

May 21, 2012

The Regular Scheduled Meeting of the Lehighon Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, May 21, 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, Darryl Arner and Scott Rehrig.

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: Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt

Pledge of Allegiance

Hearing of Persons Present

Paul Pugielli of Brown & Brown Insurance was first to address council. He briefly discussed his years with the borough as their insurance provider. He understands that another bid has been presented this year and just wanted council to know they hope to keep the contract with the borough and will be happy to answer any questions council may have.

Clark Ritter, Class of 1964 addressed council about the memorial they proposed last month. They would like to replace the arborvitae with a memorial if possible and move the existing signs to either side of the proposed monument. They would like to have everything finished by Memorial Day if all goes well. Next they wanted borough employees to move one of the display cases to the first floor. President Hunsicker said that it would depend on where they would want it placed but yes it can be moved by borough employees.

After some discussion on the name of the building, Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to name the Annex Building the PFC Clyde R. Houser Jr. Building. The Borough Manager had a resolution ready if council so chose to adopt it at this meeting to officially rename the Annex.

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to adopt Resolution R004-2012 renaming the Annex building as the PFC Clyde R. Houser Lehighon Borough Annex Building and all were in favor.

Rodney Snyder of 145 Millway was next to address council. He wanted to know if it was going to be possible to get the Jake Brake ordinance enacted on 443. What's the hold up? Council President said that 443 was a state highway. The solicitor said that it was generally discussed before. He knew the question was asked if you can have them. He knows some municipalities have them and they have been challenged more in recent years but he will look into it.

Mr. Snyder asked about the jersey barriers and if Mr. Steigerwalt went over to look at them yet. Bruce was not present at the meeting so this question could not be answered. Mr. Snyder said this has gone on for 20 some years and he would like it straightened out.

Mr. Snyder then wanted an update on the curbing. President Hunsicker said nothing will be done about that until the borough does something with Millway. Then it will be looked at. It is just not feasible to spend the money to change it now.

Mr. Snyder then asked about the drain on Millway. He said he talked to Nicole about it. Nicole said she looked at it. Mr. Snyder said he looked at it last week when it rained and that 95% of the water was not going in the drain. Nicole said the water was going through fine when she looked at it but the rain flow was not as heavy as it was last week.

Mr. Snyder said Al Steigerwalt said something about the grade being the reason they couldn't do it. Mr. Snyder said that you make the grade to fit the street.

He also mentioned the stop sign for Graver Street was still sticking out. Chief Ebbert said that he noticed in the ordinance there was a stop sign listed to be there. He then suggested to Mr. Hanosek that a stop sign should be put in to cover the borough because of it being in the ordinance.

Mr. Snyder then questioned the Judge's Stand. President Hunsicker said that it was moved today.

Mr. Snyder said the borough workforce came to the senior center today and adjusted the thermostat for the air conditioner and then they locked the door to get out of the lunch room. The borough manager asked if they were locked in and told yes. Nicole said she will look into that tomorrow. Mr. Snyder said that they had to call Tom and he also had trouble unlocking it with his key.

#### Approval of Minutes

Special Meeting of December 7 & Regular Scheduled Meeting of December 19, 2011.

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

#### New Business

Motion to approve and hire seasonal employee roster as provided by Recreation Director for the Summer 2012 Season

The borough manager had an extra name to be added to the list - Katie Mongi.

Councilors Arner/Rehrig made the motions to approve the list and all were in favor.

Motion to hire Crystal Marx permanently for cleaning of Police Department, Borough Hall and L&P Garage

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to hire and all were in favor.

Approval of Lot Consolidation Plan for 128-132-136 South Third Street as recommended by the Lehighon Borough Planning Commission

The borough manager said the planning commission had reviewed 2 plans. One was for the lot consolidation and the other was for the land development. The planning commission unanimously decided to approve the reverse subdivision to borough council. The land development will be brought back after they address the list of questions from Bruce.

Councilors Kreitz/Arner made the motions to approve the lot consolidation and all were in favor.

Appointment to the Lehighon Sewer Authority

President Hunsicker read a letter from Chase Carpenter. Chase's grandfather, Kaye Leiby was on the Sewer Authority and Chase would like to take his place.

Councilors Bauchspies/Kogut made the motions to appoint Chase Carpenter to the Sewer Authority and all were in favor.

Appointment to Lehighon Water Authority

President Hunsicker said council received letters of interest from John Hanosek, Gordon Ripkey, William Howland, and Robert Moser

Councilors Kogut/Arner made the motions to appoint William Howland to the Water Authority and all were in favor.

Motion to adopt resolution R005-2012 amending financial depositories

First Niagara was added.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to adopt the resolution and all were in favor.

Motion to transfer initial deposit of \$500,000 into the Fire Station Construction Fund from Sewer Capital Reserves for the start of the bridge financing

The borough manager said we will be doing this incrementally over a period of time until we need to have the full amount of the bridge financing once construction comes to a head. She wanted to start it being that bills will start coming in for the project. We are doing a separate list of bills to be approved for this project. Some bills are in for approval tonight, so we would like to start the account up at this time. It will go back into the Sewer Fund with the 2 mil tax increase. Once the full transfer is made we will do a resolution like we did with the Annex. It will basically say the payment schedule and the percentage of interest and work through all those details. She wants to get the funds started but does not want to take the full amount because we do not need it yet.

Councilors Kogut/Kreitz made the motions to transfer the money and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion and action on 2012/2013 insurance renewal program

The borough manager provided the letter from Paul Pugielli which he referred to tonight and two proposals. One proposal is from Brown & Brown and the other is from Seltzer & Keystone Insurance Group. She provided the numbers - Brown & Brown was \$187,414 for all the policies and Seltzer was \$181,668. There are some slight differences going through them so we are making sure everything is in order. We need more time to do that and she would want the committee to get involved at this point. Nicole said she and the committee needs authorization to move forward.

Unfinished Business

None

## Official's Reports

### Borough Manager

The Judge's Stand was moved today and the contractor should be in by next week to start the roof replacement.

A proposal from Dietrich's Stone Masonry was received to help us open and reclose the fountain for the repairs that have to be made due to the water leak.

At the last council meeting new recycle bins were discussed. She contacted the county who said there is grant money available for new bins. However we would have to add additional items to our recycling program. It is something to consider although they are a bit pricey so she is working with Duane on it.

She did not forget about the time clocks. That is being pulled together.

### Borough Engineer

Absent

### Police Chief

Chief Ebbert said while he was on night shift last week he had the opportunity to drive around town and he did sit at the intersection Mr. Snyder remarked about. Chief Ebbert gave council a list of intersections in question for either high grass, weeds, some are blocking road signs, some are probably property owner issues but he is not sure. He did speak to Al who said the borough can go 5 feet off the roadway but some of the properties should be addressed and maybe the zoning officer could assist with that. President Hunsicker said on South Main Lane there is a tree over hanging the roadway that is starting to hit cars as they drive past.

Chief Ebbert's only other concern is 2<sup>nd</sup> & Iron Street. It has a flashing signal and stop signs. He doesn't think 2 traffic control devices are necessary. He feels the stop signs are so far off the roadway now that they are not really visible. The blinking light is the more visible traffic control device. If the borough decides to keep the stop signs there you are going to have to remove parking spots. As of now there are at least two cars that illegally park right against the stop sign. They could be ticketed every day but he doesn't because parking is vital. It has been that way ever since he has worked here.

Chief Ebbert also had in his report about the curbing needing to be painted. It is hard to give citations for parking when you can't see the yellow curbing. He talked to Al who said they will be going out and painting curbing shortly.

Councilor Rehrig asked the chief to check Beaver Run Road and the Petch house where the foliage is growing again on Mahoning Street and Union & South 9<sup>th</sup> Street the Pressman property with the trees.

Councilor Kreitz asked if anyone was down where the farmer's market was over the weekend. Did anyone see the parking down there? Chief Ebbert said they issued tickets and everyone started to scatter. Councilor Kreitz said there are a lot of speeders on North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. There was a real close call this morning. He could hear the car's tires skid and was waiting for the crunch. Chief Ebbert said with the Vas-car, we are the only state in the nation where

local municipalities are not allowed to use radar. Magistrate Lewis likes to have 200 feet of distance between point A and point B. You don't have that in a block nor can you sit somewhere to observe.

Councilor Rehrig asked the chief to keep a look out for yard sale signs attached to poles and to tell his men to do the same. There are some with addresses on them around the town.

Mayor

He wanted to give a reminder that tomorrow is the Community Crime Watch meeting at the high school at 6:30 p.m. The presentation will be on video surveillance systems for homes and businesses.

He also mentioned that we always sponsor the Home Run Derby. He was in contact with the person 3 weeks ago. We tried to set it up this year with the school program that is held at the pool. He had a tentative date of June 14<sup>th</sup> but does not have a final verification yet. He would like tentative approval on that. He will call the person again tomorrow to see if the date has been confirmed. He thinks the price has not changed. It is either \$500 or \$575.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motion to approve sponsoring the derby and all were in favor.

Fire Chief

Nothing to report

President of Council

Nothing to report

Solicitor

Nothing to report

Treasurer

She had an additional bill to pay from George Eli & Associates for the pavilion project. They want a 50% payment for the project up front. The total project cost is \$20,856 and they are looking for \$10,428 and this is part of the grant that was received to do this.

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.

Public Works & Recreation – George Chairman, John Kreitz Co-Chair –  
He updated council on what is going on in recreation. The pool is opening this week and he and Tom were brain storming. The other thing they have been looking at is Baer Memorial. They truly believe that Baer Memorial is a gold mine to the Leighton area. This probably won't happen in 2012 but maybe 2013 they can get a basketball court or two down there with maybe lights

around it and maybe reintroduce baseball back to the area and get lights around there as well. George would like to give as many recreational opportunities to the area as possible. We might also be able to do some summer programs with the school. His father taught school for 42 years and was a coach at the school. They used to go during the day and evenings and open up the gymnasiums and let the kids come in and play basketball just to give the kids more outlets. He thinks if we can do that here we would be doing an extreme benefit for these kids. These are things we have on the dart board and are more 2013 goals. We are looking at grants and funding to really move things forward.

As a side note, he was not at last month's meeting when Nicole mentioned the Economic Development Survey and he is hoping to have a skeleton of what the survey would look like for next month to send out to the businesses. We will be working with you on that.

President Hunsicker told Councilor Kogut that he and Scott were discussing the possibility of another gym with Tom. The Rec Center roof has to be replaced so it would be a good time to expand the building while replacing the roof.

#### Acceptance of Officials' Reports

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

#### Approval of Accounts Payable

Councilors Rehrig/ Arner made the motions to approve the accounts payable plus the fire station construction project and the pavilion payment and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

#### Adjournment

##### Motion to go in to Executive Session for Personnel Reasons

Councilors Bird/Kreitz made the motions to go into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. and all were in favor.

##### Motion to go back into Public Session

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to go back into Regular Session at 8:50 p.m. and all were in favor.

##### Action on Any Items Necessary as a Result of Executive Session

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to allow Brian Biechy to go with the Attorney General Drug Investigation Program and all were in favor.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to go with Seltzer Insurance and all were in favor.

##### Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. and all were in favor.

Brenda L. Koons  
Borough Secretary