

BOROUGH OF LEHIGHTON

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Lehighon Borough Council Meeting Minutes from August 3, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION: Mayor Ryan Saunders

ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, August 3, 2026.

Councilmembers in attendance were:

- President Dave Zimmerman
- Vice President Rebecca Worthy
- Dave Arndt
- Dr. Jordyn Miller
- Grant Hunsicker
- Joe Flickinger

Councilmembers absent were:

- Steve Hawk

Officials in attendance were:

- Mayor Ryan Saunders
- Borough Manager, Dane DeWire
- Assistant Borough Manager, Brooke Lichtenwalter
- Police Chief, Troy Abelvovsky
- Fire Chief, Pat Mriss
- Light & Power Superintendent, Barry Fisher
- Public Works Superintendent, Kris Kunkle
- Borough Solicitor, James Nanovic

Officials absent were:

- Assistant Fire Chief, Michael Mriss
- Borough Engineer, Vanessa Nedrick
- Recreation Director, Tom Evans

Mayor Ryan Saunders conducted the Swearing in of Officer Castelletti.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Noah Bryfogle of 537 Lehigh Avenue, Palmerton spoke on his concerns with the two (2) Flock Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras, also known as Flock cameras, located within Lehigh Township. He clarified that Lehigh Township has licensing agreements for two ALPR cameras with neighboring communities, Mahoning Township and Franklin Township. He is requesting Lehigh Township revoke these agreements and remove the cameras as he feels they are invasive, unsafe, a violation of rights of American citizens. He explained that the ALPRs record plate, make and model, color, damage and stickers on each car that passes by and that information is sent to a central database which is connected to all other ALPRs; which, in turn, allows Police Officers and other officials to access an history of anyone's information without a court order or without those individuals knowing about it. He cited two (2) examples of misuse of this information in Pasadena and Milwaukee by Police Officers. He states that these cameras falsely flag people, and are not a replacement for effective policing. He cited Los Angeles, Austin, and Seattle as examples of cities that have chosen to cancel or suspend the contracts for the ALPRs. He closed by requesting Lehigh Township cancel the contracts by sending a written notice to Flock to remove the ALPRs.

Sean Dickson of 337 North Third Street, Lehigh Township, also spoke on his concern about the ALPR cameras and also requested that Lehigh Township revoke the licensing agreements and remove the cameras. He & his wife stand by the comments made by Noah Bryfogle. They want to raise their family in the Township but he doesn't agree with the use of ALPRs. He feels most residents don't realize the ALPRs are in the area. He feels that he, along with most residents, think the Lehigh Township Police Department do a wonderful job and want to support the department, and thank the Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by **Grant Hunsicker**, 2nd by **Vice President Rebecca Worthy** to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of July 6, 2026, and all were in favor with no questions or objections, motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by **Vice President Rebecca Worthy**, 2nd by **Dave Arndt** to approve the Special Council Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2026, and all were in favor with no questions or objections, motion carried 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Continued Discussion on Snow Emergency Routes and Odd-Even Parking. Borough Manager Dane DeWire continues to discuss this with Mayor Ryan Saunders after re-opening the Snow Emergency Ordinance due to the amount of snow received this past winter. The areas of most concern are the North section of town, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Streets. DeWire reached out to BHA to contract with them to use their parking lots that would house about 120 cars during the time of snow emergency route or curb-to-curb plowing, they like the idea as long as their lots are plowed first and the public vehicles are out of the lot by the time they are in session. Public Works Superintendent Kris Kunkle said it would be a great help for the Public Works Department. Saunders raised some concerns that it would only work if BHA is not in session. Typically, BHA is in session Monday-Friday 7am-3pm. Confirmation that BHA is not in session and then Public Works Department schedules may have to be adjusted for this to work. This is something to think about before moving forward with any kind of draft agreement with BHA.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by **Dave Arndt**, 2nd by **Joe Flickinger** to adopt Resolution R12-2026, Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Grant for Sgt. Stanley Hoffman Boulevard. DeWire explained that about 6 months back, he applied for a grant for \$3 million through PennDOT for the reconstruction of Sgt. Stanley Hoffman Boulevard. At the recommendation of Special Project Engineer Barry Isett, they recommended the Borough also apply for the same grant through DCED. All were in favor no questions or objections, motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by **Vice President Rebecca Worthy**, 2nd by **Joe Flickinger** to adopt Resolution R13-2026, Setting Electric Rates Effective September 1, 2026. DeWire advised that Council had passed an Ordinance that allows them to change to base rates effective September 1, 2026 by resolution. All were in favor no questions or objections, motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by **Joe Flickinger**, 2nd by **Vice President Rebecca Worthy** to adopt Resolution R14-2026, Intermunicipal Wastewater Agreement with Mahoning Township. DeWire explained that some properties in the Borough are connected to Mahoning Township sewer system or vice-versa but there is no current agreement. Due to recent property ownership change, the Ford dealership has been working with Mahoning Township to establish an agreement where Mahoning Township would receive the tap-in fees and secure the connection and the Lehighon Borough would collect the monthly sewer charges. This agreement would then work with any future inter-municipality connection with Mahoning Township. All in favor with no questions or objections, motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by **Dave Arndt**, 2nd by **Vice President Rebecca Worthy** to adopt Ordinance #2026-687, amending the Borough's pension plan. DeWire reminded that this was the ordinance that was advertised to fix the inconsistency with pensionable income and sick time. All in favor no questions or objections, motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by **Vice President Rebecca Worthy**, 2nd by **Dave Arndt** to advertise Ordinance #2026-688, Police Plan Consistency. DeWire explained that the State audit found an inconsistency and recommended that the Ordinance be advertised so that the documents filed with the State matches what's in the Police documents and the Collective Bargaining Agreement. All in favor no questions or objections, motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by **Grant Hunsicker**, 2nd by **Joe Flickinger** to award the contract for Annex Pump Replacement to Mek-Tek HVAC for \$12,389. Flickinger stated that only \$9,000 was spent out of the budget. All in favor no questions or objections, motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by **Dave Arndt**, 2nd by **Joe Flickinger** to approve Miranda Bowman's Car, Bike, Truck, & Craft Show Halloween Event on October 11 in the Lower Park. Miranda did clarify that the event has changed due to time constraints and her sister recently being diagnosed with ALS. She wants to modify the event to fundraise for her sister's medical expenses by having a Chinese Auction. It will include kid-based activities and trick-or-treating, a small pathway, spooky scavenger hunt, and have some vendors. The event time will be 10am-4pm, 7am for set up. There will not be a car, bike, truck show at this time; no need for road closures for this event. She would also like to have donation boxes for Peaceful Knights and CareNet to add more of a charity aspect to the event. All in favor no questions or objections, motion carried 5-0.

Discussion on Borough Employee Compensatory time. DeWire advised that none of Borough union or non-union employees receive any comp time and there was some discussion about adding it but it did not happen; the matter was dropped. Currently the Department Heads and Administration staff have been formally

permitted to “comp” their time as long as they are on Borough business and it hasn’t been an issue. Due to the change of payroll system now being electronic, it was questioned if there should be something in place. Should the comp time be tracked and required to be used within a set timeframe; i.e., during the pay period or until the end of the year. Assistant Borough Manager Brooke Lichtenwalter explained current payroll system has “buckets” created to track comp time that would allow employees to keep until the end of the year. By tracking on a shorter period time, it would require manually tracking the time. DeWire stated there has not been any issues with using comp time but there is no current Borough policy. The discussion resulted in comp time being cleared out at the end of the year, will not roll over; and if an issue develops, then there will be another discussion.

A motion was made by Joe Flickinger, 2nd by Grant Hunsicker to Discharge employee #328. All in favor no questions or objections, motion carried 5-0.

OFFICIALS REPORTS

DeWire stated Borough Manager’s report was included and if anyone has any questions, to let him know.

Solicitor James Nanovic has some items for Executive Session.

Treasurer’s Report was provided with the bill list.

Saunders provided his Mayor’s report, stated he spent the majority of the month with LDI tasks. He provided the status of the Mosaic Mural. There will soon be a press release. He thanked everyone who participated by painting a tile including local businesses, special interest groups, churches, and individuals. Also, the caboose has been painted and will soon be lettered.

Police Chief Abelovsky provided his report. The community event with fireworks on July 4th even with the severe weather, went well. The Fire Police helped out and the community had a nice night. Not included in the report, but he applied for the Opioid Settlement Grant. The Department was awarded \$5,000 which will be used towards their community events including the National Night Out on October 8, 2026 at Baer Memorial Park.

Barry Fisher provided the Light & Power report. With the terrible storm early in July, he thanked the Police Department, the Fire Department for their assistance, the Borough residents for their cooperation, help and their patience after the storm. The L&P Crew did a great job; they are hard workers; and had good communication with all the Departments and that’s what it takes to make the clean-up happen.

Kris Kunkle provided the Public Works report.

Fire Chief Patrick Mriss provided his report. He reminded that Saturday is the Annual Strategic Meeting at 9am at the Station, which is open to the public and Council. They review the 5-year, 10-year, 15-year plan for the future for the Department. He also wanted to say all the Departments worked well through the storm but they previously discussed the upgrade in the radio system in the county and the availability for Light & Power and Public Works to have a radio so that they all can communicate on 1 frequency. It would be beneficial to have 1-2 radios for both Light & Power and Public Works Departments.

Raegan Abelovsky presented Junior Council Member report. The report from the July 27th School Board meeting is that the first day of school was August 24, 2026.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Flickinger provided the Police, Fire & Safety report. He participated last Wednesday at the latest Hazard Mitigation meeting. They are hoping to have the final draft ready in November. He was in contact with Light & Power in regards to the storm, they have used approximately \$50,000 in resources to date in poles, etc., not including overtime, and that's why he stresses about not taking from that Department's budget. He also confirmed that the Public Works garage is scheduled. Due to the length of time of the power outage, the facilities were using the generators, he questioned if the emergency generators have a current service contract. DeWire confirmed there is a contract for the maintenance of the generators in place. Flickinger also reminded that we are in a Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement that as of October 8, 2008, all political subdivisions in the Commonwealth are part of it. It falls under Chapter 73 of Title 35 and reimbursement falls in that as well.

Worthy provided the Parks & Recreation Board report. They did have a concert in the park on Saturday, Steel Creek, the only country music band this year. They did have to reschedule Bad Influence due to rain. There are a few more events coming up, Community Showcase on 08/15/26; 7th & Mahoning 08/29/26; and close with the Large Flowerheads on 09/26/26. There is a fundraiser happening requesting usable, wearable clothing, shoes, hats, scarves, belts, gently used hard or soft toys. Items can be placed in the kitchen garbage bags and dropped off at the Amphitheatre on 09/12/26 9am-1pm. The Parks & Rec Board always welcome more volunteers; their meetings are the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm; it was requested to update/correct the website info. They will soon be working on the Trees in the Park Event for Christmas. Dave Zimmerman reminded that if anyone wants to participate in the Community Showcase Event, any talent is welcome; go to the website for the application.

Saunders presented the report on the Canal Commission. He said they did have 1 last large tree to remove from the canal. They had gracious team members of Public Works and Light & Power in helping get the tree removed. The last meeting they discussed some vandalism issues between Weissport and Parryville, and requested we revisit the camping ordinance and the legality of it. He spoke with Solicitor Nanovic about the matter and will bring some details back to the group next month. Also, they want the seven (7) municipalities that own the canal to revisit patrolling the canal since there is some negative activity happening again.

Worthy presented the Civil Service Commission report. She stated they still have an active list; they just hired from that list.

A motion was made by **Grant Hunsicker**, 2nd by **Vice President Rebecca Worthy** to accept the Officials Report. All in favor no questions or objections, motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by **Grant Hunsicker**, 2nd by **Vice President Rebecca Worthy** for approval of Payable Accounts to pay the bills. All in favor no questions or objections, motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by **Vice President Rebecca Worthy**, 2nd by **Dave Arndt** to go into Executive Session at 7:10pm for personnel & legal matters.

A motion was made by **Vice President Rebecca Worthy**, 2nd by **Joe Flickinger** motioned to appoint Borough Manager DeWire as Borough Secretary until the position is filled.

A motion was made by **Vice President Rebecca Worthy**, 2nd by **Dave Arndt** to hire the Applicant for Borough Secretary pending pre-employment screening and acceptance. Roll Call Arndt, Worthy, Zimmerman Yes; Hunsicker, Flickinger No; Motion passes 3-2.

A motion was made by Vice President Rebecca Worthy, 2nd by Dave Arndt to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm and all were in favor with no objections, motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Hill

Borough Secretary

Borough of Lehigh