

December 7, 2020

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, December 7, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Councilors Lisa Perry, Donnie Rehrig, Autumn Abelovsky and Ryan Saunders.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing: Request from Mallard Markets, Inc. for Intermunicipal Transfer of Liquor License R12077 and approval of Resolution R28-2020 approving the transfer

Attorney Joseph Meshinsky was present to represent the owner of Mallard Market. He said he was here on April 1, 2019 for the same hearing. Unfortunately, the seller allowed the license to lapse because they didn't go operational in time for the LCB. The license will make his client's business more competitive with Giant and other stores in the area. The employees will be fully trained in LCB Standards and RAMP certified. There will be no live entertainment only groceries and cold beer to go. This is the first step in the process.

Solicitor Nanovic asked if the meeting was properly advertised and a copy of the advertisement placed in the Times News was given to the borough secretary.

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

Hearing of Persons Present

None.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of November 2, 2020

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

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve Thomas Silvonek Subdivision for 251 & 253 North 2nd Street

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

Ratification of COVID-19 "Task Force" Actions since August 3, 2020

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

Motion to approve reappointment list with permission: Water Authority - David Harleman; Planning Commission - Henry Long, Sr., Allen Young; Zoning Hearing Board - Harold Henry; Sewer Authority - Kris Kunkle, Larry Stern, Greg Mriss; Shade Tree Commission - Judy

Wingert (4 vacancies on this board); Civil Service Commission – John Kreitz; Property Maintenance Board – Allen Young, Brian Schnell; Vacancy Board – Chris Rodrigues

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

Ratification of Resolution R27–2020 updating the requirements for ACT 172 Credits due to COVID–19

Nicole said this is to reduce the number of training hours from 16 to 8 hours due to COVID.

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

Motion to approve invoices to be paid prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> with list to be provided to council

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

Motion to approve year end transfers in the Treasurer’s Report

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

Motion to advertise 2021 meeting dates

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

Motion to approve the audit engagement letter with Hutchinson, Gillahan and Freeh, P.C. for the 2020 audit in the amount of \$19,500

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

Consideration on the approval of the Lehigh School Site, LLC Stipulation and Settlement Orders

Solicitor Nanovic said this is one we have not been actively involved in but this is the tax appeal on the old Schull David property. The school board made resolution and agreed to the stipulation to reduce taxes on these and it is a matter of the borough approving it as well.

Nicole provided the original assessment for 2020 and what it would be in 2021 just so you could see it. In the original assessment it would have been exempt from taxes.

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

Unfinished Business

None.

Officials’ Reports

Borough Manager

Nicole said Kim has provided her last report and Nicole will provide one next month.

Borough Engineer

Nothing.

Police

Nothing.

Mayor

Clark said the Crime Watch program that was started on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street is on hold due to COVID. They do not feel comfortable holding meetings at this time.

Fire Chief

Nothing.

Light & Power Superintendent

Nothing.

Public Works

Nothing.

Recreation Director

Nothing.

Solicitor

Nothing.

Treasurer

See additional bills on Addendum.

ADDENDUM

Discussion on Request from Rick Bjorkman for No Parking Between Signs and Bus Parking Only signs at the BHA building on South 4<sup>th</sup> Street

Councilor Saunders said he has off street parking in his parking lot. There are a lot of residents that use those spots on a regular basis. He would prefer to not take those spots away from the residents.

Nicole asked what he should do with the buses. Ryan said they can pull in his lot. Councilor Abelovsky said on Alum he has the throughway to go all the way around the building but she is not sure he has the same ability on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and is concerned the bus would have to back out. President Hunsicker said they can pull in the lot and turn around even with cars parked in the lot.

Councilor Rehrig said Mr. Bjorkman put up posts and chains in front of the building now since he redid the curb and sidewalk and is not sure the buses can pull up in front of the building anymore. Donnie also suggested asking Mr. Bjorkman what times the buses will be there, his hours of operation and how many employee vehicles park in the lot and put up no parking signs during certain hours so the residents can park there at night.

Motion to approve additional bills totaling \$87,643.24

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

## Committee Reports

Finance & Administration – Lisa had nothing.

Economic Development, Buildings & Code – Joe was absent.

Police, Fire & Safety – Ryan had 2 things. The member of Police, Fire & Safety and Finance & Admin Committees met with the Fire Chief and the Assistant Fire Chief earlier this month to go over the training center and it is still on the table and wanted to make note of it. It is not a dead issue as they put a lot of time and effort into their presentation and we wanted to officially make note of the fact the project is still being looked at.

Ryan also had a conversation with Chief Biechy regarding Public Works putting signs up around the town for temporary no parking. The police have to enforce this and would like to be notified when these signs are put up, for how long they will be for and why it is being posted. Nicole thought this was being done and will look into it.

Light & Power Committee – Autumn had nothing.

Sewer Committee – Donnie had nothing.

Streets, Public Works & Recreation – Darryl was absent.

Library Board – Autumn said they are looking for a new board member if anyone is interested.

Parks & Recreation – Autumn said she wanted to thank Public Works, Light & Power, Fire Department and the office staff for their part in making the Christmas Trees in the Park another huge success. The video has been viewed over 3,000 times.

Autumn also said the board secured another \$20,000 donation to purchase another set of benches for the amphitheater.

School Board – Autumn had nothing.

Canal Commission – Ryan said they will meet in January.

## Acceptance of Officials Report

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

## Approval of Accounts Payable

Councilors Rehrig/Saunders made the motions to approve the accounts payable plus \$87,643.24 additional bills and all were in favor with no questions or objections

## Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motions to go into Executive Session at 7:26 PM and all were in favor.

## Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Rehrig/Saunders made the motions to go back into regular session at 8:25 pm.

Motion on items from Executive Session

Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to approve request from Barry Fisher regarding the carryover of time to be used by January 31<sup>st</sup> and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to adjourn

Councilors Saunders/Rehrig made the motions to adjourn at 8:27 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Brenda L. Kreitz  
Borough Secretary