

October 3, 2022

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, October 3, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Councilors Donnie Rehrig, Autumn Abelovsky, Ryan Saunders. Absent – Lisa Perry, Joe Flickinger, Darryl Arner.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Guest Speakers: Presentation by Landon Abelovsky of proposed Eagle Scout Project

Landon said he would like to erect a pavilion with 2 picnic tables at Baer Memorial Park. Years ago, there was a pavilion with tables but it was removed sometime ago due to age. Landon must first receive approval from his scout leader before proceeding with the project should council approve it. Landon will do fundraising and obtain sponsors to fund the project.

Councilor Rehrig suggested checking to be sure this project can be built in the floodplain and that the footer is deep enough to not wash away. Autumn had spoke to Bruce already regarding the footer. She spoke to Tyler about the floodplain issue to be sure it is permitted. Councilor Saunders likes the idea as fishermen and the booster club would utilize it.

Councilors Saunders/Rehrig made the motions to approve the project as long as all “I’s” and “Ts” are crossed with the engineer and others and all were in favor with no questions or objection.

Bambi Elsasser – Lehighon Main Street Manager – Updates on the Lehighon Downtown Partnership and request to approve holding a Hometown Vintage Christmas event on December 10, 2022 from 11am – 8pm in the downtown

Bambi said Rocktoberfest will be this weekend. Proceeds will be split between Blended Bakery’s Beards for Breasts fundraiser and Perfect Balance Boutique who helps cancer patients obtain item they might need. The winner of the barrel contest will be announced at Rocktoberfest.

2nd Saturdays are still going strong. November’s event will be “Fall in Love with Lehighon” which will also be the new slogan. In December they are planning a Hometown Vintage Christmas on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

The first Trex Bench was received. We have enough plastic already for the second bench. We will do a third bench in Spring.

The Farmers Market will run until the end of October and then November through April it will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays.

Her office is working with the Pocono Visitors Bureau for signage to draw visitors to the downtown area. They are working on an over the road banner for 443 as well as a sign at the end of the bypass. The caboose should be in place by the end of the month.

Bambi asked to move "Wine on the River" to Baer Memorial next year as they are outgrowing Jerry's business.

Councilor Saunders/Abelovsky made the motion to approve the Hometown vintage Christmas and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Attorney Nanovic asked if any consideration was given to anyone having alcohol in a borough park. We do have an ordinance in place prohibiting alcohol on Borough property.

Councilor Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to allow holding the event at Baer Memorial on May 6, 2023. Not all were in favor. Roll call: yes- Councilors Saunders, Abelovsky, Hunsicker; No - Councilor Rehrig. Motion carried

#### HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Attorney Cerullo was present representing his client MB Bridge Real Estate, LLC, a business affected by the proposed Zoning Ordinance and Map. He apologized for missing the public hearing. His client is concerned with the changes to the Zoning Ordinance and map and how it will affect his client's property. As they understand it the borough is trying to follow FEMA designations of the floodplain and floodway. They can't tell exactly how his client's property matches up to the FEMA map. This change could result in a portion of his client's property going from industrial to open space and could also require flood insurance. This could all affect the ability to expand in the future and wants to be sure what is already there is grandfathered.

They are asking before the final decision is made that council looks at the area in question to be sure the changes are necessary.

An agent representing 500 South 9<sup>th</sup> street spoke on the same subject. They haven't seen the proposed ordinance but asked the reason why this was being done? Only 2 businesses in this area are zoned industrial and being affected by the changes.

Solicitor Nanovic said the current ordinance is outdated. A grant was obtained to update. This area is not the only area being changed. There are other areas as well being changed. The zoning has been changed for the entire borough. The agent asked if there is a possibility of discussing the subject further. The solicitor said there is always a possibility but the motion tonight is to advertise and that decision is up to council.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### Regular Meeting of September 12, 2022

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

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

The solicitor said he looked at what he had sent Nicole awhile ago. The question is do you want to limit the number of animals and if so what number do you want and how do you police it.

The Borough Manager said there are other ways to handle this issue under dog laws or property maintenance or quality of health. Council agreed these avenues made more sense than setting a number of animals allowed and agreed to not draft the ordinance.

Continued discussion on Curfew Ordinance

This item was again tabled until the November meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve Resolution R29-2022 State Aid

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

Motion to approve Resolution R30-2022 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 with no objections. Under the question from Councilor Abelovsky – she asked that the manager provide council with a chart to show the changes on a monthly basis to give council a better understanding of what is being approved. Motion carried.

Motion to approve \$400,000 transfer as needed from L&P Fund to General Fund

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

Motion to approve pool membership price increase for the 2023 season

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

Motion to advertise the proposed Zoning Ordinance, SALDO and Map

Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to table advertising the proposed Zoning Ordinance and Map and all were in favor with no questions or objections. Councilors Abelovsky/Saunders made the motions to advertise the SALDO for adoption and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on hiring Lisa Palmer as crossing guard pending successful completion of preemployment process

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

Motion on request from Mitch 328, LLC for waiver to SALDO Section 3.602 Sidewalks (This was missed on the previous request approved at September's meeting)

Councilors Saunders/Rehrig made the motions to approve the request and all were in favor with no question or objections.

Consideration on Conditional Approval for the Mitch 328, LLC Land Development

Councilors Abelovsky/Saunders made the motions to grant conditional approval and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on request from Nicholas Smith to become a Junior Council person

Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to table this item until after executive session and all were in favor with no questions or objections. No action taken.

Consideration on request from Doug Edwards to photograph Emergency Service Personnel and Borough Council

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

Officials Reports

President of Council

Nothing.

Borough Manager

Steve asked if anyone had questions on the packets for the proposed engineering firms. He would like to get the Sewer, L&P committees together and moving on the budget. Steve would like council to identify what projects and how they wish to spend the ARPA funds and needs their feedback asap.

Councilor Abelovsky asked about the Jim Thorpe traffic issue and wanted to know if there has been any response. Steve said no but they are within their time frame.

Borough Engineer

Absent.

Solicitor

Nothing.

Treasurer

Approval of additional bills totaling \$6,948.48

Mayor

Absent.

Police

Chief Sparich said the new officer Centeno will start October 9<sup>th</sup>. The new vehicle should be here in the next few weeks. Wednesday is "National Coffee with a Cop" at Dunkin Donuts from 9-11am. Chief Sparich also had one item for executive session.

The borough manager added that the IT firm identified that the police department had no protection on their computers. Their current IT is not going well at the police department. DRC provided a proposal with 300 hours for the police department at \$37,500. We have Cyber Liability Insurance with a \$25,000 deductible. The average claim for a cyber attack is \$290,000 according to PSATS.

Fire Chief

Absent.

Light & Power Superintendent

Absent.

Public Works Supervisor

Nothing.

Recreation Director

Nothing.

Committee Reports –

Finance and Administration – Lisa Perry, Chair; Joe Flickinger, Co-Chair – Both 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 had an item for executive session.

Light & Power Committee – Joe Flickinger, Chair; Ryan Saunders, Co-Chair – Joe absent; Ryan had 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 – absent. Autumn said their website is very up to date. There is a new adult event on the website to check out.

Parks & Recreation Board – Autumn – Christmas in the Park in in the works. Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> will be the tree lighting.

Canal Commission – Ryan said there will only be remedial cleanup from the washouts. Next year will have some big changes. Grants have been applied for and if received things will be busy.

#### Acceptance of Officials Reports

Councilors Saunders/Rehrig 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 Saunders/Rehrig made the motions to go into executive session at 8:10pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

#### Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Saunders/Rehrig made the motions to go back into regular session at 8:48pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

#### Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Abelovsky/Rehrig made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Kreitz  
Borough Secretary