

January 4, 2021

The regular meeting of Lehighton Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, January 4, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Councilors Lisa Perry, Autumn Abelovsky, Ryan Saunders and Donnie Rehrig. Via Zoom: Councilor Joe Flickinger. Absent: Councilor Darryl Arner.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Special Meeting of December 21, 2020

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

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to adopt Resolution R1-2021 setting police pension contribution

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

Motion to adopt Resolutions R202021 updating the fee schedule for FY 2021

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

Motion to adopt Resolution R3-2021 for bituminous materials in small quantities

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

Acceptance of the Civil Service Eligibility List and 2020 Year End Overview

Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to accept the eligibility list and overview and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to appoint System Design Engineers as Sewage Enforcement Officer for the borough

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

Consideration on the removal of utility penalties on December billing due to USPS delay

Nicole said there is a huge issue with residents not receiving their December bills. Bills are missing from entire cycles. Residents are checking with us when they realize they did not receive their bill. Nicole feels it will cost more to work through a person's penalty than to make a one-time exception of removing the penalties for the month of December.

Solicitor Nanovic said Jim Thorpe just did this but they extended it until January and Lehighton might want to do the same because the problem might exist into January as well. Jim Thorpe will look at this again in February.

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

Unfinished Business

None.

Officials Reports

Borough Manager

Nicole told council she has been providing them with regular updates via email but will provide her monthly report in February.

Borough Engineer

Nothing.

Police

Nothing.

Mayor

Nothing

Fire Chief

Nothing.

President of Council

Nothing.

Solicitor

Nothing.

Treasurer

Nothing.

Light & Power Superintendent

Nothing.

Public Works Supervisor

Nothing.

Recreation Director

Nothing.

Committee Reports – December

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

Economic Development, Buildings and Codes – Joe Flickinger, Chair; Donnie Rehrig, Co-Chair – nothing.

Police, Fire and Safety – Ryan Saunders, Chair; Autumn Abelovsky, Co-Chair – nothing.

Councilor Rehrig wanted to commend the Fire Police for their excellent yearly report that was provided to council. They do a great job with no pay.

Councilor Abelovsky also wanted to thank the Civil Service Commission for providing an eligibility list.

Light & Power Committee – Autumn Abelovsky, Chair; Lisa Perry, Co-Chair – nothing.

Sewer Committee – Donnie Rehrig, Chair; Darryl Arner, Co-Chair – nothing.

Streets, Public Works & Recreation – Darryl Arner, Chair; Ryan Saunders, Co-Chair – Ryan said he thinks Public Works did a great job handling the storm.

Library Board – Autumn said the library is open by appointment only so you can check out books.

Parks & Recreation Board – Autumn said tree decoration removal is this Friday, Saturday and Sunday with the trees being mulched on Monday, January 11, 2021.

School Board – nothing.

Canal Commission – nothing.

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 Rehrig/Saunders made the motions to accept the accounts payable and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Real Estate

Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to go into executive session at 7:11pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motion to go back in at 7:29pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Action on Items from Executive Session

Councilors Saunders/Rehrig made the motions to authorize Attorney Nanovic to proceed with the sale of the property behind RJ Walker's and all were in favor with no questions.

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motions to approve the Leave of Absence request for Doris Venuto until the week of February 8, 2021 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilors Perry/Abelovsky made the motions to approve Nicole Becketts's vacation carryover request and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:32pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Kreitz
Borough Secretary