

February 3, 2022

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Thursday, February 3, 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, Donnie Rehrig, Joe Flickinger and Darryl Arner.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Nick Millen of 420 South 8th Street is a bocce ball coach and he asked to have the bocce ball courts at Baer Memorial dedicated to Lisa Cooper who recently passed away. He said Lisa was very involved with Special Olympics and they are willing to pay for the sign or whatever council feels is appropriate to put there to honor her.

Council was unsure who installed the courts. Councilor Rehrig asked Mr. Millen to come back with a presentation and drawing of what he would like to do at the courts and Mr. Millen said he would be back next month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Reorganization and Regular Meeting of January 3, 2022 and Special Meeting of January 17, 2022

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion and Action on the Waterfront Traffic Improvement Project Concept Plans

Nicole said this was discussed previously at the presentation in December.

Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to go with Concept "B" and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Follow up on the Zoning Ordinance Update pertaining to Maximum Number of Animals at a Residence

Nicole said council should have seen the email from Tim Dow stating this has been an issue in the past and have used the Property Maintenance Code to handle things. Nicole then asked him what happened that this time it was brought to council. Tim said he assumes the resident called asking if there is an ordinance pertaining to the number of animals allowed at a residence and was told no. Nicole said even though we don't have an ordinance pertaining to the number allowed we do have other ordinances to deal with enforcement. Nicole and Tim discussed the new Zoning Ordinance and what is covered in that pertaining to kennels. Under kennels in the new ordinance, the Department of Ag and the Bureau of Dog Law

Enforcement were referenced. Her thought is to wait until we have all of the information in front of us before moving forward.

Solicitor Nanovic said our updated Zoning Ordinance must be adopted by May 22 of this year and feels including this ordinance might keep that from happening. He feels that working on this separately would be best so it can be discussed and looked at thoroughly.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve Resolution R10-2022 Record Destruction List for Police Department

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

Motion to approve Resolution R11-2022 adopting Carbon County's Hazard Mitigation Plan

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

Motion to approve Resolution R12-2022 Correcting the Rate of Pay for Crossing Guards

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

Motion to approve Resolution R13-2022 for establishing the current base purchased power cost for the PPAC

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

Consideration on the Carbon Engineering Inc. Proposal for the MS4 Scope of Services

Nicole said we have received a review of our most recent DEP report and they are starting to note all outstanding items. We have gotten as far as we really can but there are still other items that need to be completed and budgeted for 2022.

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

Motion to approve Keystone Consulting Engineers Invoice in the amount of \$632.50 for the Blight Remediation Grant

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

Consideration on the Keystone Consulting Engineers Proposal for completion of services at 209 North 1st Street and additional match obligation

Nicole said we had our pre-demolition meeting on Tuesday and the contractor will be mobilizing. When looking at costs we saw that we are at about \$20,000 and asked for an additional engineering proposal for the remainder of the work. By approving this you will also be approving the additional match proposal.

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

Consideration on the Lexipol Subscription Materials for the Police Department In the amount of \$10,825 at the request of the Police Chief

Nicole said this is an item from the 2020 budget and removed from the budget for several reasons. It is a priority of the Police Chief. A grant application was but was not funded.

Councilor Flickinger felt we should wait until we have a new chief before deciding as the new chief might have different ideas.

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

Consideration on the Lehighon Water Authority Request for Change Orders totaling \$17, 129 caused by South Street Artesian Well and Storm Pipe Culverts

Nicole said during the Water Authority's project, South Street was opened up and there was an issue with an artesian well causing a bit of a to-do. We had gone back and forth with Public Works, Bruce and the Water Authority and granted permission to do only what needed to be done and with stormwater issues. We marked everything we knew of and these were unknown items. Now the Water Authority is coming to us. Nicole wanted council to be aware of this and that it is not budgeted for. They are asking to schedule a meeting to discuss it but she feels they are looking for money.

Councilors Flickinger/Rehrig made the motions to schedule the meeting and make them aware we were not given this to work into the budget but will put it in the 2023 if the Water Authority agrees and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on Request from Mayor Ritter to Update Ordinance §213-32 Regarding Temporary Permits for Parking of Large Vehicles

Nicole said there was an issue between the police department and public work's regarding a dumpster placed on Mahoning Street right before one of the last snow storms. The permit had been issued and the police chief allowed the dumpster to be placed there and Kris had concerns about it due to visibility and the weather so the mayor asked to have this on the agenda because Palmerton has a similar ordinance where things like this are not allowed on the streets during winter months. Concerns were mentioned to assure department heads are communicating.

Councilors Autumn/Saunders made the motions to table this until the mayor, chief and Kris are available to comment and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion on Project Resubmission for the Statewide Local Share Account Grant Program

Nicole said a new grant is out and the deadline is quick. We do not know what they are looking for by BIA is suggesting resubmitting for either the unfunded Multi Modal application Phase II or the South 1st Street sidewalk project.

Council thought both projects were equally important and had difficulty deciding. They asked Nicole to give them numbers to look over and asked that she proceed with the application doing the project that was most financially feasible.

Presentation of Petition for Division Alley Maintenance

Derek Davies of 204 Carbon Street wanted to address the maintenance of Division Alley. Carbon Street is difficult to find a parking spot with all the cars and homes having multiple cars. Some residents use the rear of their property to park their vehicles but that is difficult to do in the winter with the alley being snow/ice covered and not plowed. Mr. Davies has paid someone to plow for him.

Councilor Perry said with the condition of the alley the Borough does not want any of the employees to get hurt plowing the alley and that is why the winter maintenance was stopped. The Borough Engineer was working on trying to figure out where the alley actually is due to all the encroachments in the alley. Nicole said stormwater and a sight distance issue at the bottom of the hill need to also be looked at before anything can be done with the alley. Public Works had safety concerns in the past when maintaining the alley that led to their request to not maintain it in the winter. Council is looking to do something with the alley once these items are addressed.

Consideration on request from St. Luke's to hold Hospice Bike Ride, Saturday, June 4 on the D& L Trail

Nicole said we have a few events on the agenda tonight and Police, Fire & Safety met last year to go over changes and processes and what we would be looking to do in 2022. That is still being looked at as we do not have Fire Police to cover the events at this point. Any of these events will need to be referred to the Police Chief for Traffic Control or Police Service agreements.

Councilors Perry/Rehrig made the motions to approve the event pending completion of the Police Services agreement and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion on Carbon County 100K Ultramarathon

Nicole said at this point the person is looking to meet with someone to guide him through the best way to proceed with regards to traffic. Councilor Perry said it seems from what has been provided to council Weissport will be affected more so than the Borough.

Councilor Flickinger brought up the effect these events have on Public Work's time posting no parking and dropping off barricades, etc. preventing them from doing the day to day work they have scheduled. He feels this should be taken into consideration when doing up the application for these events.

Nicole said she will follow up with Mr. Martinez to find out more specifically what he is looking for from the Borough.

Consideration on request from LDP to hold Farmers Market and Rocktoberfest

Councilors Saunders/Rehrig made the motions to approve the events pending the completion of the Police Services Agreement and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on request from Mr. & Mrs. Wargo to place a bench in Veteran's Park

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motions to approve the request providing there is no liability on the Borough if something happens to the bench and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Officials Reports

President of Council

Nothing.

Borough Manager

Nicole told council that the substation transformer is complete and ready to ship. The company is holding until March free of charge until we are ready for it. L&P is busy getting everything ready at the substation for the delivery of the transformer. We will be submitting an application to PMEA through a program they have to reimburse us for some engineering costs. PMEA is also doing a very extensive training through Northeast Lineman's College throughout the state and we will be working on registering our department for that.

Nicole said the CO was issued for the Elementary Center and the escrow account needs to be closed out for this project once final bills are received. A list of Goals/Projects for 2022 have been given to all of you to review.

Borough Engineer

Bruce said he is working on several projects and finalizing his comments for the SALDO. He said he spoke to Brenda about meeting with Carson to go over the comments because there are quite a few. Bruce also said he should have something for the March meeting on Division Alley to show what issues are there.

Councilor Flickinger asked where we stand on Summit Ave. and Bruce said he needs to speak with the solicitor to see if one piece of property was transferred to the borough. Bruce felt he could have this finished in the next month.

Solicitor

Nothing.

Treasurer

Approval of additional bills - none.

Mayor

Absent

Police

Not required to attend.

Fire Chief

Not required to attend. Nicole said the new ladder truck should be here in late March. She is hoping council will allow the old ladder truck to be put on Muncibid to see what we can get for it. The Fire Department would like to take the new truck to the Indiana Fire Convention to give it a good run and see how it works.

Light & Power Superintendent

Not required to attend.

Public Works Supervisor

Not required to attend.

Recreation Director

Not required to attend.

Committee Reports –

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

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 Grant, Lisa and himself met with the police department for a quarterly meeting. They sat down with 4 officers to listen to their concerns. It was a very productive meeting.

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.

Parks & Recreation Board – Autumn – nothing.

Canal Commission – Ryan – nothing.

Acceptance of Officials Reports

Councilors Flickinger/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 Saunders/Perry 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 (FOP Grievances)

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motions to go into executive session at 8:09pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Saunders/Rehrig made the motion to go back in at 8:45pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Action on Items from Executive Session

Councilors Saunders/Flickinger made the motions to approve the Heart & Lung application for Employee #67 based upon the new application and will make the benefits retroactive in order to settle the appeal and all were in favor with no questions.

Councilors Flickinger/Perry made the motions to amend the agenda for the appointment of a Council Member, Ryan Saunders, to the Civil Service Commission and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Perry/Rehrig made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:46pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Kreitz
Borough Secretary