

June 3, 2019

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, June 3, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Pres. Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Autumn Abelovsky, Joe Flickinger, Ryan Saunders and Jr. Councilor Addison Howland. Absent: Lisa Perry, Donnie Rehrig and Darryl Arner.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

GUEST SPEAKER: Carbon County Office of Planning & Development – CDBG Modifications – David Bodnar

See attachment.

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

U.S. Municipal Presentation – Sewer Vac & Hydro Excavator - Bob

He went over what a combination sewer unit can do and the benefits to the borough if council decides to purchase one. Bob said hydro excavation is safer to do around buried utilities.

Manny DaCosta, Lehighon Sewer Authority

Mr. DaCosta brought props along for his presentation. He held up a piece of rope representing the sewer lines in town. He had 2 other pieces representing sewer lines in Mahoning and Weissport. Manny said they have almost the same amount of piping in the outlying areas as we do in the borough. Because of our infiltration problem, we are paying 80-82% of the cost to run CCMA. The other ones are paying 18-20%. If we could cut the infiltration by 10% in the borough our bill would come down quite a bit. We have a good group of people working here in the borough who know where some of the manholes that are really malfunctioning and contributing to our high costs.

Manny said Entech did a study and they told us what we already know...we have a problem. He is giving council a challenge. He would like council to look into this and maybe get 5 of the worst ones fixed this year and then do another 5 next year. Sump pumps are another source of our infiltration problem. People have them all over town and he would like to have the zoning officer check the wiring and plumbing of a home before it goes up for sale. If there is a sump pump the owner should be made to get it fixed before the property could be put up for sale. Manny suggested requiring \$100 fee paid to the borough for a property inspection before you can sell a property and bring it up to our standards.

MS4 Public Hearing

See attachment.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Carol Valdez of 490 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street wanted to inquire what could be done to up the narcotics officer's hours. There is a big problem in this town. She has had him at her home 3 times in the last month due to a problem tenant having a lot of traffic and it's bad. She can see them at the Dollar store. You can pick up needles anywhere on First Street. Ms. Valdez said the narcotics officer told her he has a 6 month back log and gets 20 hours a week. He needs more hours she thinks. The problem needs to be addressed.

The mayor said all he can say is that there are people working the area. He understands the problem and they are doing the best they can. She again asked about an increase of hours. The mayor directed her to address council about that.

Ms. Valdez said she is not afraid of these people. She has cameras at both her doors because of someone trying to break in her home and they go off 60 times a day.

The police chief said he understands her concern. The officer gets a minimum of 20 hours. If we are fully staffed he has more hours. We also participate in the Drug Task Force through the county. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time we have maxed out our budget in that program. That is hours over and above with what we have slotted for him.

Chief Biechy said the flood of the problem is bigger than the band aids we have to put on the problem. Ms. Valdez agreed with his comment. Chief Biechy told her to keep calling. His department is doing the best they can with what they have available to them.

Ms. Valdez said her landlord is from out of state and the problem tenant's rent is funded through the Action Committee. There are homeless people staying there and she knows when this tenant is taken out of there on Wednesday she is going to have break-ins for months after this.

Wendy Leighton of 217 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street wanted to know what was going to be done about the trash pickers. She gets up every morning and puts her garbage out and stays on her porch so no one gets in her trash and makes her sidewalks a mess. She has called the police who tell her they can't do anything because it's public property. She has gone to the borough office and is told to come here to address the issue.

Councilor Abelovsky said people had come last month about this issue. It is on our agenda tonight to hopefully take action on this issue. Autumn said she is prepared tonight to make a motion to have an ordinance drafted to make trash picking, scavenging or dumpster diving illegal in this town.

Ms. Leighton moved from Allentown to here because this was supposed to be a better area. Allentown would not allow this. She keeps her area nice and clean and doesn't want this where she lives. She and her husband moved here to give their 2 children a better life. She hopes there is something that will be done to stop this from continuing.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### Regular Meeting of May 6, 2019

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

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### Motion to adopt Resolution R9-2019 expressing opposition to HB 349 of 2019

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

Motion to accept Ryan Saunders' resignation from the Parks & Recreation Board

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

Motion to accept Floyd Brown's resignation from Lehighon Sewer Authority

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

Motion to appoint Greg Mriss to Lehighon Sewer Authority

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

Motion to approve Mahoning Township's request for Fire Police assistance with Oriolesfest June 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>

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

Motion to approve Road Material Bids as presented

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

Motion to approve request from Debra & Joseph Bennett for Subdivision & Vacation Plan Extension until August 31, 2019

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

Motion to advertise ordinance amending Chapter 213-12 prohibiting left turns from Union Street onto 9<sup>th</sup> Street during school hours

Nicole said PennDOT approved amending our HOP for the "No Left Turn" during school hours and this ordinance will make it enforceable. Councilor Abelovsky asked if you can still go straight across and Nicole said yes. PennDOT will not approve that request.

Scott Rehrig commented why prohibit a left hand turn if you can still go straight. Council agreed. Another resident said the times won't cover the elementary center's dismissal at 3:10pm.

Councilor Abelovsky wanted to know what we asked them to look at when this study was done. Autumn thought it should be a no left turn and a no straight. Nicole said PennDOT will not prohibit going straight. It's not an option.

Autumn thought the point of this was to make the intersection safer and does not feel this ordinance will do that. Nicole said council can make a motion to advertise, the solicitor can make the time changes and then it will have to go to PennDOT to approve the changes and if approved it can be advertised. Autumn said she doesn't think this meets the needs of this intersection.

Councilor Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to table this item until next meeting and all were in favor. Councilor Abelovsky had a question. She wanted to know if we could go back to PennDOT and find out if the times had to be set time or if it could be all the time. Nicole said PennDOT will require the recommendation to come from the traffic engineer meaning we would have to go back to the traffic engineer and ask then to amend that and then in turn resubmit the HOP. Motion carried.

Motion to hire seasonal employees for Baer Memorial Pool per list provided by Recreation Director

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

Consideration on the request from Pool Pals to host Family Fun Night Saturday, July 13, 2019

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

Update on Upper Park Improvements Project

Nicole said we must proceed with the project as we applied for through the grants. We must move on them. The state can't guarantee that we will get additional grant funding so we have to use what we have through the grant contracts. We did submit a request to change the scope of work and to remove all stone work from the Greenways Trails and Recreation Grant. We re-advertised and the bids are due June 17<sup>th</sup> and the special meeting will be June 20<sup>th</sup> to award. Issues with bidding include the specialized stonework and logistic issues due to the amphitheater structure.

Discussion on possible request to LASD for playground equipment at Shull David

Kris said it is too time consuming to dismantle and everything is encased in concrete. We would also need a place to put the equipment.

Councilors Flickinger/Saunders made the motions to deny the request but thank them for offering it to the borough and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to advertise the Public Works 2000 GMC Pickup Truck with Plow

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

Motion to approve request to close Borough Hall December 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> using 4hrs personal/vacation time for the holidays

Brenda said she missed including December 26<sup>th</sup> on the agenda with those choosing to take off using 8 hours personal/vacation time.

Councilors Abelovsky/Saunders made the motions to approve the closing including December 26<sup>th</sup> and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on the approval of 2019 Street Paving Program and Alley Paving

Nicole provided a spreadsheet for the Local Forces Paving Program. There was about \$80,000 in the fund and we had 6 different locations in town.

Kris said he his department prioritized things and got down to about \$40,000 in just paving.

Nicole said Millway and Bridge Street hill would be eliminated from the list this year. Kris said he would like to consider using the extra money for tar and chip to prolong the life of road from 5-7 years on the roads we recently paved.

Jeff said they spoke with UGI and they are installing their gas line now on Bridge Street. He and Kris proposed to them filling their trench to the top with base and they would reimburse the borough for the difference for the top material when we do overlay the whole road. They will come up with a cost for the difference and write us a check.

Kris asked to have Bridge Street hill on the list in case the amount from UGI makes paving it this year still feasible. Nicole suggested keeping the 4 streets listed, adding Bridge Street hill and get PennDOT's approval. If the hill gets done ok and if it doesn't it doesn't.

Kris wanted to work with Bruce on the square yards for the tar and chip so it can go out for bid.

Nicole said the alley paving budget was reduced to \$15,000 and with that we would work on Queen Alley. Kris said that alley has severe issues.

Councilors Flickinger/Saunders made the motions to approve the 2019 Paving Program and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to adopt Resolution R10-2019 for MCT Financing

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

ADDENDUM

Consideration on approval of Change Order #1 in the amount of \$22,556.97 for Baer Memorial Improvement project

Brenda told council it was for the rain gardens that needed to be installed to meet the MS4 requirements.

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

Motion to approve additional bills totaling \$10,551.45

President Hunsicker added these to the list of bills for approval.

Unfinished Business

Continued discussion on continuing issues with trash picking

Councilor Abelovsky/Saunders made the motions to have the solicitor draft an ordinance pertaining to trash picking being unlawful in the borough and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Continued discussion on 2019 Grant Submissions

Nicole said we discussed this at past meetings and the concern was the matching funds. She has found out that through the DCED Multimodal program there will be no required match in this round. We have 2 options – we can apply for the South 1<sup>st</sup> Street sidewalks which we have submitted 5-6 grant applications and have not been approved or we could apply for the Sgt. Stanley Hoffman pedestrian improvements per our traffic study.

Our grant writer said we should be thinking about the DCED Local Share Grant which is no match.

Councilor Flickinger said he would like to go after funds for the pedestrian improvements being we want to build that area up. Nicole asked if council was ok with what was suggested in the traffic study. Council agreed.

Officials Reports

Borough Manager

She included the Public Works project list and status of the projects. She included a copy of the letter to LASD approving the acceptance of the modular classroom. The old sewer plant demo is awaiting the mobilization of the contractor. The project must be complete by July 22<sup>nd</sup> so they should be mobilizing by next week.

Borough Engineer

Absent.

Police

Brian said Joe Hutta fixed the sewer line issue. He has to come back to do a small repair on one connection.

Marzen Doors gave him a quote for the man door in the back of the building. It was never primed from install and then there was the water issues. The door is shot and doesn't close on its own anymore or lock properly.

Car #3 is at Blocker's getting fixed and is covered by insurance.

WatchGuard is done on our end including the video storage from the old unit to the new server. As soon as he can get PCCD on board we can figure out what they want us to do for the grant on the bodycams. PCCD originally told him we could apply and be credited for the server he bought last year. Now they are saying maybe not.

Brian will send everyone an email in the morning about the issue on 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mayor

Clark said several people have complained to him about grass and high weeds. Most were about 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

Fire Chief

Nothing.

Light & Power Superintendent

Nothing.

Public Works Superintendent

The Assistant Supervisor said he and Autumn had met with Bruce regarding the I&I issue to narrow down some of the bad areas by doing some number crunching using Entech's report. They are looking into these problem areas. It will cost \$3,500 per day to have them in here regardless of whether they fix one manhole or 10 so Mr. DaCosta was here to make council aware they will probably be making the request to have some of the problem areas fixed.

Recreation Director

Nothing.

President of Council

Grant presented Addison Howland a card from council and congratulated him on going to the Air Force Academy after graduation.

Solicitor

Nothing.

Treasurer

Nothing.

Committee Reports

Finance and Administration – Darryl Arner, Chair; Lisa Perry, Co-Chair – Both absent.

Economic Development, Buildings and Codes – Joe Flickinger, Chair; Autumn Abelovsky, Co-Chair – Joe thanked Addison for being part of council all these years and wished him luck at the academy.

Police, Fire and Safety – Ryan Saunders, Chair; Donnie Rehrig, Co-Chair – nothing.

Light & Power Committee – Lisa Perry, Chair; Joe Flickinger, Co-Chair – absent.

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

Streets, Public Works & Recreation – Donnie Rehrig, Chair; Ryan Saunders, Co-Chair – absent.

Library Board – Autumn had nothing.

Parks and recreation Board – Autumn said they have Heritage weekend coming up. July 6<sup>th</sup> will be the fireworks.

School Board – Autumn had nothing.

Canal Commission – Ryan was at the Main Street Steering meeting and did not make it to the Canal Commission meeting. Upon getting the minutes from the meeting he will report to council.

#### Acceptance of Officials Reports

Councilors Flickinger/Saunders 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 Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to accept the accounts payable plus the additional list of bills totaling \$10,551.45 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

#### Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Litigation

Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to go in at 8:40 p.m. and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

#### Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Saunders/Flickinger made the motions to go into Regular Session at 9 p.m. and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

#### Action on items from Executive Session

None.

#### Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Saunders/Autumn made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 9 p.m. and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Kreitz  
Borough Secretary