

BOROUGH OF LEHIGHTON

PHONE 610-377-4002
FAX 610-377-6638

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



November 10, 2025

RE: Lehigh Borough Council Meeting Minutes – October 6, 2025

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 October 6, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Grant Hunsicker. Council Members in attendance were: Dave Arndt, Autumn Abelovsky, Jordyn Miller, Dave Zimmerman, Rebecca Worthy, and Steve Hawk. There were no members absent. Officials in attendance were: Mayor Ryan Saunders, Borough Manager Dane DeWire, Assistant Borough Manager Brooke Lichtenwalter, Solicitor James Nanovic, Borough Engineer Melanie Aroniss, Police Chief Troy Abelovsky, Borough Secretary Jessica Ahner, Light & Power Superintendent Barry Fisher and Junior Council Member Reagan Abelovsky. Officials absent: Fire Chief Patrick Mriss, Public Works Superintendent Kris Kunkle, and Recreation Director Tom Evans.

Council Member David Arndt, Junior Council Member Reagan Abelovsky, and Lehigh Police Patrolman Robert Howard were sworn in to their duties by the Mayor.

SH/AA motioned to go into executive session at 6:36 pm. 7-0

SH/DZ motioned to go back into regular session at 7:13 pm. 7-0

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Edward Solt of 153 N 6th Street was there to speak about the 6th Street Church conditional use application. He was asked to wait until the hearing.

Jay Frey from 701 Bridge Street presented plans regarding the paper alley adjacent to his property. He is requesting that Queen Alley be dissolved South of Bridge Street.

Bob Schaeffer of 125 N 1st Street spoke about public safety around his business and the community. There has been incidences near his business. According to Schaeffer First Street and surrounding areas have not been monitored, and he would like accountability for what is going on. He asked Council for a plan.

Cheryl Schoenberger of 235 North First Street spoke about problems with her neighbor that were to go to court but she never received a subpoena to go. The neighbor did receive one. The

situation has been going on for three years. She doesn't understand why the neighbor can get away with her citations. She then spoke about the neighbors' dogs. Nanovic replied to her, as he previously had conversations with her.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

AA/SH motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of September 8, 2025 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dane spoke about the two used vehicles that Council motioned to purchase earlier this year. The vehicles were unavailable for sale. The Mayor and Chief spoke about the benefits of financing new vehicles instead. SH/JM motioned to approve the purchase a two 2025 police vehicles and extend payments for 4 years at a cost of approximately \$140,000.00 with a \$30,000 down payment and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

Mayor spoke about updating signage in the Park and Trailhead to show a 9 pm close and updated rules to try and minimize negative activity. Looking at funding coming from the Parks and Recreation available funds. He would like to do this as soon as we can, and Dane spoke about money remaining in the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

A Conditional Use Hearing was held for Kim & Paulette Heilman for their proposed property at 139 North 6th Street. They are asking for a change of use from a church to a retail space and event center. Heilman presented that the event center would be used for small gatherings. The front of building would be used to sell items. He plans on decorating the porch seasonally with personal items. Autumn Abelovsky asked how many parking spots were available, and Heilman responded 21. Zimmerman asked what the operating hours would be, and Heilman responded Thursday to Sunday 9 am to 10 pm. Aroniss gave report from the planning commission and said that Heilman satisfied all review requests. Nanovic asked if the letter submitted is the planning commission's recommendation letter. Aroniss replied yes. Nanovic asked if she can confirm there were 12 responses. Aroniss said yes. Edward Solt spoke up saying that residents are concerned about parking and noise. Solt specifically is concerned with access to his garage and driveway getting blocked. Nanovic explained to Council they are acting similar to the ZHB. Autumn asked how parking spaces are determined. It is based on square footage. She also asked when the church closed and about lighting. Solt said the church closed in November 2023. Heilman answered the lights are existing lights shining downward. SH/DZ motioned to allow change of use as requested in the application for the church on 139 North 6th Street with conditions of operating 9 am to 10 pm and including access to the neighbor's garage and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/AA motioned to approve extension letter for Armin Feldman's lot consolidation plan and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

AA/SH motioned to dissolve Queen Alley South of Bridge Street at the owner's expense and all were in favor with no objections. 7-0

SH/DZ motioned to allow parcel #70A-9-M36 on Summit Avenue to be sold as two separate parcels and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

DZ/SH motioned to accept letter of intent to retire from Employee #272 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/DZ motioned to accept letter of intent to retire from Employee #068 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

Motion to advertise current Borough vacancies was tabled.

DA/DZ motioned to approve Resolution R21-2025, Destruction of Civil Service Commission Retention Documents prior to 2020 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

DZ/SH motioned to approve Resolution R22-2025, deposit of check amount \$299,955.10 from Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for the 2025 Municipal Pension State Aid and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/AA motioned to approve Resolution R23-2025, PennDOT winter maintenance agreement and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/AA motioned to accept Pioneer Metal Roofing's proposal for Light & Power Building snow guards in the amount of \$5,000.00 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/DZ motioned to accept Pioneer Metal Roofing's proposal for Light & Power Building pent roofs in the amount of \$12,000.00 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/AA motioned to approve the deletion and reassignment of inactive 2024 electric, sewer and garbage accounts, totaling \$8,111.00 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/DZ motioned to approve the deletion and reassignment of inactive 2024 water accounts, totaling \$1,373.54 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

DeWire reported that he spoke to Nedrick and her boss about grant writing. Barry Isett did a couple grants for us in the past for no charge because they were our code enforcement officer. They stopped providing that service. Barry Isett will provide pro-bono grant services with an appointment to Special Project Engineer. DeWire said he has been very open with RVE regarding this. Autumn asked if it was normal for municipalities to do this. Hawk replied yes, it can be done and is a win-win situation. Aroniss spoke about the funding that RVE secured for the Borough this year. Discussion continued that this will not take work away from our main engineer, and instead take the burden off us writing grants in-house. SH/DZ motioned to appoint Barry Isett as the special project engineer for 2025 and 6 were in favor and Autumn Abelovsky opposed. 6-1

DZ/SH motioned to donate \$500.00 to the Halloween Parade to support band expense and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/DA motioned to accept Leighton Fire Department's application for use of property on October 25, 2025 for request to park for donation collection at the former treatment plant and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/AA motioned to accept Boldly Rooted, INC's application for use of property on November 8, 2025 for Fall Fest at the Amphitheatre and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/JM motioned to accept LDI's application for use of property on December 12, 2026 for Hometown Vintage Christmas in the Lower Park, North, and South Streets and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/DA motioned to approve and advertise 2026 Meeting Dates as noted and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/DA motioned to accept the \$1900.00 winning bid for the Hendrickson Suspension and rear and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

President of Council – Nothing to report.

Borough Manager – Paper report provided. Introduced newest Junior Councilmember who will have a spot on the agenda next month. DeWire also noted that the new Assistant Borough Manager Brooke Lichtenwalter was there.

Reagan Abelovsky reported that the LASD has been discussing LERTA, decided not to aid in the Witches Market, and discussed a possible Turning Point USA Club at the school.

Borough Engineer – Paper report provided.

Solicitor – Nothing to Report.

Treasurer – Paper Report provided. SH/DA motioned to approve treasurer report, bill list in the amount of \$545,015.36 and additional bills in the amount of \$7,287.36, and transfer of \$300,000.00 from L&P as needed to pay bills and 6 were in favor and Rebecca Worthy opposed. 6-1

Mayor – Paper report provided. Mayor Saunders spoke about the events attended in September and thanked Autumn, Rebecca, Jordyn, and Fire Chief Mriss for attending those events. He officiated a wedding at the Amphitheater and congratulated Mr. & Mrs. Ben and Justine Bunce of Leighton in their new life together as husband and wife.

Police Chief – Paper report provided. Chief spoke about department staffing and patrol cars. National night is being held on Thursday, October 9th at Baer Memorial Park. He updated Council on grants being funded for the Police Department. Donation of \$500 from the Lions/Lioness Club to use for the Tobacco Compliance Program.

Fire Chief – Paper report provided. Not Present.

Light & Power Superintendent – Paper report provided. Fisher said there will be an open house lunch at the Light & Power Building Wednesday, October 8, 2025 from 11am to 1 pm. Come out and grab some lunch and check out our new truck. He also reminded Council that he will need more Linemen hired to train and that it takes 4-5 years to train a Linemen.

Public Works Superintendent – Paper Report Provided. Not Present. Available by phone.

Recreation Director – Not Present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Administration – David Zimmerman, Chair; Jordyn Miller, Co-Chair. Nothing to Report.

Economic Development, Buildings and Codes – Autumn Abelovsky, Chair; Dave Arndt, Co-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. RW reported there is an open house on Wednesday from 11am-1pm at L&P.

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 – Rebecca Worthy, Chair. Worthy passed to Tina Henninger who reported they are currently working on the trees in the park. There is a meeting on October 20, 2025.

Autumn wanted to address rumors spread about her after stepping down from the Parks and Recreation Board. When she left, she downloaded all records and gave them to the Borough Manager, although another member of the board said she did not. She said she has always made herself available to the community. She said thank you for hearing her and that she wanted to set the record straight.

Canal Commission – Ryan Saunders, Chair. Saunders reported until last week the D&L Trail was shut down from Weissport to Parryville and only used as bike trail. Now it has been cleaned up and able to use as a walking trail safely.

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

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

ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

SH/DZ motioned to accept the official's reports as presented and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

DZ/SH motioned to amend the agenda to add executive session for personnel and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

DZ/SH motioned to go into executive session for personnel at 9:20 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/AA motioned to go back into regular session at 9:47 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/DA motioned to advertise for a part-time PD administrative assistant at \$18.00/hour and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

ADJOURNMENT

DA/SH motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Ahner, Borough Secretary