

May 4, 2020

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, May 4, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Councilors Lisa Perry, Darryl Arner, Donnie Rehrig and Ryan Saunders. Present via computer: Councilor Autumn Abelovsky. Absent: Councilor Joe Flickinger

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Borough Secretary Brenda Kreitz, Fire Chief Patrick Mriss, Recreation Director Tom Evans and Mayor Clark Ritter via computer.

Only essential business was discussed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Governor Wolf's Stay at Home Order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Hearing of Persons Present

None.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of March 2nd, Special Meeting of March 11th and Regular Meeting of April 6, 2020

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

NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of COVID-19 "Task Force" Actions since April 6, 2020

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

Approval of Resolution R16-2020 establishing the current base purchased power cost for the purchased power cost adjustment

Nicole said this takes us to 58 1/2 cents; bringing us closer to the actual power cost. We will be adjusting this incrementally about 2 more times to bring us where we need to be.

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

Consideration on the approval of Resolution R17-2020 extending the real property tax discount period and waiving penalties in accordance with Act 15 of 2020

Nicole asked council to approve the resolution to be consistent with the Carbon County commissioners. We will not be doing a tax discount only waving the penalties.

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

Discussion/Action on the recommendations from the Recreation Director pertaining to Baer Memorial Swimming Pool

Tom said the state will open state parks June 6, 2020. There will be a webinar on opening pools this Friday. Tom said the chlorine will kill the virus. If the pool is allowed to open, he would like to limit things to only Carbon County residents.

Councilor Abelovsky said from what she understands the CDC is looking at issues with shared locker rooms, ladders and pool edges where everyone is still touching.

Tom wants to open June 13th if allowed. Autumn asked if revenue will be down by opening in mid-June and Tom said no, we are slow the first two weeks.

Nicole said council would need to approve opening the pool June 13th and issuing any refunds if requested.

Tom asked council for their thoughts on cancelling all pool parties for the summer. Tom said there are usually 60 people at a party and that is too many under one pavilion. He has only booked 7-8 parties so far. Councilor Perry asked if we could limit the size of the party. People look forward to the parties and Councilor Saunders would hate to cancel them. He feels if the number is kept small it should be feasible to still hold them.

Tom said he is also going to have a limited menu to cut down on people waiting at the concession stand. Councilor Saunders suggested taking a couple picnic tables away from the food court area to cut down on congestion.

Nicole said we have another meeting June 1st and can act on anything else that may need to be revised at that time.

Tom also asked council to approve his rate request that he changed for June. He would like to keep the first discount period that would normally have ended February 28th for the entire pool season.

Tom asked about setting a limit on the pool as a whole and council agreed.

Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to approve recommendations of the recreation director as presented above and all were in favor with no questions or objections.
Motion to approve the list of seasonal employees for Baer Memorial Swimming Pool pending the 2020 season opening

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to approve the list of seasonal employees and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on proceeding with the letter of intent to purchase the 109' Rear Mount Ladder Truck for the Lehighton Fire Department

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

Discussion on the 2020 Downtown Farmer's Market (opening May 16th)

Councilor Perry said she has no problem with this as the bottom park is big enough but she would suggest spacing the vendors further apart to give people better social distancing. Councilor Rehrig suggested using both sides of the street.

Councilor Saunders said there is a webinar on Wednesday with the guidelines from the Governor's Office or the Department of Agriculture and it worked really well at the

Hofford Mill at Kathryn's request. It was very well executed and it couldn't have gone smoother. The vendors sold out in 48 minutes.

Councilor Perry asked if this will just be for farmer goods only and Ryan said yes, there will be no special events. Councilor Rehrig said he thinks this will be very beneficial to the residents in the hi-rise.

Councilors Rehrig/Perry made the motions to allow the opening on May 16th around the Lower Park and follow all guidelines put out by the state and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on the approval of the Bennett Improvement Agreement for the 443 Project

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

Consideration on request from LASD for graduate motorcade

Councilor Saunders said they will put 6 graduates per bus with a fire truck or police car escort to make some noise. Chief Mriss is ok with participating as they did for the St. Luke's Health Network for the nurses, doctors and medical staff. Chief Mriss said they supplied one driver per vehicle and it worked well.

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

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Saunders/Arner made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 PM and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Kreitz
Borough Secretary