

BOROUGH OF LEHIGHTON

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



October 6, 2025

RE: Lehigh Borough Council Meeting Minutes – September 8, 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 September 8, 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. Members absent: Vacany. Officials in attendance were: Mayor Ryan Saunders, Borough Manager Dane DeWire, Solicitor Nanovic, Borough Engineer Vanessa Nedrick, Fire Chief Patrick Mriss, Borough Secretary Jessica Ahner, Light & Power Superintendent Barry Fisher, and Public Works Superintendent Kris Kunkle. Officials absent: Junior Council Member Alex Sebelin, Police Chief Troy Abelovsky, and Recreation Director Tom Evans.

Guest Speaker

Corbin Kline with Boy Scouts of America; he spoke about his Eagle Scout Project proposal. He wants to build a Gaga Pit in the Borough. He explained the project, and said that it would be maintenance free. The location is to be determined. The project will be fundraised over the winter, and he plans to start building in the Spring. His goal is completion by Fall of 2026. Gaga is extremely popular with Boy Scouts. Council suggested locations. Council approved the project and the Borough Manager will talk to Zoning Officer and Recreation Director for their thoughts on location.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Midge Heiser from Mahoning Township announced a demonstration from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm on October 18, 2025 on Sergeant Stanley Hoffman Boulevard. It will be by the caboose.

David Arndt from 833 Iron Street stated he was present as requested by Mr. DeWire. DeWire said he did not receive Mr. Arndt's letter of interest for the Council vacancy by the deadline. Mr. Arndt presented his letter of interest to Council, and answered any questions Council had.

Andy Thalia of Mahoning Township asked about homelessness and tent city. Mayor said this is happening here and everywhere. This is a hard topic to solve.

Residents from South 7th Street asked what to do about disrespectful kids at the Grove. Some of the older kids ride electric bikes in the park and do not obey traffic signs in the Borough. They are destructive and think they can do whatever they want. DeWire and Mayor are working on new signs and updating others. Mayor Saunders said to call the police department any time with concerns.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SH/RW motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of August 11, 2025, and the Special Meeting minutes of August 25, 2025 and September 2, 2025 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SH/RW motioned to adopt Ordinance #681-2025, amending code inconsistencies regarding alcohol in the parks. 6-0

DeWire discussed the winning bid for parcel 83B-38-A86A. Atty Nanovic drew up an agreement of sale for Carl Gustafson, but Joe Marks wants his name on it too, although no check was received from him. There was discussion amongst Atty Nanovic and Council who all agreed both parties need to agree on the sale agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

AA/SH motioned to appoint Dave Arndt to fill the 2025 vacancy on Council and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

SH/AA motioned to award RVE the Bridge Street Survey and Crosswalks Project and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

RW/SH motioned to appoint Reagan Abelovsky as Lehighton Borough Junior Councilperson and five were in favor and Autumn Abelovsky abstained. 5-0-1

RW/SH motioned to accept letter of intent to retire from Employee #063 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

SH/RW motioned to accept application for use of property on October 7, 2025 for the 20th Annual Pink Light Walk and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

SH/RW motioned to accept application for use of property on May 2, 2026 for Wine on the River at Baer Memorial Park and five were in favor and Autumn Abelovsky opposed. 5-1

SH/RW motioned to accept application for 5K run/walk event held on December 13, 2025 to benefit for Dylan and Gavin's Rainbow 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 said he submitted his report late and any questions can be directed to him.

Borough Engineer – Paper report provided. Nedrick reported currently working on annual MS4 report and several review comments for the Planning Commission.

Solicitor – Nothing to Report.

Treasurer – Paper Report provided.

Mayor – Mayor said the Police Department has received several complaints about the homeless problem. Police Department and Mayor met with members of the Cold Weather Warming Shelter. They will continue to meet with them, and members from the Shelter may ask for Council's support. We are trying to help but not everyone wants help. He also reported on the formerly approved \$100,000 for vehicles and up-fitting costs. The vehicle purchases that were approved did not happen, and now inventory is low. We have the option to purchase a 2025 vehicle and extend payments for 4-years. He talked about adding it to the Police budget.

Police Chief – Paper report provided. Not Present.

Fire Chief – Paper report provided. Fire Chief requested to check on the grant for truck. He wanted to get the amount in the apparatus fund so he knows what kind of work he has to do. If we order now, we will not receive truck until 2028. Our 30 year old apparatus has been in the shop for the last 3 weeks.

Light & Power Superintendent – Paper report provided. Fisher thanked Council for their new truck. He also brought up that he will need more Linemen hired to train. It takes 4 years to train a Linemen, and two of them are ready to retire. There was also discussion about on-call employees.

Public Works Superintendent – Paper Report Provided. Kunkle reported that the 30 year old dump truck will need to be replaced. The truck broke down with a load of black-top on it. This truck is used for everything and currently needs work.

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. Autumn thanked everyone who attended Landon's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The project is now property of the Borough.

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

Light & Power Committee – Rebecca Worthy, Chair; Steve Hawk, Co-Chair. Worthy and DeWire attended the 2025 Annual PMEA Conference in Bedford. DeWire gave feedback and appreciated having PMEA and NextEra Energy on board as partners.

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. RW reported the final Music in the Park was held September 6, 2025.

Canal Commission – Ryan Saunders, Chair. RS looking to reschedule the canal clean-up event to September 13, 2025 from 9am-11am or longer.

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

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

DeWire spoke about the treasurer report that included the uniform and non-uniform MMO reports. Our Non-Uniform MMO is \$148,489.00 and Uniform is \$345,026.00. AA/SH motioned to approve treasurer report and bills in the amount of \$581,747.20, and additional bills of \$96,680.65 and five were in favor and Dave Zimmerman abstained. 5-0-1

ADJOURNMENT

RW/SH motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Ahner, Borough Secretary