

January 31, 2019

The special meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Thursday, January 31, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Pres. Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Lisa Perry, Autumn Abelovsky and Ryan Saunders. Absent: Councilors Jared McEvoy, Darryl Arner and Joe Flickinger.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Solicitor James Nanovic, Mayor Clark Ritter, and Police Chief Brian Biechy.

Pledge of Allegiance

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve the purchase and financing of the Public Works Ford F250 Pickup Truck

President Hunsicker asked if the plow was included. Nicole said yes it included a V-plow. There was \$14,000 built into the budget between General Fund and Sewer for the down payment leaving \$21,627 to be financed. She spoke to Community Leasing Partners that we normally go to for financing and their rate was 4.09%. She spoke to Mauch Chunk Trust who has a new program and they came in at 4.03%. Nicole provided both options to council for the 2 and 3 year terms.

Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to approve the purchase with financing through Mauch Chunk Trust for 2 year term leasing and a roll call vote was required. Councilor Perry recused herself from the vote.

Roll call: yes- Councilors Abelovsky, Saunders and Hunsicker. Motion carried

Motion to approve the advertisement to amend Sections 192-2 and 192-3 regarding sidewalks and snow shoveling

Nicole said there was discussion back in May to amend the ordinance for shoveling sidewalks. Council had made a motion and approved advertising the amendment to include language for a walkway for areas where there are no sidewalks.

President Hunsicker had a questions. If we as the borough don't have all of our sidewalks done how we can make everyone else do it?

Solicitor Nanovic said you already have it on the books that you have to be shoveling sidewalks. This is for those who don't have sidewalks. This will require them to have to shovel a 36 inch wide path.

Councilors Abelovsky/Perry made the motions to approve the advertisement and all were not in favor.

Roll call: yes- Councilors Abelovsky, Saunders and Perry; no - Council Hunsicker.

The solicitor believes the majority vote is enough to advertise but would like to look it up in the Code to be sure. He gave council 2 options - 1. Advertise if the solicitor finds nothing in the Code stating the majority rule is insufficient; 2. Wait until the February 11th meeting when the presumably full board of council is present.

Council will bring this item up at the February 11th meeting for action.

Discussion/Action on PathStone Lease for full use of the 2nd Floor at \$13/square foot

Nicole said we have been renting space to PathStone on a temporary basis on the 2nd floor these past few months. PathStone has been communicating their desire to take over the entire building with the Recreation Director. The IU is to be leaving in July of 2019 and PathStone would like to take over that space also. All rooms would be utilized by PathStone at \$13/square foot. The building would be used as a school with only 1 tenant except for the Booster Club's use of the gym and the rental of the auditorium. The building will be at full capacity on the rental side of things.

Councilor Abelovsky asked what happens to the showcases in the upstairs hallway. Nicole said they will go in the museum when we open it in the downtown one day.

Councilor Abelovsky said she would like to suggest keeping the 2 showcases around the auditorium or gymnasium for the Vietnam Veterans for which the building was named. If we can find somewhere else for the rest of the cabinets, great but at least those 2 should stay there. Nicole said she will talk to Tom tomorrow about it.

Autumn's next question was where did the \$13/square foot come from? Nicole said that was what we had used for the temporary rental of the 2nd floor.

Autumn asked if we are counting the square footage as office space only. The words full use is written here. Are we using hallways and bathrooms? Grant said we can't charge for that. Councilor Saunders said it is no longer a public area. If we have 1 tenant it no longer becomes a common area. It is now a school and no one will have access. Both floor would be secured. Because of this it now becomes rentable space. Autumn agreed. The hallways are lined with their stuff and she feels that is we are saying we are giving them this entire building that no one else has access too then we are either charging them for it or giving it to them for free.

Nicole asked if we could negotiate that area. Could we just approve the lease of the rooms for now? She does not want to go to them with the common area charges and possibly discourage them.

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motions to approve the lease of the full 2nd Floor at \$13/square foot and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Unfinished Business

None.

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel

Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to go into executive session at 6:26pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motion to go back in at 7:04pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Action on Items from Executive Session

Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to advertise part time police clerk position upon receipt of resignation letter and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:06pm and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Kreitz
Borough Secretary