charge. Joe then asked how much it will cost the borough with increased code enforcement to be doing it as well. Nicole said first we need to decide if there is interest in something like this. You would have to set it up to have the fees cover the cost of implementing the program. The inspections in Lansford were \$25 per inspection and some places had a high turnover with landlords coming in constantly. The landlord registration was like \$30 a year per unit so you would structure that to pay for itself to cover the inspections.

Councilor Flickinger said he sees Grant's side of it and the other side where a catastrophic incident could happen and this is something we might need to be considering. Chief Biechy said he doesn't think we need to set the bar so high that it is unattainable but you need to set it at a reasonable level to ensure basic safety needs.

Chief Mriss said they go into properties all the time and one thing you see is the old brown extension cords. They cut the ends off of it to wire a light above the dining room

table of these poor tenants. His department got called to a place because the switch on the other end got burned up. He could not believe this was done but it was obvious and then you have a single mom and her children living there and they don't know what is right or wrong. These are things being done on the cheap and are wrong and these inspections would help fix that. Brian said there are health issues too. There is a resident on North 4th Street calling all the time because the rental in the alley has the basement doors open and she is letting all the feral cats in the area come in. He has talked to the landlord and it seems like they are trying to get her out but it also seems like they are not overly interested in taking care of their property either. When the unit is re-rented what kind of living conditions is in there after the animals have been in and not maintained properly.

Autumn said she thinks it is a good starting point but why are we limiting it to only rental properties. When she brought this up before upon the sale of a home or a new homeowner the first things on this list are sidewalks, fences and retaining walls. Grant said that's great if you can afford it but 75% of the people in this town can't afford half of that stuff. Autumn said she is looking at the safety of the residents and crumbling sidewalks are a safety issue. Grant said there are something's you can do and some you can't.

Councilor Perry asked Councilor Saunders to talk to the Housing Authority and see what their guidelines are and then talk to Tim to see what his company's costs would be and bring it back for further discussion and Ryan said he would do just that.

Consideration on request from St. Luke's Hospice to hold 9th Annual Charity Bike Ride Saturday, June 1, 2019 - Use of Trailhead Pavilion and Fire Police assistance for traffic control

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

Discussion on request form Mary Strohl to destroy tax records

Councilor Perry said she is requesting 2 Public Works employees to go down into her basement to bring up the boxes and wants to be sure Kris is ok with doing this before approving the request. President Hunsicker questioned if we can even do this if the school district and county records are part of this request. Shouldn't each they have to approve this request prior to our approving it? The solicitor wasn't sure. The borough can approve having our records only approved for destruction. The question is whose records are they. Are they our records or are they the school district records and county records.

Nicole said she has never seen this request before and neither had the solicitor and the fact that there are multiple taxing districts and no expense and having Public Works assist with the removal she told Mary to submit everything in the request.

When we have our tax records it is what is turned into us monthly. That is what we have and what we would destroy this must be the back end of all of this. As the borough Tax Collector Nicole would assume they are our records. The solicitor said but she also collects for the county and the school district and do we want to pay to have our people go there and do it?

Kris asked if they are allowed to touch those records and what do they do with it once they take it out of her basement and how much is there? Nicole said the request was to have the records brought to borough hall and then have our shredding service come in and shred the records.

Council requested the tax collector provide more clarity on this request and bring the request back at a later date.

Unfinished Business

Continued discussion on the replacement of the substation transformers

Lonny said the units were put into service in 2004 and built in 1970 by Westinghouse Corporation. We do analysis testing on the oil and water every year and lately there have been some moisture issues. Transformer #2 is losing nitrogen. He keeps a blanket of nitrogen on top of the oil at all times. If there's a leak; instead of wicking moisture we should be losing nitrogen and we are losing nitrogen on #2. He can't find the leak.

Lonny said they are used transformers purchased from Mifflinburg. We have no backup so if they fail we are out of power. There is a 2 year build time on them and they are expensive. Engineering will need to be involved and transportation is going to be huge and rigging them will also be huge because we are sandwiched in a wedge over there between a tree farm and a PPL substation.

Nicole said the replacement cost is estimated at \$750,000 for each transformer excluding all the other associated costs. Lonny said he had Utility Engineers start working on it when we started losing nitrogen and they can't find the leak either. It's probably due to age.

Lonny said he can get updated costs but there is a grey area there with losing Jim and he isn't sure Utility Engineers will be willing to take this one. We may have to find someone else. He figures we will have to do the replacement one at a time because we don't have the storage space. So it would be done over a few year period.

Councilors Flickinger/Perry made the motions to contact Utility Engineers to come up with a game plan and cost estimate for 2 transformers and a procedure on how to best do it and if they are unable to do this to find another firm that can do this for us and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Follow up on request from Pablo Agüero regarding 108-110 Iron Street

Nicole was authorized to work with him at the last meeting. She provided council with a memo of what went to the Planning Commission back to the Zoning Hearing Board and back to the Planning Commission and basically it ends up that Pablo's request was not to be parked out on the street but to utilize the parallel parking spaces but that had changed several times. We ultimately ended up that it would be parallel to the building and he requested 2 spaces 1 day a week for 4 hours. We narrowed it down to Wednesdays from 10am until 2pm. However, in going back and forth with what the Zoning Hearing Board had done they had stated that prior to the use Pablo would be responsible for communicating with the police department or governmental agencies to discuss parking, loading, unloading, deliveries, etc. and due to traffic congestion and limited parking in the vicinity of the subject property tractor trailers shall not be used for loading, unloading or deliveries to/from the subject property. Nicole's question is because the zoning board ruled on that can council override that and she talked to the solicitor about this and the solicitor agreed council cannot. They should have appealed to the Zoning Hearing Board or told them they can't live with that restriction and given the reasons.

Nicole said Pablo was not at the zoning meeting; the realtors were and the realtors stated there would be no tractor trailers; only box trucks. After that we had given Pablo

the opportunity to appeal it and he did not want to go that route and then asked about the parallel spots so that is where we ended up. His option would be to appeal to the Zoning Hearing Board and go through those processes.

Initial presentation of cost data for updating parking meters

Nicole said she provided information from 3 companies she spoke to. Civic Smart is the former Duncan Parking Technology, Butz Tickets who put the kiosks in Jim Thorpe and IPS. Civic Smart gave an option for a \$99 repair fee for each replacement board but our meters are at the end of their life so there are no guarantees. They also provided her with costs for the smart parking meters and smart parking meters with cards and coins. She is estimating 75 meters so if we were to go coin and credit card our total would be approximately \$20,625. That is without the monthly communication fees and/or the options for mobile payments. They can use their existing housings as can the other companies. IPS can retrofit our existing meter housings and for their meters with coins and credit cards their total was about \$33,750. The kiosks through IPS for the estimated 8-9 we would need in the downtown would cost about \$48,400. She does not have the Butz Tickets included here as she just received it today but they estimated 7-10 kiosks costing around \$74,000+/- with them not including the annual fees that go along with them.

The cost of enforcement was requested. We can estimate cost of salary and benefits per hour would be roughly \$52/hr. for a police officer to do the meters. She spoke to the chief and they need to spend more time to figure out roughly how many hours it would take. This at least gives council an idea of how much it would cost verses a part-time meter maid.

Currently our meters are 25 cents per ½ hour. To proceed with any of this we would have to do an evaluation and those costs would have to increase. Then we would also have to determine how we would fund it. Parking has been a hot topic in the Main Street Steering Committee meetings and on social media. There are obviously issues that the business owners have addressed with us. There have been discussions on timed parking spaces. They don't cost this amount but still a matter of enforcing it and the number of residential properties on 1st Street leads into this. Right now we are doing nothing and we need to do something. It's a matter of what kind of money do we want to spend.

Councilor Flickinger said some of the businesses that he has heard from said from 5pm on you didn't have to put money in the meter. He feels to it would be better to keep it that way so people going out to eat a meal and linger with friends wouldn't have to worry about checking the meter because it would be after 5pm helping both sides of the issue. Nicole said the current policy is 25 cents per ½ hour 9am to 5pm with no charge for Sundays and holidays.

Joe said Joker's-R-Wild were concerned because of the hours they are open. Nine, ten, eleven o'clock at night they wouldn't be part of the enforcement time anyway. Just something to keep in mind when weighing things out.

Nicole said some of the other comments she has received were yes we want the meters in the downtown but watch how you enforce it because it doesn't make sense for someone to pay when running into Alfie's for a \$2 slice of pizza and have a \$25 parking ticket. It's like yes we want meters but no strict enforcement either and we don't want to

drive our businesses away. It's a hot topic and doing nothing doesn't seem to be working and we need to consider doing something.

Councilor Flickinger said this isn't budgeted for anyway so we might as well research it thoroughly for the rest of the year until budget time.

Nicole suggested members of council forming a small committee to work on researching the best options for the meters. Councilors Saunders/Perry volunteered to work on this.

Continued discussion on the Electric Incentive Program

Nicole said she provided council with information of a sample structure developed by Utility Engineers at the time of our rate study. Typically these programs would be offered through demand metering but we do not have that so this was the structure they suggested. It would be 3 different tiers and then depending in the investment and jobs created it would ultimately result in some incentive.

Councilor Flickinger suggested removing this item from the list until we have our cards in order. Councilor Perry agreed.

Officials Reports

Borough Manager

Council received her report for the month. The Main Street Specialist will be coming April 23 & 24. We do have our annual MS4 Public Hearing scheduled for June 3. We have the executed contract documents for the old sewer plant and she is working on obtaining the permits for the demolitions.

The 9th & Union Engineering Study has become a back and forth. PennDOT received the packet created by our engineer for the TE110 and then in turn sent comments back to us that we need to attach that report to the HOP for the project. In turn the engineer had reviewed the HOP and those signs were on the plan as existing to remain. However PennDOT is saying to make them legal we still need to make the submission of the TE110 through the school district's HOP. We are working on it but it will be another 30-45 day review process.

Borough Engineer

Bruce said he has 2 things. The traffic signal at Bridge and 9th Street – is there any progress? Nicole said we are waiting on the PennDOT easement. Bruce said we are holding monies from Blakeslee Common's for their handicap ramps and sidewalks on the southeast corner of the property. We didn't want them doing the work only to make them tear it up to put in a traffic signal. If it's not going to go anywhere then we should get notify Blakeslee Commons to put their handicap ramp and sidewalks in and close out that project. It is dragging on for over a year or more. Nicole said she understands the project is to happen but it is hung up on their end. She will look into it for an update.

Bruce said he has an application for stormwater review under our ordinance for the tennis courts at the school district. One of the requirements is posting security for the stormwater improvements. His recommendation is going to be that they provide the borough with a cost estimate and have them post a letter of credit, bond or cash to cover those improvements in lieu of their taxing power. It doesn't seem like we are getting

anything done when they do it under their taxing power. He should have the review done this week but to complete the process the posting of security will be required.

He is working on the CDBG project and the Packerton yards subdivision also.

Police

Chief Biechy said he working with an agency out of PennDOT called PennDOT Connects to discuss the area by the elementary school at 12th and Mahoning Street. He wants them to look at the current layout and their suggestion for that area if any.

Councilor Abelovsky said the school did all we ask them to do – the school wide phone call, letters to parents, social media and nothing has changed.

Chief Biechy said he will look into it again but doesn't thinks it is his issue to deal but it keeps coming back around to be his issue to deal with.

Mayor

Mayor Ritter was absent due to surgery. Chief Biechy said the mayor wanted him to pass on this request. The mayor had met with Joe Bennett at the vacant Federal Credit Union on S. 7th Street and toured the building back in March at Mr. Bennett's request. Mr. Bennett said he would renovate the building to fit the needs of the police department and rent the building for \$6,000/month to the borough with a 15 year lease. The mayor advised Mr. Bennett that he would take the proposal to council but advises against it.

Fire Chief

Nothing.

Light & Power Superintendent

Lonny said the Freightliner truck has been built and has been delivered to Horwith Freightliner. We are probably getting close to an end date of 2-3 months.

Public Works Superintendent

Kris said thanks for agreeing on the truck. He said they need to notify Kovatch by April 15th or he won't be able to order the truck until the end of the year. Nicole said he can notify them tomorrow.

Kris said he contacted Radocha and they will be doing the catch basins at Beaver Run Road and Mahoning Street. We will have to close the street down for about a day to replace those 2 basins and the pipe. He is looking at doing it somewhere around the middle of the month. He will contact the school but it has to get done.

Councilor Flickinger asked if the one by the hardware store in the alley is on the list. Kris said he is going to try and do as many as he can and that one is on the list.

Recreation Director

Absent.

President of Council

Addendum:

Motion to approve Resolution R7-2019 authorizing the placement of banners across state highways

Nicole said we had a similar resolution last year. The only change really is that this is a perpetual resolution for the HOP permit to hang the banner instead of obtaining a new HOP each year.

Councilors Perry/Flickering made the motion to approve the resolution and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve the Utility Relocation Reimbursement Agreement for the electrical relocation work on SR 443

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

Discussion on 2019 Grant Applications

Nicole said we are lining up our grant applications for the year. Councilor Saunders brought up South 1st Street sidewalks a few days ago. Nicole said we have applied four times for this project for state and federal funding and still have not gotten funded.

The Waterfront Traffic Study is another item available for funding. The grant writer said we could use the multimodal or the TASAP's. The grant writer said South 1st Street is a priority but connecting the trail and river activity to our downtown is a powerful project as well and may make the grant application more competitive. It comes down to the eyes of the funders and which project would come first – the downtown or connecting people to the downtown.

DCED and multimodal grant application are due the end of July and require a 30% match. Council must decide what, if anything they are interested in and definitely commit to the match as we have been awarded other grants and turned them away making us not look so favorable to those in Harrisburg.

Councilor Flickinger said because we aren't sure where we are getting the funds for the grants we currently have, where are we going to get the 30% match for either of these programs? Council agreed to review and discuss this at the next month's meeting.

Initial Presentation of Payroll Demonstrations

This should be referred to the finance and administration committee for discussion. Nicole just wanted to provide council with the treasurer's memo because she handled all of the demonstrations.

Motion to approve \$100,000 budgetary transfer from Light & Power to General Fund

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

Solicitor

Nothing.

Treasurer

Nicole said the treasurer has additional bills totaling \$71,117.60.

Committee Reports

Finance and Administration – Darryl Arner, Chair; Lisa Perry, Co-Chair – Darryl wanted to thank everyone for approving their recommendation for the Public Works vehicle. He wondered if the benches in the upper park that are going to be replaced could be sold to the public to recoup some of the expense for the project. The solicitor said we would have to put them out for bid or we could give them away.

Nicole had a recommendation to put some of the benches in the Grove. Autumn said some of the people who sponsored the benches or paid to have them painted would like to have the boards at least from them.

Economic Development, Buildings and Codes – Joe Flickinger, Chair; Autumn Abelovsky, Co-Chair – Joe said the Chamber would be having a ribbon cutting May 4th at Salon Indigo for anyone who would like to attend. Autumn said M&S Hardware is having their grand opening April 12 & 13.

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

Light & Power Committee – Lisa Perry, Chair; Joe Flickinger, Co-Chair – Lisa said the Leighton UVO is asking the L&P department to assist in hanging up the next round of banners. Lonny said he has no problem with it.

Councilors Flickinger/McEvoy made the motions to allow the L&P Department to assist with hanging the 2nd round of Home Town Hero banners and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Sewer Committee – Autumn Abelovsky, Chair; Darryl Arner, Co-Chair – nothing.

Streets, Public Works & Recreation – Jared McEvoy, Chair; Ryan Saunders, Co-Chair – nothing. Ryan said the summer basketball league is looking for 8 teams of 7-10 players. They have 6 teams already.

Acceptance of Officials Reports

Councilors Arner/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 Flickinger/Abelovsky made the motions to accept the accounts payable plus the additional list of bills totaling \$20,645.37 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel & Litigation

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motions to go into executive session at 9:25 p.m. and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Flickinger/Saunders made the motion to go back in at 9:52 p.m. and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Action on Items from Executive Session

Councilors Flickinger/Perry made the motions to accept Jerry McAward's verbal resignation from the Parks & Recreation Committee and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilors Abelovsky/Arner made the motions to hire Elizabeth Desmond as part time police clerk upon completion of pre-employment processes and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilors Flickinger/Saunders made the motions to approve Officer Svetik's DROP Application and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Arner/Flickinger made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Kreitz
Borough Secretary