

BOROUGH OF LEHIGHTON

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September 8, 2025

RE: Lehigh Borough Council Meeting Minutes – August 11, 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 August 11, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Grant Hunsicker. Council Members in attendance were: Autumn Abelovsky, Jordyn Miller, Rebecca Worthy, and Steve Hawk. Members absent: John Kreitz and Dave Zimmerman. Officials in attendance were: Mayor Ryan Saunders, Borough Manager Dane DeWire, Attorney Nanovic, Borough Engineer Vanessa Nedrick, Fire Chief Patrick Mriss, Police Chief Troy Abelovsky, Light & Power Superintendent Barry Fisher, and Public Works Superintendent Kris Kunkle. Officials absent were: Junior Council Member Alex Sebelin, Recreation Director Tom Evans and Borough Secretary Jessica Ahner.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Cathy Fies spoke on behalf of the Pickle Ball Club that is now 154 members strong, which started about 3 years ago. She stated they reached out to Tom Evans, and he was very open to hanging shields for pickleball to cut down on the wind at Baer Memorial. They want to know if they can keep the shields on the court. Autumn mentioned that she was not concerned about safety, more so about lack of communication. Cathy said a lot of people use Baer Memorial to park to eat lunch. Chief spoke about the police patrolling after hours, but he did not realize how high the shields actually were. Hawk was concerned that you can't see your car from the Court, and that may be an issue. Cathy said the shields will be taken down the end of summer so they would not be damaged.

Landon Abelovsky shared the completion of his eagle scout project at Baer Memorial. He thanked Council, RVE, Public Works, Power & Light, and Tom Evans. He invited everyone to Baer Memorial on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 5pm for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chief listed changes to the minutes from last month: the Police Department did not participate at the Franklin Township Block Party. August 7, 2025 was Ice Cream with a cop at Corner Cone, and October 7, 2025 will be National Night out at Baer Memorial Park. RW/SH motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes with changes dated July 7, 2025 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DeWire let Council know he is still working with the Water Authority on a possible Hydro-Excavator/Sewer Vac Truck purchase. Attorney Nanovic drafted an agreement with the Water Authority, should we move forward. We may be able to work this into the budget the next few years.

DeWire explained that the Nace's will receive a letter from Nanovic's Office. Attorney Nanovic said the letter gave them 30 days to clean up the property, after which, the Borough will execute on the judgement from years ago.

DeWire noted that he and the Mayor sat with School Board to discuss LERTA. They asked us for some changes to be considered and they were listed for Council. Attorney Nanovic said if Council is okay with the changes, he can make them. There was Council discussion on the proposed changes. Attorney Nanovic agreed to make them and get them back to DeWire for review.

NEW BUSINESS

SH/AA motioned to accept the extension letter for Armin Feldman's lot consolidation and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

SH/AA motioned to accept the \$8000 winning bid for parcel 83B-38-A86A and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

AA/SH motioned to grant Park and Recreation's request to host Tree's in the Park Monday, November 24, 2025 through January 12, 2026 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

JM/SH motioned to grant Park and Recreation's request to host the Tree Lighting Ceremony Sunday, December 7, 2025 11am to 9pm with road closures on Constitution Avenue and South Street. Autumn asked if they were closing all of South Street. DeWire said yes, all of Constitution Avenue and South Street will be closed and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

SH/RW motioned to adopt Resolution R20-2025, authorizing Carbon County to administer annual CDBG documents and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

DeWire spoke about property at 353 North 2nd Street stating that the property has been an issue for years. Past Zoning Officers have been filing violations, and we recently received a letter from a neighbor expressing her concerns. Attorney Nanovic said it is a

conflict of interest for him to advise the Borough on this issue. There was continued discussion on property. AA/SH motioned to seek alternate legal counsel on 353 North 2nd Street and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

President of Council – Nothing to report.

Borough Manager – Paper report provided. Nothing more to Report.

Borough Engineer – Paper report provided. Vanessa said she is working on land development applications and working on getting final approvals.

Solicitor – Attorney Nanovic could not get the ordinance for alcohol in the park advertised for tonight so it will be in for next month's meeting.

Treasurer – Paper Report provided.

Mayor – Mayor said he has nothing to report.

Police Chief – Paper report provided. Chief said overtime is currently high due to officers out on PTO. Chief stated we were able to secure grant funding for equipment. Chief hopes the check issued for patrol car #5 can be put towards the purchase of a new patrol vehicle. National Night Out will be held on October 7, 2025 at Baer Memorial Park from 5-8 pm, and this event will be held on a larger scale than last year.

Fire Chief – Paper report provided. Fire Chief said there will be an annual strategic meeting at the Fire Station on Saturday August 30, 2025 at 9 am. Everyone is welcome to come.

Light & Power Superintendent – Paper report provided. BF reported they will be cutting trees on RT 209 August 19-20, 2025. There will be single lane traffic from 9am-3pm, directed by flagger force. Our new truck should be delivered in the next two weeks.

Public Works Superintendent – Paper Report Provided. KK reported he has nothing to report.

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. Nothing to Report.

Police, Fire and Safety – Jordyn Miller, Chair; Rebecca Worthy, Co-Chair. JM asked if anything happened with the homeless situation. Mayor said we assisted the County with cleaning up and that there will be continued efforts.

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, Co-Chair. Kreitz. AA asked when the roads were going to be striped, and KK said we started line painting in August.

Library Board – Rebecca Worthy. Nothing to Report.

Parks & Recreation Board – Rebecca Worthy. RW reported that on August 23, 2025 there will be a performing arts special workshop. Another music in the park event will be September 6, 2025 from 6pm–9pm, and Tree Lighting Ceremony is coming up in December.

Canal Commission – Ryan Saunders. RS looking to reschedule 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

RW/AA motioned to amend the agenda to include discussion on the Civil Service List and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

RW/SH motioned to accept the Civil Service List, at the recommendation of Civil Service Commission and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

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. 5-0

SH/RW motioned to approve bills in the amount of \$1,177,208.46 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0 AA questioned a \$446,000 invoice from PennDOT billing us for utility work on 443. Attorney Nanovic said they can, and that this is our 25% portion of the bills. He said he and DeWire talked to the Borough's electric engineer, and this was, in fact, bid and the Borough knew about it. DeWire said we have the money to pay that amount, but unfortunately it was not budgeted, as we believed the cost would be close to the \$179,000 estimate agreed upon in 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

RW/AA motioned to go into executive session for personnel at 7:43pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

RW/SH motioned to go back into regular session at 9:21pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

RW/AA motioned to accept letters to intent to retire from Patti Bissel and Cathy Smith and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

RW/AA motioned to advertise for a Special Meeting on August 25, 2025 at 5:00 pm to select applicants for vacancy interviews and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

RW/AA motioned to advertise for a Special Meeting on September 2, 2025 at 5:00 pm to interview and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

AA/RW motioned to hire Robert Howard as a patrol officer, pending pre-employment screening and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

AA/RW motioned to permit KK & DD to select, interview, and hire a part-time Public Works employee for 2025 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

RW/SH motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 5-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Ahner, Borough Secretary

