

August 1, 2022

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, August 1, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Councilors, Autumn Abelovsky, Ryan Saunders, Darryl Arner and Donnie Rehrig. Absent – Lisa Perry and Joe Flickinger.

Officials in attendance were: Interim Borough Manager Kim Rubin, Borough Secretary Brenda Kreitz, Solicitor James Nanovic, Mayor Clark Ritter, Officer in Charge Gabe Szozda, Fire Chief Patrick Mriss, Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt, L&P Superintendent Lonny Armbruster and Public Works Supervisor Kris Kunkle. Absent: Recreation Director Tom Evans.
Pledge of Allegiance

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

Bambi said they are moving forward with a few projects. Our 2nd Saturdays are a hit and on August 13th the theme is “Spellbinding Saturday,” a Harry Potter type weekend. The plastic goal was reached for our 1st park bench. The community has really stepped up so we can get another one in September.

Bambi gave a huge shout out to the police department with the fireworks and for doing a great job with traffic control. Public Work’s and Light & Power were thanked as well for always showing up to help.

The caboose should be in place in September. They are waiting on paperwork to be completed. The farmer’s market is still going strong with the addition of a few new vendors and a kid’s craft corner. The adopt a barrel program is still going. The next judging will be August with the final judging in September when the winners will be announced.

Bambi said there is an issue regarding traffic through the downtown on weekends. The traffic from the County lot in Jim Thorpe is right turn only with the traffic being diverted down the Mory Road to the turnpike. Businesses have complained to her about the loss of revenue they are having. She is asking for a banner to be placed on the trailhead pavilion where you can scan a QR code similar to the one in Jim Thorpe saying Discover Lehighon.

Councilors Saunders/Rehrig made the motions to allow LDP to place the banner and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Bambi said they are working on a few other projects to beautify the downtown and will update council more next month.

Councilor Abelovsky said she was listening to a commissioner’s meeting where a business owner addressed them about the County lot parking. Autumn’s thoughts are that the lot is a county lot but the County is accommodating Jim Thorpe Borough by allowing the traffic to be diverted so as not to back up the borough traffic. Autumn feels since it is a County lot the County should accommodate all the municipalities not just one. She is hoping another meeting could be set up with representatives from our borough to back our local businesses. Autumn and Ryan said they would be willing to attend the meeting if Bambi could set one up.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of July 11, 2022

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Continued discussion on Paving Project by LASD and the Borough's portion of Indian Lane from Ninth Street to Grant Alley

Grant said he looked at the portion in question with Jeff and was told it would cost the borough over \$13,000 through the school district's project so Public Works will do the work instead. Councilor Abelovsky said apparently Councilor Perry found the money. Kris asked if that would take away from their road material budget and Autumn said it's coming from Major Machinery & Equipment. Kris said that was money toward the dump truck he requested. Kris will start the project tomorrow.

Motion to Modify 2019 CDBG Funds for the recreation Center/Senior Center roof replacement

Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to modify the funds and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

President Hunsicker welcomed the soon to be appointed borough manager who was in the audience to everyone. Mr. Stephen Travers was given the opportunity to say a few words about himself.

Councilors Rehrig/Abelovsky made the motions to appoint Stephen Travers as the new borough manager per the conditional offer that had been made and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on selecting a project for the DCED/CFA LSA Monroe County Grant Program for 2022

Kim said this is for the application to apply for funds for the demolition of 135-139 North 1st Street.

Motion to approve Resolution R25-2022 establishing the current base purchased power cost for the PPAC

Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to approve the resolution and all were in favor.

Motion to accept the high bid of \$6,211 for the sale of the 1989 Federal Truck (Aerial truck)

Councilors Arner/Rehrig made the motions to accept the high bid and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Officials Reports

President of Council

Nothing.

Interim Borough Manager

Nothing.

Borough Engineer

Nothing.

Solicitor

The solicitor said the ordinance requiring separate water lines has been advertised and is ready for adoption. Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to adopt Ordinance 664-2022 requiring separating water lines and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilor Rehrig also thought the cat/dog ordinance should be revisited in September.

Treasurer

Approval of additional bills totaling \$3,590.78

Mayor

The mayor had one item for executive session. He also requested an earlier curfew for the borough parks, the Grove especially. That park is for younger kids. He does not feel a 10 pm curfew is appropriate. If the curfew was earlier, it would possibly cut down on some of the issues happening at the Grove.

The mayor said the 5-day prior approval for a Dumpster Permit is not working out. People are still coming in a day or two prior to the dumpster delivery. Several councilors commented that the 5-day prior approval was for coordinating with our departments that the dumpster will not cause any traffic issues or hinder projects. They also felt the process could be expedited until the community becomes more familiar with the new process. Autumn asked Terry Arner to put a write up in the paper to remind residents of the new ordinance and new guidelines and to have it put in the newsletter.

Autumn also commented on the curfew. She said the Park & Rec Board were working on a project at the Grove. A board member lives across the street from the Grove and was mentioning some of the things that go on after dark in the park. One of the suggestions the board member made was to make the curfew earlier.

The solicitor asked if the time was set by ordinance and if it was the ordinance would need to be amended if the time is to be changed. Kim was to research this and report back to council next month.

Police

Gabe had an item for executive session.

Fire Chief

Patrick said their annual Strategic Planning meeting is coming up. A date has not been chosen yet as they are waiting for the new manager to start. He will ask Kim or Brenda to email council when the meeting will be.

Light & Power Superintendent

Lonny said they were approached by LASD about getting their transformer back that has been sitting at the L&P building. LASD would like L&P to move it for them. Lonny is asking council to approve them moving the transformer and council approved the request. He also asked council that if the roof can not be replaced on the Rec Center could it at least be patched over the electric panels.

Public Works Supervisor

Kris said they repaired another deteriorating catch basin on the bypass. Kris also heard through the grape vine that there is to be more cameras going in at the Grove. He feels it might be best to wait for the cameras to be installed before putting the new playground equipment in the Grove. Kris also said they put \$500 worth of new faucet handles on the hydrants and they were destroyed in a week and a half.

Recreation Director

Absent.

Committee Reports –

Finance and Administration – Lisa Perry, Chair; Joe Flickinger, Co-Chair – nothing.

Both were absent.

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 said they met with the new chief. The police department is under good guidance at this point. Morale is up and communication with the community is up. Things are on the upside and are continuing to get better.

Light & Power Committee – Joe Flickinger, Chair; Ryan Saunders, Co-Chair – nothing.

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

Streets, Public Works & Recreation – Ryan Saunders, Chair; Donnie Rehrig, Co-Chair – nothing.

Library Board – Joe – Nothing. He was absent.

Parks & Recreation Board – Autumn – We are doing the “Paint the Park” project with games that are educational as well as fun and the kids don’t know they are learning. The “Music in the Park” is continuing. The Northeast Navy Band will be here this week in the Upper Park. “Christmas in the Park” is still not set yet. Local growers can not provide us with trees so this week letters went out to growers outside the area for trees.

Canal Commission – Ryan – They met last week. It will cost about \$500,000 to repair the spillway and the Commission is working to obtain grants for the funding. A young lady will be doing a fundraiser to resurrect the old Weigh Lock. It is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way between Weissport and Jim Thorpe. The driving force behind this project is a great, great, great grandson of the actual toll tender who is going to donate to the restoration.

Acceptance of Officials Reports

Councilors Saunders/Arner 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 Abelovsky/Rehrig 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 Arner/Rehrig made the motions to go into executive session at 7:40pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to go back into regular session at 8:20pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Action on Items from Executive Session

None. Crossing guards were discussed

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Saunders/Rehrig made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Kreitz
Borough Secretary