

# BOROUGH OF LEHIGHTON

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



August 11, 2025

RE: Lehigh Borough Council Meeting Minutes – July 7, 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 July 7, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Grant Hunsicker. Council Members in attendance were: Autumn Abelovsky, Jordyn Miller, Dave Zimmerman, Rebecca Worthy, and Steve Hawk. Member absent: John Kreitz. Officials in attendance were: Mayor Ryan Saunders, Borough Manager Dane DeWire, Police Chief Troy Abelovsky, Public Works Superintendent Kris Kunkle, Borough Engineer Vanessa Nedrick, and Borough Secretary Jessica Ahner. Officials absent were: Junior Council Member Alex Sebelin, Fire Chief Patrick Mriss, Light & Power Superintendent Barry Fisher, Recreation Director Tom Evans and Solicitor James Nanovic.

**HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT**

Joe Flickinger spoke about Borough Code Title 35, section 7502 regarding reimbursement for attendance expenses. He submitted receipts for Uber travel and received \$72.24. The amount was approved by Council. He feels there is an outstanding amount due to him for \$121.61.

Marianne Rustad had a few questions about how she can help with homeless and people with addiction issues in the Borough. She wanted to know how the Police Department is dealing with situations. Chief said there is a County task force that has been meeting. Homelessness has been a joint effort between local police, the sheriff's office, county commissioners, and a lot of volunteers. She asked if they get involved with mental health, and said she can work with the Borough or Police Department to find long-term solutions for these individuals. DeWire said to reach out to our Borough Secretary, and we can contact her.

Tina Henninger spoke about homelessness and loitering on First Street. Chief said loitering is not illegal per ordinance in the Borough. She spoke about other suspicious things she saw at the Fourth of July Celebration. Chief urged to please call, and we will respond, but she was concerned about response time.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Steve disagrees on the minutes from the public hearing from June. The minutes should read that “after discussion, it was noted that the applicant is requesting seven units, six parking spaces, and four EDU’s”. RW/SH motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes with changes dated June 9, 2025 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

SH/RW motioned to adopt Ordinance #680-2025, amending the Zoning Ordinance and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

DZ/AA motioned to award contracts for Façade Grant public bids as presented and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

DeWire spoke about last month’s motion to appraise and subdivide Parcel 83B-38-A86A, directly behind Rite Aid along Seargent Stanley Hoffman Boulevard. The interested parties involved believe it is better for them to purchase the property and sub-divide after sale. AA/RW motioned to advertise Parcel 83B-38-A86A along Seargent Stanley Hoffman Boulevard for Public Bid and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

SH/DZ motioned to recommend Dylan Saunders as Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) to Governor Shapiro and advertise for a Deputy EMC. Miller asked if it was a conflict of interest because he is related to the Mayor, and the response was no, it is a voluntary position, and all were in favor with no objections. 6-0

### **NEW BUSINESS**

SH/RW motioned to accept the \$6000 winning bid for the Elgin Crosswind Sweeper and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

RW/SH motioned to accept the \$9500 winning bid for Patrol Car #5 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

RW/SH motioned to accept Kunkle Renovations’ bid of \$6,989.69 to repair the PD Garage Ceiling. Autumn questioned if that was the only bid received. DeWire said it was the only contractor that would do the job within our scheduling constraints. She also asked if this will affect the budget for PD and the answer was no. All were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

Discussion was had regarding conflicting ordinances governing alcohol on public property. DZ/RW motioned to advertise Ordinance #681-2025, addressing code inconsistencies

regarding alcohol in the parks, and five were in favor and opposed by Autumn Abelovsky.  
5-1

Tina Henninger questioned alcohol on the sidewalks, which is a public place. DeWire said that is a case-by-case basis governed by the LCB.

Autumn made comment that we should not have to go back-and-forth to different sections of Borough Code.

DeWire said Larry Wittig of Tamaqua Transfer noted that they were purchased by Casella, and all contracts will stay the same. DZ/JM motioned to accept 'Notice of and Consent of Assignment to Buyer' as presented by Tamaqua Transfer and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

SH/RW motioned to remove the Borough Mechanic from the CBA Probationary Period and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

### **OFFICIAL'S REPORTS**

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

**Borough Manager** – Paper report provided. DeWire spoke about L&P hosting a Pole Climbing Training presented by AMP-Ohio. A Resolution will need to be adopted to perform all training, and the Agenda will need to be amended.

**Borough Engineer** – Paper report provided. Vanessa said she does not have anything additional tonight. There will be no Planning Commission meeting this month.

**Solicitor** – Nothing to Report. Not Present

**Treasurer** – Paper Report provided.

**Mayor** – Mayor said the Parking Committee met and are looking at potential options to gather for Council next month.

He spoke during the first D&L Trailfest at the Lehigh Outdoor Center.

He also attended the Fourth of July Block Party; it was a nice event and is worth building on. He thanked Police Officers and the Fire Police for keeping everyone safe and getting everyone out of town safely.

We are working behind the scenes on the homeless situation. We have Police Officers, so if you see something, please call the communication center or 911. Let the Police handle the situations. Council is working with the L&P Department to keep the lights on longer in problem areas. He noted the park signage is incorrect. It says the park closes at 10pm, as opposed to at dusk. They should also indicate there is no smoking or dogs in the parks.

**Police Chief** – Paper report provided. Chief said everyone did an exceptional job with the Block Party and wanted to thank the Franklin Township Fire Police for assisting us. We will be helping Franklin Township with their Block Party July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. He spoke about the National Night Out, which will be held on August 5, 2025 at Baer Memorial Park, this

event will be held on a larger scale than usual. We will have ice cream; Corner Cones will be assisting with this.

**Fire Chief** – Paper report provided. Not Present.

**Light & Power Superintendent** – Paper report provided. Not Present.

**Public Works Superintendent** – Paper Report Provided. Kunkle reported there will be no parking on First Street for Street Sweeping. He asked the newspaper to post that sweeping starts Wednesday morning at 4am on First Street, Seargent Stanley Hoffman Boulevard, and Bankway Street.

**Recreation Director** – Not Present.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

**Economic Development, Buildings and Codes** – Autumn Abelovsky, Chair; John Kreitz, Co-Chair. Autumn spoke about the ribbon cutting of Nonna's Ice Cream Grand opening at the old Boulevard Drive-In location on Thursday, July 24, 2025 at 5:30pm.

**Police, Fire and Safety** – Jordyn Miller, Chair; Rebecca Worthy, Co-Chair. Miller said the items were covered already.

**Light & Power Committee** – Rebecca Worthy, Chair; Steve Hawk, Co-Chair. Worthy asked if L&P could leave the lights on all night in the amphitheater.

**Sewer Committee** – Steve Hawk, Chair; Autumn Abelovsky, Co-Chair. Hawk read the letter from Carbon Municipal Authority and felt our numbers are better than what was actually reported. There was discussion on the numbers from month-to-month. We will need to watch the numbers more closely to see if the lining is helping. Vanessa said some of numbers reflect heavier than normal rains and we should not be responsible for that.

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

**Library Board** – Rebecca Worthy. Worthy reported that the Library will be holding a Basket Raffle on the same day as LDI Christmas in July, July 26, 2025 from 9am to 2pm.

**Parks & Recreation Board** – Rebecca Worthy. Worthy reported they will be hosting Christmas in July in the Park on July 26, 2025 and Music in the Park from 7-9pm on the same date.

**Canal Commission** – Ryan Saunders. Nothing to Report.

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

**Civil Service Commission** – Rebecca Worthy – Nothing to Report.

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

SH/RW motioned to accept the official's reports as presented and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

SH/JM motioned to approve bills in the amount of \$454,400.00, and additional bills of \$99,783.61 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

### **ADJOURNMENT**

RW/SH motioned to go into executive session for personnel at 7:31pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

Council motioned to go back into regular session at 7:55 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

RW/AA motioned to amend the agenda to include Discussion on R18-2025, approving participation in safety training with AMP-Ohio. 6-0

RW/AA motioned adopt Resolution R18-2025, approving participation in safety training with AMP-Ohio and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

RW/SH motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Ahner, Borough Secretary