

BOROUGH OF LEHIGHTON

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MUNICIPAL BUILDING, P.O. BOX 29, LEHIGHTON, PA 18235



May 4, 2026

RE: Lehigh Borough Council Meeting Minutes – April 6, 2026

CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

ROLL CALL

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

Our guest speakers, Kylie Adams and Emily Sewilo from the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, are hosting their 2026 Community Festival. They are asking permission for use of space and the sale of alcohol in the park during their event. SH/RW motioned to approve the facility use request for the 2026 Community Festival on Saturday, July 18, 2026 from 12 pm to 6 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0 SH/RW motioned to allow alcoholic beverages, road closures, and a petting zoo for the event and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Darren Frehulfer of 121 S 9th Street spoke about bicycles, e-bikes, and motorized bikes and the safety of his daughter at the park. There was an incident where she was inches from being struck by a bicycle when playing in the park.

Nick Catania of 164 South 1st Street addressed his concerns on happenings in the Borough. He touched on issues with the Grove and cameras, salting Jacob Weiss Park, and 1st Street parking. He spoke about the neighborhood watch and how it faded away during Covid and said he would like to be the lead to bring it back to the community.

Pastor Krawitz of Full Gospel Tabernacle Bread of Life Church on 245 South Street addressed Council with events he wants to host in the Upper Park and Amphitheater. He is asking for permission to hold church services on June 7, July 5, and August 2, 2026 with a family fun day to follow in the Upper Park on June 7, 2026. SH/RW motioned to amend the agenda to add

discussion on church services in the park and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0
SH/RW motioned to allow Full Gospel Tabernacle Bread of Life Church to use facilities for church services the first Sunday in June, July, and August with a family fun day following June services and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RW/SH motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of March 2, 2026 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was continued discussion on allowing residents outside of Carbon County at Baer Memorial Pool. DeWire discussed Tamaqua and Slatington pool admission numbers. SH/RW made a motion to open admission to Tamaqua and Slatington zip code residents at a rate of \$15 per adult and \$10 per child and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

SH/RW motioned to adopt Ordinance 2026-684, updating the snow emergency routes and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

RW/SH motioned to adopt Ordinance 2026-685, authorizing the issuance of \$785,344.86 principal payment on the new Pumper Apparatus and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

SH/DA motioned to table discussion on CDBG funding for 2026, 2027, 2028 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

SH/RW motioned to award Façade Grant funding in the amount of \$22,140.00 to Avocado, LLC for work at 125-127 South First Street at the recommendation of the Façade Grant Committee and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

DA/SH motioned to approve Park and Recreation's 4th of July Block Party on Saturday, July 4, 2026 from 2 pm to 10 pm all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

SH/RW motioned to hire the 2026 Lifeguards at the recommendation of the Recreation Director and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

DA/RW motioned to grant final planning approval to the Ford Relocation at the recommendation of the planning commission, contingent on receiving zoning variances required and 4 were in favor and Steve Hawk abstained. 4-0-1

SH/RW motioned to grant conditional approval for Armin Feldman's lot consolidation at the recommendation of planning commission and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

Miller spoke about cycling ordinances we have in place and what is outlined in Pennsylvania legislation.

DeWire spoke about a life insurance proposal from Unum Group. We are working with the LWA because they are currently on our policy. There will be continued discussion.

There was discussion amongst Council and RW/DA motioned to approve the 2026-2032 Allegheny Electric Cooperative Electric Service Agreement and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

SH/RW motioned to advertise the time change of Zoning Hearing Board meetings from 7 pm to 6:30 pm at the request of the Zoning Hearing Board. 5-0

DA/SH motioned to purchase surveillance cameras in the amount \$13,445.70 for the Rec Center and Grove Park and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

RW/DA motioned to approve \$250 donation to the United Veterans Organization to defray costs of Memorial Day services and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

RW/SH motioned to approve United Veterans Organization Memorial Day services on Monday, May 25, 2026 and provide traffic patrol as needed and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

RW/SH motioned to approve Carbon County Area Agency on Aging 2026 Senior Games from May 5th to May 14, 2026 at the Rec Center and Baer Memorial Park on May 12, 2026 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

DA/RW motioned to approve Leighton Lioness/Lions Club Community Festival at the Grove on Thursday, May 7 to Saturday, May 9, 2026 from 12 pm to 10 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

SH/RW motioned to approve nine \$50.00 gift cards for Administrative Professionals Day in April for the administrative employees and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

RW/SH motioned to re-classify Jonathan Tracey as “Apprentice Lineman – First Year” and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

SH/JM motioned to hire top candidate as Patrol Officer by recommendation of Civil Service Commission List, pending employment requirements and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

OFFICIAL’S REPORTS

President of Council – Nothing to Report.

Borough Manager – Report Provided. DeWire said we still need to advertise for aggregates and other road material contracts. He asked for approval to accept bids for road material and advertise as necessary for sanitary sewer replacement. Council agreed to ratify any decisions at the May meeting.

Borough Engineer – Report Provided. Not Present.

Solicitor – Nothing to report. Congratulated DeWire on Borough Manager of the year!

Treasurer – Paper Report provided. Additional Bills Report provided.

Mayor – Mayor congratulated DeWire on Borough Manager of the Year! Mayor presented a proclamation for community service to Landon Abelovsky during his Eagle Scout Ceremony for his Pavilion Project at Baer Memorial Park. Mayor has been receiving complaints of debris around the Borough and will continue to work on that. Police will continue to patrol the grove to keep everyone safe. He addressed to keep landscaping up to date and asked Council to consider the lengthen our meetings.

Police Chief – Report Provided. Nothing to Report.

Fire Chief – Paper report provided. Nothing to Report.

Light & Power Superintendent – Paper report provided. Fisher reported substation work is moving along great. He also commented that all of his new employees are working out really well.

Public Works Superintendent – Kunkle reported that his building roof needs to be replaced and is waiting for bids. DeWire said received no estimates.

Recreation Director – Nothing to Report.

Junior Councilperson – Nothing to Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Administration – Jordyn Miller, Chair; Steve Hawk, Co-Chair. Miller had nothing to report and checked in with Tara.

Economic Development, Buildings and Codes – Steve Hawk, Chair; Rebecca Worthy, Co-Chair – Hawk had nothing to report.

Police, Fire and Safety – Joe Flickinger, Chair; Jordyn Miller, Co-Chair. Miller read verbiage that Flickinger wrote “Since the last meeting Chief Patrick Mriss has obtained Chief of Fire Officer Convention Land of Public Safety of Excellence. “Flickinger’s understanding is that” only 64 others have this within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Assistant Chief Michael Mriss completed his interview and should be hearing something soon.”

Light & Power Committee – Rebecca Worthy, Chair; Grant Mosier, Co-Chair. Nothing to Report.

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. Nothing to Report.

Parks & Recreation Board – Rebecca Worthy, Chair. Worthy reported they are hosting Wine on the River in June and the summer concert series coming soon.

Canal Commission – Ryan Saunders, Chair. Saunders reported that they are working on fencing and going to evaluate the damage from the fire last year. Next month will begin clean-up on the Parryville side of canal.

Council of Governments – Rebecca Worthy, Delegate; Joe Flickinger, Alternate. Nothing to report. Worthy did not attend meeting. Flickinger attended meeting, as noted by Worthy.

Civil Service Commission – Rebecca Worthy, Chair. Nothing to Report.

ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICIAL’S REPORTS

SH/DA motioned to accept Official Reports and all in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

RW/SH motioned to approve treasurer report and pay the bills and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

RW/DA motioned to go into executive session for personnel at 7:53 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

SH/RW motioned to go back into regular session at 8:09 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

RW/SH motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Ahner, Borough Secretary