

July 23, 2012

The Regular Scheduled Meeting of the Lehighon Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, July 23, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: George Kogut, Bessie Bauchspies, John Kreitz, John Bird and Darryl Arner.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Solicitor James Nanovic, Treasurer Kira Michalik, Borough Secretary Brenda Koons Mayor Donald Rehrig, Police Chief Neal Ebbert and Fire Chief Gary Frable. Absent: Scott Rehrig, Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt.

Pledge of Allegiance

Hearing of Persons Present

Mr. Rodney Snyder of 145 Millway was present to ask why there is nothing on the agenda about the "Jake Brake" for 443. He wanted to know if it was a dead issue. He then asked what kind of disability he needed to have to get anything done in this town. He said if a stop sign was put in for a woman who wanted to go to the Legion for her meals the least council could do is cut the noise for him. There is nothing you have to do just get together and vote on it, Nicole did the dirty work on it already. The solicitor said that you can't simply adopt an ordinance they must first contact PennDOT and see if they will permit it. It is up to council if you wish him to contact them or not. Council instructed the solicitor to contact PennDOT to see what they say about the ordinance in question.

Mr. Snyder then went on to ask about the article on Packerton Yards in the July 10 newspaper and feels he can speak on this subject because some of it is in the borough. Bruce Steigerwalt was at the meeting and quoted as saying they want a sidewalk on the side of the road and that's it. Mr. Snyder said that further in the article Mr. Steigerwalt indicated he is standing firm on the sidewalk issue for the sake of those using the park. Mr. Snyder wanted to ask Mr. Steigerwalt why he was insistent on the sidewalks. Is it because he doesn't want the township to have the responsibility for somebody getting hurt if the sidewalk is not installed? President Hunsicker said it would not be fair for Mr. Snyder to ask Mr. Steigerwalt at our meeting if he made the comment at that meeting. Mr. Snyder said if Mr. Steigerwalt is concerned with safety in Mahoning Township why did he come into the Lehighon Borough and move the curb when he did the Stedman Project 4 feet out into the street. That's making the people walk in the roadway. Mr. Snyder knows the borough does not have the money to fix it but at least take it out and put the bank back where it was to match the rest of Millway and make it look presentable.

Mr. Snyder then brought up the stop sign on Graver Street that is also 5 feet out into the roadway. Now you have the stop sign and 50 feet away you have the curbing; that is 9 feet of roadway that has been taken away from Millway.

Mr. Snyder said he also wanted to know what Mr. Steigerwalt has found out when he was out surveying for the wall in the alley. Mr. Snyder then said it is a waste of time coming to these meetings.

Carl Teets of 51 3rd Avenue the Heights was next to address council. He wanted to praise everyone that has/had anything to do with the wonderful improvements to the swimming pool. Mr. Teets' aunt and uncle, Mr. & Mrs. Baer would be very proud to see what is there today. On their behalf Mr. Teets thanked council and everyone else.

Approval of Minutes

Special Meeting of July 9, 2012

Councilors Kreitz/Bauchspies made the motions to approve and all were in favor.

New Business

Motion to approve Borough Manager, Nicole Beckett as the Borough's temporary voting delegate on the Carbon County Tax Collection Committee

Nicole said to nix the temporary part and in addition to the voting delegate council is also going to either want to move John to the alternate or Mr. Bird can stay on as the alternate. Right now, Nicole said she feels she would like to stay involved.

Councilors Kreitz/Bird made the motions to approve Nicole as the voting delegate and Mr. Bird as the alternate and all were in favor.

Discussion on extension of garbage contract with Interstate Waste Management

As per the contract we are able to extend the contract for an additional year with an increase based on the Consumer Price Index. That was addressed and they had given us a 2% increase starting January 1, 2013 which would increase the total contract \$9,970. We have until September 1st to make this decision. The borough manager just thought she would present it to council now.

The solicitor said that council has the right to extend the contract. The solicitor told Nicole that some of the other places that are bidding it are coming in lower but under the current contract it can be extended one year. It is something to think about.

Councilors Arner and Bauchspies thought we should see what other municipalities are doing. The borough manager will do some homework to see how the other figures came in and report back at the August meeting.

Unfinished Business

None

Official's Reports

Borough Manager

Everything is pretty much laid out in her report. The 1st Farmer's Market was held Saturday and according to Frank it was a big success. Many residents, elderly and businesses were grateful for this happening and they are looking forward to it continuing.

The Judge's Stand roof is completed and Lowe's Hometown Heroes volunteers will be meeting in the near future to go over the materials and labor needed.

Borough Engineer

Absent

Police Chief

Chief Ebbert thanked everyone who attended the building dedication on Friday, July 13, 2012. The borough crew also did a great job of doing what was asked of them at the last minute.

He also asked where we were with the tent ordinance and was told it is being worked on.

Mayor

The monthly Crime Watch Meeting is tomorrow night at 6:30 in the high school auditorium.

Fire Chief

Nothing

President of Council

Nothing

Solicitor

Nothing to report

Treasurer

She added 1 invoice for approval from Bartush Signs for \$2,657.65 for the new sign at the police department.

Committee Reports

Finance & Administration – Darryl Chairman, George Co-Chair—

Nothing to report.

Streets, Buildings & Codes – John Kreitz Chairman, Bessie Co-Chair –

Nothing to report.

Police, Fire & Safety – Scott Chairman and John Bird Co-Chair – Nothing to report.

Light & Power Committee – John Bird Chairman, Scott Co-Chair, commented on what was in Lonny's report.

Sewer Committee – Bessie Chairwoman, Darryl Co-Chairman –Nothing to report. Bessie thanked everyone for all their hard work that went into getting ready for the dedication and was glad that everyone attended.

Public Works & Recreation – George Chairman, John Kreitz Co-Chair – George liked the comments about the pool earlier in the meeting and he is currently working on getting lights and basketball courts down there.

Acceptance of Officials' Reports

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

Approval of Accounts Payable

Councilors Arner/Kreitz made the motions to approve the accounts payable plus the last minute invoices the treasurer added and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Adjournment

Motion to go in to Executive Session for Personnel Reasons

Councilors Arner/Kogut made the motions to go into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. and all were in favor.

Motion to go back into Public Session

Councilors Bird/Kreitz made the motions to go back into Regular Session at 8:11 p.m. and all were in favor.

Action on Any Items Necessary as a Result of Executive Session

Councilors Bauchspies/Kreitz made the motions to allow the borough staff to use 4 hours of vacation/personal time for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and all were in favor.

Councilors Arner/Kogut made the motions to hire Ren Wentz effective August 1, 2012 provided he passes his CDL license test and all were in favor.

Councilors Bird/Kreitz made the motions to hire Steve Ebbert as a consultant for the Fire Company Project at a cost of \$150 a month plus cell phone reimbursement and all were in favor.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Kreitz/Bauchspies made the motions to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. and all were in favor.

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary