

November 22, 2021

A special meeting of Lehigh Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, November 22, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Councilors Ryan Saunders, Autumn Abelovsky, and Lisa Perry. Absent: Councilors Joe Flickinger, Darryl Arner, and Donnie Rehrig.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Borough Secretary Brenda Kreitz, Solicitor James Nanovic.

Pledge of Allegiance

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration on the Traffic Agreement with Lehigh Area School District

Solicitor Nanovic said this was drafted and given to council while ago. Councilor Saunders found an error in it and it was removed. Since then, the school district's new solicitor has looked at it and made a number of suggestions; most of which are appropriate. Solicitor Nanovic will make the necessary changes. The school district will put in the traffic light and put \$10,000 toward maintenance after which it will become the borough's responsibility to maintain the signal.

Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to approve the traffic agreement with the Lehigh Area School District with such minor changes as might be suggested by the borough solicitor and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Presentation of the 2022 Budget for Light & Power, Sewer, Highway Aid and other funds

Nicole said the Capital Project Fund has been increased to \$322,000 because we have the Federal ARPA funds. We will transfer the tax millage this year. The Finance & Admin Committee did start discussing projects to be used with that money.

Nicole combined the Fire Station Funds into one fund. The ladder truck and fire station loans will be filtered through here. There is \$13,000 we have been sitting on in the station construction fund we can use down the road.

Highway aid should receive \$149,000. The largest request from Public Works this year is a new street sweeper. Nicole said she has to do some wage evaluations. We don't have a lot in road repair for

2022. Public Works thinks they can do Cypress Street themselves for a lot less. The catch basins have already been purchased and they have done a scratch coat to hold the roadway until after winter. This will need to be reevaluated if we decide to do this project it will be around \$20,000. Stedman Avenue from Second Avenue to Bank Street needs to be assessed.

Nicole went over L&P revenues. The fund balance is \$2.9 million dollars. Finance & Admin are looking at the penalties. We have a 5% one-time penalty on the balance due. We should stay with the PUC guidelines but we will probably increase the penalty to 8% or 10%.

Nicole said she removed the assistant manager position from the budget. The postage cost is being monitored for billing. The active projects are the SR443 line replacement project and the substation transformer for 2022 and 2023. Lonny's proposed list of projects has been provided to council.

Nicole asked for direction on how to proceed with the department requests, transfer amount and funding for projects.

The Sewer Fund had a rate increase in 2020. The first PennVest loan will be paid off in March of 2022. The CCMA PennVest loans will be paid off in 2023. Over the next 5 years we will see an increase in this fund as our debt is paid off.

We never closed out the sewer plant project. The contractor never finished the work and we are still sitting on the balance of the project and saving about \$26,000.

CCMA is projected to increase about \$90,000. We are going to continue to budget money for inflow and infiltration. After our debt is paid off, we will need to start looking at how we are going to replace some of these terra cotta lines maybe around 2024.

At the next meeting, Nicole will bring back the proposed cuts at the next meeting.

Approval of the Ladder Truck Specification Modification Letter from KME

Councilors Abelovsky/Perry made the motions to approve the modification letter and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Approval of the Michael & Shannon Williams Lot Line Adjustment for 311 & 313 South 2nd Street

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

Consideration on the Climb & Grind LLC Tree Service Proposal in the amount of \$7,000 (budgeted)

Nicole said this was recommended by Shade Tree and Public Works and 1 tree from a resident who has acorns damaging his vehicle. The work needs to be complete before the end of this year.

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

Motion to accept Ryan Saunders resignation from the Shade Tree Commission effective November 18, 2021

Councilors Abelovsky/Perry made the motions to accept the resignation and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 7pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Kreitz
Borough Secretary