

Call to Order – At 6:00 p.m. by President Bruce Markovich followed by Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Council members attending: Gwyneth Collevecchio, Bruce Markovich, William Chuma, Jennifer Staines, Martin Ditsky, Solicitor Robert Yurchak, Mayor Hugh Vrablic. Jay Doyle, and John Turcmanovich were not in attendance.

Executive Session 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. personnel issues were discussed.

Back on the record at 6:30 p.m.

Public Courtesy –

Denise Leibensperger – 164 W. Ridge St. – Wanted to know if the Borough budgeted for a full-time secretary.

Rose Mary Cannon – 242 W. Ridge St. – Mentioned that we are advertising for Special Executive Sessions, and about the bidding on the Zimmerman building.

Michele Bartek – 333 E. Abbott St.- Mentioned the hard-drives again.

Bob Silver – 17 E. Ridge St. – Talked about the sale of the Zimmerman building.

Kelly Sheridan– Introduced herself as a candidate running for Magistrate.

Mary Soberick – 109 W. Abbott St. – Asked why we are transferring money from COVID to CDBG.

Samantha Rose – 40 Coal St. - Asked what COVID money is and how can it be used also asked about the hiring status of police officers.

Beth Dodson – Do you sponsor for the academy?

Joe Genits – Read from his paper. Residential Rental Licensing, Moving Permits.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- February 7, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Jennifer Staines to approve the February 7, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- February 8, Meeting Minutes

A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio, second by William Chuma to approve the February 8, 2023, Meeting Minutes. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Correspondence Enclosed –

- Special Event Form – American Fire Co. #1 Food Truck Event – 5/13/23. – **A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Jennifer Staines to approve the Food Truck event on 5/13/23 held by the American Fire Company #1. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

Committee Reports – Were not available.

1. Zoning & Ordinance

2. Public Works
3. Municipal Administration
4. Park & Recreation
5. Public Safety

Municipal Monthly Reports for December

Fire Department – American Fire Co. #1 responded to 19 incidents in February: 9 in Lansford, 4 in Summit Hill, 3 in Coaldale, 2 in Nesquehoning and 1 in Jim Thorpe.

Ambulance – Lehighon Ambulance responded to 66 incidents in February with an average response time of 9 minutes from time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

Mayor’s Report \$2,299.45 was deposited for the month of February.

Police Report – There were 241 Non-Traffic Violations 13. They also made 6 arrests.

Code Compliance – Jim Dean investigated 31 code enforcement complaints, issued 7 Notice of Violations, investigated 19 rental complaints, performed 27 rental inspections, and received 14 zoning complaints. The report is on file.

Tax Collector’s Report – There was none for the month of February.

Solicitor’s Report – Had a Repository Property but the Solicitor asked us to defer action on this property because he believes that there could be a lien on this property from the Borough and he wants to find out about it.

Bob mentioned that he was going to ask for a motion to go off the agenda about Tunnel St. but he noticed that it was on the agenda.

Treasurer’s Report –

Bills to Approve

- GENERAL FUND - \$151,574.
- STREET LIGHT FUND - \$5,622.25
- SANITATION FUND - \$28,122.00
- SEWER TRANSMISSION FUND - \$5,654.52
- PARKS & RECREATION - \$1,219.14
- HIGHWAY – LIQUID FUELS - \$14,759.91
- DELQ. TAX ACCOUNT - \$838.75
- FIRE - \$4,734.50

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Gwyneth Collevchio to approve payment of the February bills. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Account Balances February 2023:

| FUND/ Checking | No. | Account Title | January | February |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| General Fund | 6496 | General Acct | \$702,879.52 | \$664,663.71 |
| General Fund | 6488 | Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| General Fund | 2823 | Fire Escrow – 334 W. Bertsch St | \$4,516.62 | \$4,516.37 |
| General Fund | 7013 | Fire Escrow – 268 E. Patterson St | \$9,863.51 | \$9,863.51 |
| General Fund | 2153 | ARPA Grant Acct | \$298,108.56 | \$297,798.66 |
| General Fund | 1394 | Railroad Proceeds Account | \$531,719.19 | \$531,759.98 |
| General Fund | 8929 | Portnoff Account | \$72,951.72 | \$78,244.95 |
| Sanitation Fund | 6438 | Sanitation Fund | \$333,931.52 | \$322,524.68 |
| Sanitation Fund | 7373 | Sani-investors' Money Mkt Acct | \$52,045.01 | |
| Sanitation Fund | 6454 | Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct | \$14,107.62 | |
| Sewer Transmission | 6446 | Sewage Transmission | \$159,098.41 | \$188,565.57 |
| Sewer Transmission | 7360 | Sewer Transmission | \$54,983.80 | \$54,983.80 |
| Sewer Transmission | 5402 | Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct | \$53,055.94 | \$53,064.51 |
| Sewer Transmission | 1277 | Sewer Trans. CD/Aug-12 mo. | \$51,542.31 | \$51,548.88 |
| Sewer Transmission | 6470 | 400 E Snyder Sewer Project | \$32,423.18 | \$32,425.67 |
| LST | 6462 | Local Service Tax | \$31,893.05 | \$34,439.47 |
| Street Light Fund | 6412 | Streetlights | \$47,344.35 | \$41,867.20 |
| Fire Tax Fund | 6371 | Fire | \$21,460.30 | \$21,512.94 |
| Sp. Hi-Way | 6420 | Treasurers Special Highway | \$45,486.55 | \$35,032.58 |
| Park & Rec Fund | 6363 | Lansford Pool Account | \$41,425.66 | \$41,428.84 |
| Park & Rec Fund | 6404 | Recreation | \$46,487.89 | \$45,459.85 |
| Total | | | \$2,487,188.28 | \$2,418,716.56 |
| | | | | |
| LOANS | | LOANS Paid from Fund | | |
| Tax Anticipation Note | | 1.99% for 1 yr. | | |
| MEM Debacle | 20 yrs./\$14,130 | biannual May & Nov | \$56,639.11 | \$56,639.11 |
| 2018 Police RAM | | | | |
| 2020 Sewer Loan | 3591 | \$49,644.00 | \$44,706.42 | \$42,225.60 |
| 2022 Ford F 550 | 5 Yr. | \$60,000.00 | \$60,000.00 | \$60,000.00 |
| Total | | | \$161,345.53 | \$158,864.71 |

New Business:

A Motion to ratify the sealed bid that went to COG.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Gwyneth Collevecchio to ratify the sealed bid that went to COG. On a Roll Call Vote Jennifer Staines, no, William Chuma yes, Bruce Markovich yes, Martin Ditsky no, Gwyneth Collevecchio yes. The yes votes carry. Motion passed.

A Motion was needed to approve the purchase of the asphalt zipper from COG with the purchase price to be paid for with a deduction of \$20,192.25 from the Boroughs Liquid Fuels Equipment Account, ARPA Funds and Sewer Transmission Funds.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Gwyneth Collevecchio to approve the purchase of the Asphalt Zipper from The Council of Governments. On a Roll Call Vote. Jennifer Staines no,

William Chuma yes, Bruce Markovich yes, Martin Ditsky no, Gwyneth Collevecchio yes. The yes votes carry. Motion passed.

A Motion was needed to purchase a postage meter in the amount of \$34.95 a month for one year or \$32.95 a month for 2 years.

A Motion was made by Jennifer Staines, second by William Chuma to rent a postage meter for 2 years at a price of \$32.95 a month. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A motion for the Solicitor to advertise the Zimmerman Building for Sale by sealed bid.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Gwyneth Collevecchio to allow the Solicitor to prepare specs for the sale of the Zimmerman Building. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion was needed to transfer \$10,000 from ARPA to 2022 CDBG funds to cover anticipated cost overages to tear down 316 W. Patterson St and 334 W. Bertsch St.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Gwyneth Collevecchio to transfer \$10,000.00 from ARPA to 2022 CDBG funds to cover anticipated cost overages to tear down 316 W. Patterson St. and 334 W. Bertsch St. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion was needed to pick a new billing company for billing sanitation, sewage transmission, and rental licensing.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Gwyneth Collevecchio to hire the company Diversified as our new billing company. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion to have the Solicitor contact the owner of 151 ½ W. Ridge St. to determine the feasibility of obtaining the property for demolition.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Jennifer Staines to have the Solicitor contact the owner of 151 ½ W. Ridge St. to determine the feasibility of obtaining the property for demolition. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion to authorize an amendment to use the remainder of the 2017 pool grant for new feasibility study.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Gwyneth Collevecchio to authorize an amendment to use the remainder of the 2017 pool grant for a new feasibility study. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion to rescind the abandonment of Tunnel St. from Water St. south to Bethlehem Lehigh Real Estate Property.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, with a second by Jennifer Staines to rescind the abandonment of Tunnel St. from Water St south to Bethlehem Lehigh Real Estate Property. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion was made to go off the agenda by Gwyneth Collevecchio, second by William Chuma. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Gwyneth Collevchio to adopt the New Sewage Transmission Ordinance adjusting to the new rate the Solicitor drew up. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Butrie

Secretary Treasurer