

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Executive Session 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Personnel Issues, some of them were resolved.

Public Courtesy –

Denise Leibensperger– 164 W. Ridge St. stated that the monthly stipend that William Chuma gets is all he is entitled to. That it is based on the population of the town.

Michelle Bartek – 333 E. Abbott St. – We have officers that steal time on his time I would like to know from the Mayor why he wasn't suspended and why he is still employed now. Who signed the Garrity Agreement? Also, inquired about the hard drives.

Rose Mary Cannon– 242 W. Ridge St. – I did a Right to Know for the letter from the Panther Valley School District that I supposedly wrote turns out there were 2. One of them was from 2012 9/13/12 denied request to wave Ordinance 2003-8. The other letter which was to Barry Issett dated 1/15/13 waved the Ordinance. As the President of Council, I relay information I do not make the decisions myself. I read in the Times News article after the first budget meeting you stated that you might be lowering the Sewer Transmission Fee. The Fire Company money is being used wrong it should go right to the Fire Company not to paying their bills. Buying a new computer for Code you stated about fixing the kitchen in the police station and then mentioned the washer and dryer.

Group to revitalize the skate park– Talked about removing the graffiti at the skate park and helping to clean up the skate park. They asked about painting the ramps and other equipment.

Samantha Rose–40 Coal St – Mentioned the cameras at the pool, items for the police hiring 2 full time officers for the police and the Chief and that we do still have a lot of COVID money we can spend on the police to get them what they need. Sam stated that from Boyer's Food Market up to W. Abbott St. that it is very dark and asked if we could get PP&L to put a couple light poles in.

Linda Harvan – 112 E. Front St.-Who does what in this town I had a sewer issue in 2020 and got no help from no one. Wanted answers on the sewer problem by her home. Also wanted to let us know about a vehicle parked in front of her gate.

Michele Bartek – 333 E. Abbott St – Wanted to remind Public Works to put garbage cans down at the pool area.

Mary Soberick – 109 W. Abbott St. – Stated that she heard we had one application for full time police where is that at. The interviews for the Police Chief are on October 20th what happens after that. I saw that you want a new computer for code why?

Samanth Rose – 40 Coal St. Asked if any of the application for the police chief are part of the PA Police Chief’s Association.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- September 13 ,2023 Council Meeting Minutes.

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich, and the second by William Chuma. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- October 3, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, and the second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Correspondence Received but no action needed.

- **PA Department of Transportation** - Estimated allocation of Liquid Fuels money for 2024.
- **General Municipal Pension System State Aid Allocation** - \$46,623.10.
- **Portnoff** is placing Liens on two properties for nonpayment of Sanitation.

Committee Reports

- Zoning & Ordinance
- Public Works
- Municipal Administration
- Park & Recreation
- Public Safety

Municipal Monthly Reports

Fire Department – American Fire Co. #1 responded to 17 incidents in September: 11 in Lansford, 3 in Summit Hill, 2 in Coaldale, 1 in Nesquehoning.

Ambulance – Lehighon Ambulance responded to 71 incidents in the month of September. There was an average response time of 8.5 minutes from the time of dispatch until the time of arrival on scene.

Out of the 71 responses, 45 responses were non-emergency with a time of 9.0 minutes. There were 26 emergency responses with a time of 7.8 minutes.

Mayor’s Report – \$879.25 was deposited for the month of September.

Police Report – There were 359 calls for assistance, domestic violence, welfare checks or QOL violations. There were 15 arrests and 64 violations.

The Mayor asked if we can advertise for full-time officers on the PA Chiefs Association website.

Code Compliance – The report was from August.

Tax Collector’s Report – September 1- September 30- \$14,780.87 was collected.

Solicitor’s Report- Eviction of Tenants – I am asking Council to evict Construction Clearance from the 3 properties.

A Motion was made to evict the tenant Construction Clearance LLC. From all three buildings that they rent down at the Silberline Complex by William Chuma and the second was made by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The Residential Rental Ordinance is completed.

It is ready to be advertised Jennifer Staines questioned the fire insurance on the rentals thought that when they discussed it earlier it was supposed to be higher. Decided to make the amount \$100,000.00 as discussed in past code meetings.

A Motion was made to advertise the Ordinance once the insurance was changed to \$100,000.00 on rentals by William Chuma and the second by Jennifer Staines. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The Handicap Ordinance Re-draft is completed. I believe that it is strictly defined for a paraplegic person now as well.

A Motion to advertise the Ordinance was made by William Chuma and the second by Jennifer Staines. All were in favor. Motion passed.

I have a short report to give on the hard drives. When I am done giving the report, I will not answer any questions as I am still investigating the issue.

The hacking took place in January 2021. There was a hacking attempt on the Borough Office. The Cyber Division of the Federal Secret Service took steps to remove the 2 hard drives from the office for testing and because it is still an open case and under investigation I am not going to elaborate on this anymore and I still have a few people to talk to yet.

Treasurer’s Report –

Bills to Approve

- GENERAL FUND - \$176,523.11
- STREET LIGHT FUND - \$5,442.39
- SANITATION FUND - \$28,155.32
- SEWER TRANSMISSION FUND - \$1,848.22
- PARKS & RECREATION - \$85.02
- HIGHWAY – LIQUID FUELS - \$1,206.11
- DELINQUENT TAX - \$3,984.89
- FIRE TAX - \$5,949.00

A Motion was made by William Chuma, and the second by John Turcmanovich. Martin Ditsky was opposed. Motion passed.

Account Balances September 2023:

No.	Account Title	August	September
6496	General Acct	\$923,613.22	\$958,131.36
6488	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
2823	Fire Escrow – 334 W. Bertsch St	\$4,518.64	\$4,519.00
7013	Fire Escrow – 268 E. Patterson St	\$9,858.51	\$9,863.51
7755	Fire Escrow – 161 W. Ridge St	\$0.00	\$0.00
2153	ARPA Grant Acct	\$232,784.02	\$232,802.52
1394	Railroad Proceeds Account	\$563,286.84	\$563,331.59
8929	Portnoff Account	\$113,593.67	\$135,460.15
8448	Diversified	\$3,478.79	\$4,082.97
6438	Sanitation Fund	\$338,558.41	\$319,257.91

7373	Sani-investors' Money Mkt Acct	\$52,161.90	\$52,180.55
6454	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$14,115.82	\$14,116.94
6446	Sewage Transmission	\$252,484.60	\$250,166.41
7360	Sewer Transmission	\$55,107.29	\$55,126.99
5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct	\$53,086.76	\$53,091.27
1277	Sewer Trans. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$51,587.03	\$51,654.42
6470	400 E Snyder Sewer Project	\$32,442.02	\$32,444.60
6462	Local Service Tax	\$41,533.14	\$41,618.82
6412	Streetlights	\$70,979.34	\$67,886.72
6371	Fire	\$46,963.47	\$38,857.79
6420	Treasurers Special Highway	\$84,162.03	\$56,426.00
6363	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,449.74	\$41,453.03
6404	Recreation	\$53,372.97	\$51,104.92
		\$2,957,981.18	\$3,036,577.47
	LOANS Paid from Fund		
	1.99% for 1 yr.		
	20 yrs./\$14,130 biannual May & Nov	\$46,474.11	\$46,474.11
3591	\$49,644.00	\$35,984.55	\$35,984.55
5 Yr.	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
		\$142,458.66	\$142,458.66

Old Business:

Daycare 48-50 W. Ridge St.

Katherine Evans approached Council one more time about opening a Daycare at 48-50 W. Ridge St. she mentioned that it had been 30 days since she filed her Zoning Application and turned it in to James Dean and that it should be granted. Katherine was also asking permission to use East End Park as an area for the children to play.

The council told her that she was correct, and that the zoning application should be granted Council also stated they had no issues with her using the East End Park if when she gets the insurance, they list the Borough as an Additionally Insured on the policy.

A Motion was made by William Chuma with a second by John Turcmanovich to grant Growing Minds Preschool the Zoning Permit and the use of the East End Playground Contingent to her having her insurance company list the Borough as an additional insured on her policy. All were in favor. Motion passed.

New Business:

MMO Police Pension 2024 – Secretary Treasurer Wendy Butrie offered the 2024 Minimum Monthly Obligation for Police Pension Plan.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, and the second by Martin Ditsky to approve the 2024 MMO in the amount of \$60,286.98. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Trick or Treat Night – Halloween is on October 31, 2023, from 6p.m.-8p.m.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, with a second by Martin Ditsky. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Re-Advertising for a full-time public works person. We have not had any good application coming through to interview from.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, and the second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Checking Account – We would like to open a separate checking account for the deposit of current and future grant funds.

A Motion was made by Jennifer Staines, and the second by William Chuma.

Checking Account – We would like to open a separate checking account for the deposit of excess Liquid Fuels Tax Monies. We will try and build up a reserve for big projects with leftover money.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, with a second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Police Testing – Public Safety Committee to obtain information from Jim Thorpe and Lehighon Police Depts. on the establishment of a county wide Testing Consortium. John stated that this would be the focal point to screen applicants and then when a municipality or Borough needs officers, they can screen the applicants to hire them.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, and the second was made by Jennifer Staines. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Sewer Transmission Fee – Lowering the current fee of \$60.00 per yr. to \$50.00 per yr.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, and the second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor. Motion passed.

East Bertsch St.- Spend \$2,500.00 for street repairs in the 800 block of East Bertsch Street. Just to do some patching.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, with a second by John Turcmanovich. Martin Ditsky was opposed. Motion passed.

Billitier Electric – Have Billitier Electric replace two photocells, timer clock, GFI Receptacles and replace existing lights with new LED lights in Kennedy Park at a cost.

A Motion was made by Jennifer Staines, and the second by William Chuma. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Train Station – To open the Train Station on November 11th for 104 members of the Lehigh and New England Railroad Preservation Society.

A Motion was made by Jennifer Staines, with a second by William Chuma. Martin Ditsky was opposed. Motion passed.

Code Enforcement – Hire either Lehigh Engineering or Arro Engineering as the Borough's rental and code enforcement officer.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, with a second by Jennifer Staines to table hiring until Council talks to Arro. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion to go off the agenda was made by William Chuma with a second by Jennifer Staines. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion was made for lighting between West Bertsch St and West Abbott St. by William Chuma, with a second by Martin Ditsky. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Butrie

Secretary Treasurer