

BOROUGH OF LEHIGHTON

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March 2, 2026

RE: Lehighon Borough Council Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2026

CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday February 2, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Dave Zimmerman. Council Members in attendance were: Grant Hunsicker, Dave Arndt, Rebecca Worthy, Jordyn Miller, and Joe Flickinger. Council Member absent was Steve Hawk. Officials in attendance were: Mayor Ryan Saunders, Borough Manager Dane DeWire, Assistant Borough Manager Brooke Lichtenwalter, Borough Secretary Jessica Ahner, Solicitor James Nanovic, Borough Engineer Vanessa Nedrick, Police Chief Troy Abelovsky, Fire Chief Patrick Mriss, Light & Power Superintendent Barry Fisher, Public Works Superintendent Kris Kunkle, and Junior Councilperson Reagan Abelovsky. Absent Official was Recreation Director Tom Evans.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Nick Catania of 164 South 1st Street questioned Lehighon's current development incentivizing programs. Catania asked about snow emergency streets and how ticketing vehicles worked. DeWire said the ticketing and towing depends on the severity of the illegal parking. If the vehicle is still there when clearing we would then tow the vehicle. He then asked how much a ticket is. Chief Abelovsky said \$25.00 and sometimes more if it would get towed you would have to pay the towing company.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Flickinger noted changes for Vice-President were Arndt nominated Rebecca Worthy and Miller nominated Steve Hawk and there were two votes for Hawk and 5 votes for Worthy, and Miller and Flickinger opposed vote for Worthy. Correction of 5-2 votes was noted 6-2.

Zimmerman shared correction requested by Mark Hoffman from November 10, 2025 meeting minutes and requested to read:

"The faucets were replaced on 4 sinks back in April prior to the opening of the pool with automatic shut off handles. This was an effort to stop the wasted water witnessed when the old faucets were left running often overflowing on to the floor. In regard to the 20-foot umbrella, it is not being purchased from Dorney Park and in fact it has already been delivered and paid for. The cost was \$7500.00 and paid by the Pool Pals. I am pretty sure Tom is working with public works to have it

installed prior to the dedication on May 23rd when the Pool Pals will host a cardboard regatta, not cabana as referenced in the meeting minutes. All in celebration of America 250. And in regard to forming some form of advisory board to help Tom with decisions, I stand by that idea knowing how valuable and important it is to get input and ideas from many when decisions are made that impact our community.”

RW/DA motioned to approve the Re-Organization & Regular Meeting minutes of January 5, 2026 with changes to Re-Organization meeting noted and changes to November 10, 2025 meeting as noted and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DeWire said we requested a \$1M LSA grant and unfortunately we were not accepted. Fire Chief said there will be price increases on the chassis because of new regulations. If we can get a truck before this happens we will be lucky. Flickinger suggested we table this until the March meeting to look to see if we can find other funding. DeWire said he will have the numbers next month.

Solicitor Nanovic said the Senior Center Lease is a 2-year lease, and each year the lease continues it will increase 4-1/2%. JF/GH motioned to accept the Senior Center Lease as written and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

Mayor Saunders spoke about snow emergency routes and how not all roads are clearly marked. Flickinger spoke about keeping 12th Street on the emergency route. JF/RW motioned to amend the snow emergency route ordinance as presented with discussion changes and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0 Miller asked about odd/even parking. This was discussed and DeWire agreed to add it to the March agenda for continued discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

JF/DA motioned to approve the 2025 exoneration list and 2025 delinquent list from Tax Collector and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

RW/JM motioned to adopt Resolution R4-2026 for sewer fees as budgeted and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

Tina Henninger shared that Parks and Recreation is looking to have more concert events this year. In the past we had a great turnout. They plan to mix fundraisers to help benefit Parks and Recreation with funding of events. JF/GH motioned to approve Parks and Recreation’s application for use of property and road closures on Saturday, June 13, 2026 from 10 am to 8 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

Manessa Strohlein spoke about her past Krampusnacht Event and road closure. She would like to extend her event to D&L Trailhead to create a Haunted Trail. The profits would go to actors and D&L trail and another non-profit. Flickinger asked where on the trail. Tina described where and they said it was on the road. Discussion continued and Flickinger was not in favor because of safety concerns and two overlapping events. President Zimmerman asked for a motion and there was no motion.

JF/JM motioned to approve Full Gospel Tabernacle Bread of Life’s application for road closure on South 3rd Street on Sunday, February 15, 2026 from 11 am to 6pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

GH/JF motioned to reappoint the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) Solicitor, Strubinger Law Offices at the recommendation of the ZHB and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

GH/RW motioned to hire part-time crossing guard pending the background check and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

President of Council – Nothing to report.

Borough Manager – Nothing additional to report.

Borough Engineer – Nedrick said working on plan developments in Borough with Planning Commission otherwise have nothing more to report.

Solicitor – Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Paper Report provided. Additional Bills Report provided.

Mayor – Mayor thanked all who worked hard clearing the snow. Everyone worked together radioing everyone. He wanted to thank Reagan Abelovsky for bringing the school board report to Council and reporting the tobacco use problem.

Police Chief – Paper Report Provided. Nothing to report.

Fire Chief – Paper report provided. Chief Mriss said and put many hours in communicating with everyone during the storm. He thanked the community and all others for clearing the out the hydrants.

Light & Power Superintendent – Paper report provided. Fisher has an employee starting February 3, 2026. Interviews will continue to fill the second position.

Public Works Superintendent – Kunkle reported that no one in public works had a day off since January 17, 2026. Public Works currently had 451 hours of overtime. Our truck went down and needs a new part that is being rebuilt. Kunkle also needs to hire trucks to haul snow away.

Recreation Director – Not Present.

Junior Councilperson – Reagan reported there was no discussion on 9th Street traffic light project. She asked superintendent status on traffic light and he said he was at a loss on to how to proceed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Administration – Jordyn Miller, Chair; Steve Hawk, Co-Chair. Miller had nothing to report. Flickinger added that most of January invoices have been added for QuickBooks. He also asked about safeguards. DeWire said he has already checked and made sure all safeguards were in place.

Economic Development, Buildings and Codes – Steve Hawk, Chair; Rebecca Worthy, Co-Chair – Worthy reported she is attending a course that our Economic Development Chamber is hosting.

Police, Fire and Safety – Joe Flickinger, Chair; Jordyn Miller, Co-Chair. Flickinger wanted to thank all of our first responders for getting through the snow. He reported that Weissport wants the Borough to help patrol their community and he does not like the idea. He feels it is a Council decision and the Mayor should not be meeting with Weissport without councilperson present. Mayor Saunders said a conversation costs nothing.

Light & Power Committee – Rebecca Worthy, Chair; Grant Mosier, Co-Chair. Same as Fisher going through interviews.

Sewer Committee – Grant Mosier, Chair; Dave Arndt, Co-Chair. Nothing to Report.

Streets, Public Works & Recreation – Dave Arndt, Chair; Joe Flickinger, Co-Chair. Nothing to Report.

Library Board – Steve Hawk, Chair. Not Present.

Parks & Recreation Board – Rebecca Worthy, Chair. Worthy reported we are working on an Industrial Revolution event that was approved tonight, the annual Block Party, and nine concert events coming up this year.

Canal Commission – Ryan Saunders, Chair. Saunders said Per Capita bills will be going out. There has been a lot of discussion at our meeting to try cross country skiing on the trail and may move forward with this.

Council of Governments – Rebecca Worthy, Delegate; Joe Flickinger, Alternate. Nothing to report.

Civil Service Commission – Rebecca Worthy, Chair. Worthy reported that we just closed the window accepting applications. The Commission will be moving forward on testing.

ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

GH/JF motioned to accept Official Reports and all in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

GH/RW motioned to approve treasurer report, bill list in the amount of \$562,114.09 and additional bills in the amount of \$30,899.00 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

ADJOURNMENT

RW/JF motioned to go into executive session for personnel at 7:41 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

JF/RW motioned to go back into regular session at 8:20 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

RW/DA motioned to provide a \$2,500 bonus to the Borough Assistant Manager and Borough Treasurer and 5 were in favor and Joe Flickinger opposed. 5-0

JF/JM motioned to hire Candidate #1 as Billing Clerk and 5 were in favor and Dave Arndt opposed. 5-1

RW/JF motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Ahner, Borough Secretary