

# BOROUGH OF LEHIGHTON

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



February 2, 2026

RE: Lehighton Borough Council Re-Organizational Meeting Minutes – January 5, 2026

**CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 PM**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Welcome by Mayor**

Mayor Saunders swore in newly elected Council Members, Dave Arndt, Joe Flickinger, Jordyn Miller, and Rebecca Worthy.

**Election of Officers**

The nominations for President of Council were Steve Hawk and Dave Zimmerman. Majority vote was Dave Zimmerman and Joe Flickinger opposed. 6-1

The nominations for Vice - President of Council were Rebecca Worthy and Steve Hawk. Majority vote was Rebecca Worthy and Dave Arndt and Jordan Miller opposed. 6-2

The nomination for Appointment of Chairman pro-tem was Grant Hunsicker. Majority vote was Grant Hunsicker. 7-0

**Appointment of Officials**

JF/SH motioned to appoint the following Borough Officials; Brooke Lichtenwalter, Tara Takerer, Barry Fisher, Jeff Repsher, Kris Kunkle, Jeffrey Smith, Tom Evans, Remington Vernick, Berkheimer, Barry Isett and Associates for Zoning, Code Enforcement, BCO, and Health Officer, Patrick Mriss, Michael Mriss, Troy Abelovsky, Karen Schaffer, Times News, and System Design Engineers and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/DA motioned to appoint Dane DeWire as Borough Manager and five approved and Joe Flickinger and Grant Hunsicker opposed. Motion Passed 5-2

GH/SH motioned to appoint Jessica Ahner as Borough Secretary and six approved and Joe Flickinger opposed. Motion Passed 6-1

RW/SH motioned to appoint James R. Nanovic as Borough Solicitor and six approved and Joe Flickinger opposed. Motion Passed 6-1

Strubinger Law Offices' appointment will need to be voted on by the Zoning Hearing Board.

**Appointments to Authorities/Commissions/Boards**

SH/JF motioned to appoint Ryan Saunders to the Lehigh Canal Recreation Commission and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

RW/DZ motioned to appoint Steve Hawk to the Library Board and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

JF/DZ motioned to appoint Jordyn Miller as Council Representation for the Police Pension Committee and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

RW/JF motioned to appoint Brooke Lichtenwalter, Assistant Borough Manager as delegate and Tara Takerer, Treasurer alternate to the Carbon County Tax Committee and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/DZ motioned to appoint Rebecca Worthy as delegate and Joe Flickinger as alternate for the Carbon County Council of Governments and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

JF/RW motioned to adopt Resolution R1-2026, Authorization to update Bank Depositories and Signatories for all Borough Financial Transactions and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

DZ/JF motioned to appoint Grant Hunsicker as delegate and Dave Arndt as alternate as voting delegate for PSAB annual conference to be held May 31 – June 3, 2026 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

RW/GH motioned to adjourn the Re-Organization meeting at 6:46 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Ahner

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RE: Lehighton Borough Council Meeting Minutes – January 5, 2026

**CALL TO ORDER – 6:46 PM**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Invocation**

**ROLL CALL**

The regular meeting of Lehighton Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday January 5, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:47 PM by President Dave Zimmerman. Council Members in attendance were: Grant Hunsicker, Dave Arndt, Rebecca Worthy, Jordyn Miller, Steve Hawk, and Joe Flickinger. There were no Council Members absent. Officials in attendance were: Mayor Ryan Saunders, Borough Manager Dane DeWire, Assistant Borough Manager Brooke Lichtenwalter, Borough Secretary Jessica Ahner, Solicitor James Nanovic arrived at 6:56pm, 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 C of 164 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street questioned why park pavers are not salted. Pavers cannot be salted; salt will damage them. DeWire said we will look for alternatives.

Racye Miller of 132 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street mentioned that she was here last meeting regarding homeless program and wanted to know if it was discussed. Mayor they had not had time to go through the material.

Brenda Benner of 124 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street spoke about a car that was not moved for 73 days in front of her house. Chief said it did get ticketed because of inspection sticker. She asked why it is still there. Tina Henninger asked what the procedure is. Chief explained it can take at least 30 days to get moved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

RW/SH motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of December 1, 2025 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

GH/RW motioned to approve the Special Meeting minutes of December 9, 2025 and December 22, 2025 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

DeWire is working with PennVest to see what kind of interest rate we can get to order the pumper truck and tabled it until next meeting. Fire Chief said there are price increases and he is working with the manufacturer on a new quote. RW/DA motioned to table the discussion on Fire Department Pumper Truck replacement and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

DeWire, Kunkle, and Council discussed the proposed Freightliner purchase. SH/JF motioned to buy truck with plow from Horwith Trucking in the amount of \$226,219.00 with \$125,000.00 down from Liquid Fuels funds and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

Nanovic said he does not have the Agency on aging's new contract yet. JF/RW motioned to be table the discussion on Lehighton Senior Center Contract and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

RW/SH motioned to adopt Resolution R-02-2026, setting the rate of contribution of the Police Pension Plan for 2026 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

RW/SH motioned to adopt Resolution R-03-2026 to approve reappointments for 2026 with the exception of the ZHB Solicitor appointment and six were in favor and Joe Flickinger opposed. 6-1

SH/RW motioned to adopt Ordinance 2026-682, vacation of Queen Ally and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/JF motioned to accept resignation letter from Employee #318 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

JF/SH motioned to table committees for hiring of vacancies until executive session and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/JF motioned to purchase accounting software from Intuit for \$7350, Isolved time-tracking for \$5,688, and consultation services for \$4,250 for one year and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

JF/JM motioned to approve St. Luke's Hospice Charity Bike Ride application for use of property on May 30, 2026 with rain date of May 31, 2026 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

RW/SH motioned to approve Plant Fest's application for use of property on Saturday, June 27, 2026 from 10 am to 7 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

Manessa Strohlein spoke about her past Krampusncht Event. She hopes to hold this event again and donate to different organizations within the Borough from the profits. JF/SH motioned to table the Krampusncht application until more detail of the event is submitted and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

JF/RW motioned to award the Fire Department hot water heater contract to Home Comfort Solutions in the amount of \$16,500.00 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

JF/SH motioned to accept the 2026 police contract addendum as presented and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

GH/DA motioned to award \$50.00 off electric bills to the following residents for the holiday decorating contest and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

The winners were: 112 Carbon Street, Thomas Gehres, Jr; 114 Carbon Street, Denise Murphy; 35 S. 3rd Street, Ian Klientop; 800 Coal Street, Steven Reed; 1 Second Avenue, Lamont Rodgers; 310 N.

9<sup>th</sup> Street, Christopher Delgado; 483 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Vaughn Andrews; 446 Bridge Street, Kristy Hahn; 125 South Street, Jacob Roth; and 171 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Tara and Jared Straub

#### **OFFICIAL'S REPORTS**

**President of Council** – Nothing to report.

**Borough Manager** – DeWire provided two monthly Borough Manager reports.

**Borough Engineer** – Nedrick said she did not get a chance to submit her report for January. She received MS4 Inspection Report from DEP and it was fairly clean; it was suggested to have a secondary containment for drums in public work garage. It was her understanding they were to be purchased. She had nothing else to report.

**Solicitor** – Nothing to report.

**Treasurer** – Paper Report provided. Additional Bills Report and transfer request of \$400,000.00 from L&P as needed to pay bills. GH/RW motioned to approve treasurer report and transfer of \$400,000.00 from L&P as needed to pay bills and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

**Mayor** – Mayor said it was an honor to speak at the veterans memorial and Tree Lighting Ceremony. Thanked everyone who helped with that event. He congratulated Dave Zimmerman on his appointment as Council President. He spoke about Grant Hunsicker being President of Council and what a great official he is as he continues serving the Borough.

**Police Chief** – Paper Report Provided. Nothing to Report.

**Fire Chief** – Paper report provided. Chief Mriss was questioned about the second report received and said it is a list of reappointments for the year 2026.

**Light & Power Superintendent** – Paper report provided. Fisher reported on the fire that has taken power out at the laundromat building.

**Public Works Superintendent** – Paper Report Provided. Nothing to Report.

**Recreation Director** – Not Present.

**Junior Councilperson** – Reagan said LASD Superintendent gave an overview of 9<sup>th</sup> Street traffic light project. She reminded Council that the light was needed for the Elementary Center to allow the School District to get an occupancy permit. The project never occurred and there were several vehicle accidents since then. In 2024/2025 school year, there were reports that students were in use of tobacco, making threatening statements to teacher and bus staff, fights, and bringing weapons to school. She noted, in the past, the police took care of these events that happened, and they hope that Police presence will occur again.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS (Former Chairs)**

**Finance and Administration** – David Zimmerman, Chair; Jordyn Miller, Co-Chair. Software already approved.

**Economic Development, Buildings and Codes** – Dave Arndt, Chair - Nothing to Report.

**Police, Fire and Safety** – Jordyn Miller, Chair; Rebecca Worthy, Co-Chair. Nothing to Report.

**Light & Power Committee** – Rebecca Worthy, Chair; Steve Hawk, Co-Chair. Nothing to Report.

**Sewer Committee** – Steve Hawk, Chair; Autumn Abelovsky, Co-Chair. Nothing to Report.

**Streets, Public Works & Recreation** – David Zimmerman, Chair; Dave Arndt, Co-Chair. Nothing to Report.

**Library Board** – Rebecca Worthy, Chair. Nothing to Report.

**Parks & Recreation Board** – David Zimmermann, Chair. Rebecca Worthy, Co-Chair. Worthy reported we had two trees donated, one of ours for Children to Youth because their tree got damaged because of a sewer event. New was coloring contest for kids. Zimmerman added the event was fun working with everyone.

**Canal Commission** – Ryan Saunders, Chair. Saunders reported that there is a meeting the last Thursday of this month. They had another clean-up event on November 1, 2025. A week after that we had another tree come down in Parryville and cleaned that up. Per Capita bills will be going out in December.

**Council of Governments** - Steve Hawk, Delegate; Dave Zimmerman, Alternate. Nothing to report.

**Civil Service Commission** – Rebecca Worthy, Chair. Worthy reported that we had meeting Jan 2, 2026. Advertising for testing will be placed in the paper January 12, 2026, and applications close January 30, 2026. We are waiving the application fee and a sign on bonus will continue until discontinued by Council.

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICIAL'S REPORTS**

JF/SH motioned to accept Official Reports and all in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/RW motioned to approve treasurer report, bill list in the amount of \$630,205.02 and additional bills in the amount of \$88,285.55, and transfer of \$400,000.00 from L&P as needed to pay bills and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

RW/GH motioned to go into executive session for personnel at 7:51 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/RW motioned to go back into regular session at 8:22 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

RW/JF motioned to hire Jeremy Smith as a Lineman Helper, beginning 2/3/2026 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

RW/SH motioned to hire Levy Stern as a Maintenance Operator and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

RW/SH motioned to advertise for a Borough Mechanic and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

Council selected hiring committees for Billing Clerk, Mechanic, and Lineman.

RW/SH motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Ahner, Borough Secretary