

September 12, 2022

The regular meeting of Lehigh Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, September 12, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Councilors Lisa Perry, Autumn Abelovsky, Ryan Saunders, Darryl Arner and Joe Flickinger. Absent – Donnie Rehrig.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Steve Travers, Borough Secretary Brenda Kreitz, Mayor Clark Ritter, Police Chief Joe Sparich, Fire Chief Patrick Mriss, Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt, L&P Superintendent Lonny Armbruster and Public Works Supervisor Kris Kunkle. Absent: Recreation Director Tom Evans and Solicitor James Nanovic.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing: Proposed Zoning Map/Ordinance/SALDO – Carson Helfrich of Community Planning & Management was present to answer any questions or concerns

Bruce said everything was posted correctly with letters sent to those property owners affected by the map changes, the County reviewed the changes and are ok with the changes.

Carson said we tried to bring everything up to date with all the changes affecting North Eastern PA.

Guest Speakers: Check Presentation to Lehigh Fire Department by Dance with Kim for a Cause

Kim Semmel, owner of Dance with Kim for 36 years said she and her daughter decided to start Dance with Kim for a Cause to donate money to organizations throughout our area and to families in need in the area. The Lehigh and Palmerton Fire Departments are the recipients of the golf tournament this year. Ms. Semmel presented Lehigh Fire Department with a check for \$2,500.

Bambi Elsasser – Lehigh Main Street Manager – Updates on the Lehigh Downtown Partnership

Not present. Councilor Saunders updated council on Bambi's behalf. The Winter Farmer's Market will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month starting in November and ending in April from 10 am until noon. They are proposing to hold it on Constitution Avenue instead of the Rec Center parking lot. Ryan is asking for council to approve the request for the location change.

Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to allow moving the event to Constitution Avenue and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Rocktoberfest will be held October 8<sup>th</sup> from noon –7pm and October 9<sup>th</sup> from noon to 6pm with no beer or wine garden this year. More details and info to follow. Road closures will be the same as last year.

The Downtown Partnership is also tossing around the idea of a Hometown Vintage Christmas December 10<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5pm with 1<sup>st</sup> Street being closed to traffic. There would be carolers and a strolling Santa.

## HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

A resident of Bankway did not understand the zoning changes to her property. She received a letter of the change and wanted to know what the change meant. Bruce said it means that all the residential properties will become nonconforming uses of record with no changes as long as they continue in that use. The change from C-3 to C-2 allows for a mix of commercial and residential.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### Regular Meeting of August 1 & Special Meeting of September 1, 2022

Councilors Saunders/Arner made the motions to approve the minutes of the August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to approve the special meeting minutes of September 1<sup>st</sup> and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### Continued discussion on drafting of a Cat/Dog Ordinance

Council tabled this item until the October meeting when the solicitor would be present.

### Continued discussion on Curfew Ordinance

This item was also tabled until the October meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Motion to approve Resolution R26-2022 establishing the current base purchased power cost for the PPAC

Councilors Perry/Flickinger made the motions to approve the resolution and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

### Motion to approve Resolution R27-2022 to apply for LSA grant and designate Borough Manager Steve Travers and Council President Grant Hunsicker to execute all documents between the Borough and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant for demolition of 135-139 North First Street

Councilors Saunders/Flickinger made the motions to approve the resolution and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

### Motion to approve Resolution R28-2022 to designate Borough Manager Steve Travers and Council President Grant Hunsicker to execute all documents between the Borough of Lehigh and the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the \$93,000 Grant Award to be used for Surveillance System in the Upper and Lower Parks

Councilors Flickinger/Arner made the motions to approve the resolution and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

### Motion to approve the 2023 MMO for the Borough Pension Plan

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motions to approve the MMO and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

### Motion to approve the 2023 MMO for the Borough Police Pension Plan

Councilors Perry/Arner made the motions to approve the MMO and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

### Consideration on waiver requests from Mitch 328, LLC for Blakeslee Station project from Section 2.107 & 3.607 of the SALDO and a time extension to expire November 30, 2022

Councilors Flickinger/Saunders made the motions to approve the waivers and time extension and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to award the Roof Replacement for Borough Hall to Spotts Brothers Inc. at a bid price of \$159,890

Councilor Saunders questioned the difference in the bid prices as they were considerable. The borough manager said he had the same question but Eric assured him that Spotts is qualified to do the job as he has worked with that company on several projects.

Councilors Saunders/Arner made the motions to award the bid and all were in favor with no question or objections.

Motion to award 2022–2023 Road Material and Aggregate bids as presented

Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to award the bids as presented and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve the “Snowflake” 5K and 1 mile walk/run on Saturday, December 10, 2022

Councilors Arner/Abelovsky made the motions to approve the event and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to accept the lone bid of \$71,884.80 from Suburban Propane for Unleaded and Diesel Fuel

Councilors Saunders/Flickinger made the motions to accept the bid and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on request to hold the Pink Light Walk Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Councilors Perry/Flickinger made the motions to approve the walk provided the organizer obtains fire police for traffic control and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion on IT services

The borough manager said that Brian Blose will be retiring in October and we need to hire a new person. DRC Technologies in Northampton have submitted a proposal and Steve would like to hire them. It will cost a little more than we are currently being charged but we will have a set amount of hours for the year which can be carried over if not used. \$2,033.88 a month is the cost for 200 hours for the year. Steve would like to get them in and working on issues right away.

Councilors Abelovsky/Flickinger made the motions to approve hiring DRC Technologies at \$25,000 a year for 1 year and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Officials Reports

President of Council

Nothing.

Borough Manager

Steve said he has provided council with 3 qualification packages for engineering services. It is Steve’s understanding that Bruce told Nicole to start prepping for his retirement and Steve is trying to stay on top of this before Bruce retires. If council wishes to interview the 3 firms, he can set that up for the October Meeting if council wishes.

### Borough Engineer

Bruce announced he will retire before September 2023 but will still be available to answer questions or locate files. He is also putting the finishing touches on the substation. He thanked Carson for putting up with us for the Zoning Ordinance and SALDO update. It now complies with the Comp Plan which will need to be updated soon.

### Solicitor

On vacation.

### Treasurer

Approval of additional bills totaling \$13,223.03

### Mayor

Clark had an item for executive session.

### Police

Chief Sparich said he is in his 2<sup>nd</sup> week and it has been a very welcoming experience. Chief Sparich wanted to publicly thank Officer Szozda for doing a phenomenal job keeping things going and sees nothing but good things coming for the department.

Chief Sparich also thanked the fire department for letting his department use their conference room. The police were doing a 2-day training in 100-degree temps and he was grateful to be able to use the fire department's facilities.

The chief also has a couple of items for executive session.

### Fire Chief

Chief Mriss said the County dedicated the new EMS training facility yesterday. There is about a month's worth of work to be done until completion. He is hoping to be able to have some entry level classes and more held there so members do not have to travel so far for training. Fire Prevention is coming next month and his department will be busy helping with various events.

They held their annual Strategic Planning meeting last week. Patrick feels it went extremely well as always. He is hoping to meet with the borough manager to discuss the upcoming budget.

### Light & Power Superintendent

Lonny was called away from the meeting for an L&P issue.

### Public Works Supervisor

Kris said last Wednesday there was a demonstration of a Hydroexcavator/Sewer Flusher set up by the borough manager. Kris said they were given an estimate for it .and as prices keep going up Kris feels if this is something that council will move forward with to please discuss it with the borough manager soon. Kris said this last demonstration is by far the best machine he has seen yet.

Mr. Travers said since it is a multiuse machine it will benefit not just Public Works but also Light & Power, the fire department and if they can partner with the Water Authority it will be an asset to their department as well. There are some 2022 units available at the 2022 price if ordered before the end of the year but we probably wouldn't get it until this time next year.

## Recreation Director

Absent.

## Committee Reports –

Finance and Administration – Lisa Perry, Chair; Joe Flickinger, Co-Chair – nothing. Lisa did comment that when Mr. Travers starts working on the budget both she and Joe will meet with him too.

Economic Development, Buildings and Codes – Autumn Abelovsky, Chair; Darryl Arner, Co-Chair – nothing.

Police, Fire and Safety – Donnie Rehrig, Chair; Lisa Perry, Co-Chair – Donnie was absent. Lisa had an item for executive session

Light & Power Committee – Joe Flickinger, Chair; Ryan Saunders, Co-Chair – Joe reminded everyone of the NextEra Conference February 12–15, 2023 and strongly suggests the borough manager attends.

Sewer Committee – Darryl Arner, Chair; Autumn Abelovsky, Co-Chair – nothing.

Streets, Public Works & Recreation – Ryan Saunders, Chair; Donnie Rehrig, Co-Chair – nothing. Kris said he spoke to Play World where the new playground equipment is coming from. He feels with the liability factor to install this equipment it is in our best interest to have someone from the company come in and lead his department through the installation so the full liability will not be on the borough. It is not scheduled to come in until late October.

Library Board – Joe – Nothing.

Parks & Recreation Board – Autumn – the Paint the Park project is finishing up. She has seen a few kids using it. Autumn confirmed the Christmas trees have been secured from Rehrig's Nursery in Franklin Township. The event will begin the 1<sup>st</sup> week in December with the tree lighting on Sunday, December 4. Thank you, Public Works, for having an in with the nursery and getting the trees for us.

Canal Commission – nothing.

## Acceptance of Officials Reports

Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to accept the official's reports as presented and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

## Acceptance of Accounts Payable

Councilors Perry/Arner made the motions to accept the accounts payable plus the additional bills and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

## Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel

Councilors Saunders/Flickinger made the motions to go into executive session at 7:51pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

## Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Abelovsky/Flickinger made the motions to go back into regular session at 8:25pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Action on Items from Executive Session

Discussion on letter submitted by Employee #55

No action taken.

Discussion on letter submitted by Employee #63

No action taken.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:26pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Kreitz  
Borough Secretary