The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 in the Council Chambers, 55 South Fifth Street. Present: Council President Bergonia; Councilmembers Casimir, Cox, Mahon, Molesevich, Morris and Strosser; Mayor Wagner; Chief Yost; Manager/Treasurer Smith; Solicitor Lyons; and Secretary Garrison. Absent: Councilmember Baker. Also present: Bill Seigel and David Grey.

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Bergonia called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Councilmember Mahon, seconded by Councilmember Cox, to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held December 21, 2010. Motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Council President Bergonia adjourned the regular order of business to conduct a public hearing. He called the public hearing to order at 7:05 PM.

Bill Seigel, SEDA-COG Coordinator for the CDBG Program, introduced David Grey, who joined SEDA-COG about two weeks ago. This is the first public hearing for the 2011 CDBG Program and the goal is to review the requirements of the program, provide an opportunity to discuss the projects we are aware of currently, open the hearing for any public comment/discussion of any new projects to be proposed, and cover the regulatory documents distributed. The agenda provided reflects estimated funds available in the amount of $125,000, which is what was used last year. There isn’t an exact amount; it varies every year. Last year we predicted a slight increase, and there was, but we are hearing very little information this year and given the state of the Federal budget, he would not expect an increase or a decrease. Of the $125,000, $19,500 is set aside for administrative services provided by SEDA-COG. The application schedule was reviewed. It took almost a year for the grant to be approved; we just received the grant approval a few weeks ago. The set-up letter has not been received, so the Borough hasn’t received any of its 2010 funding yet. Given the changes in Harrisburg, i.e. new Governor and new Secretary for DCED, he would predict the funding for 2011 won’t arrive any faster. The eligible activities for CDBG funding would be a broad range of community development and economic development activities including: water system improvements, sewer system improvements, storm water improvements, roads, streets, bridges, community facilities, senior centers, housing activities, economic development activities, and/or direct loans to private businesses in exchange for creation of jobs for low and moderate income persons. You cannot do any routine maintenance, or build or pay for the general function/purpose of government, and equipment is not eligible. Then every project must meet one of three federal funding criteria: 1) benefit low and moderate-income persons (how most projects are funded); 2) removal of blighting influence in a community (Six block area: Seventh Street to Fifth Street and Market Street to Bucknell University is an area Council determined several years ago was in jeopardy of becoming a blighting influence on the community); 3) urgent need. An example of urgent need would be a gubernatorial declaration of some form of disaster having occurred within the last 18 months. Very few urgent need projects are undertaken in the CDBG Program. There are requirements imposed by the program: the first is the Preference Statement, which is located on the bottom of the agenda, and then attached are the Fair Housing Notice and the Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan. There have been rumors that HUD is going to require some level of impact analysis if it relates to Fair Housing, and although he doesn’t feel the Fair Housing Analysis will have to be redone, he does feel more proactive steps will have to be taken to encourage and ensure Fair Housing practices in the Borough. One of the obligations to apply for this funding is to develop a three year Community Development Plan for the use of CDBG funds. This hearing is step one, and was preceded with a legal notice. The projects that have been discussed with the Public Works Committee: 1) continuation of Fifth Street improvements, i.e. reconstruction of the stone support wall, reconstruction of the street, storm water improvements, and it can include curb cuts, sidewalks, street lighting, and street trees - all improvements similar to what we did on Seventh Street; 2) removal of architectural barriers at the intersections throughout the Borough in order to comply with the American Disabilities Act, which means developing a curb cut project, actually prioritizing intersections to bring the intersections into compliance with the ADA. There was a written request from the Union/Snyder Area Agency on Aging for funding for the adult daily living center located in Penns Creek. That facility provides daycare for adults suffering from dementia, etc. and the total request is $20,200 for removal/reconstruction of floor surface and installation of a viewing window to monitor the adults better. The Borough’s prorata share would be $1,095. It is an eligible activity and fundable based on presumed benefit because elderly are presumed to be low/moderate income. He asked for public input and/or Council input on those three projects or any new projects. His suggestion is that the Borough prioritize the Fifth Street Project, moving that forward, following that with a large curb cut project, then use future CDBG funds to reimburse the Borough for any costs that might run over the available funds, financing from the General Fund and reimbursing with CDBG funding. These two eligible activities meet all the Federal Guidelines. Councilmember Morris asked if we used the 2010 funds. Manager Smith said they are allocated to the South
Manager Smith said he hasn’t talked about this yet, but what about funds for a potential but can fund out five years. He will build in the demolition of the flood prone properties government. He explained you have three years to carry out the activity for any contract, Regional Police Department. Mr. Seigel said you cannot use CDBG funds to pay for Councilmember Scheib tried it in Sunbury and reported they would never do it again. Mr. Seigel asked if there are any discussions of historical or environmental impacts for PennDOT. The only one we have done so far is South Fourth and St. George Streets. Manager Smith said that is a great idea, but the logistics of it are a nightmare; pointed and accusations are made that people aren’t telling the truth on their applications.

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Mayor Wagner said they are classified that way. Mr. Seigel said in one census they were considered low/moderate income, and in another they tied the students back to the family and then they were not low/moderate income. However, in most instances, the census looks at the students as independent. Councilmember Morris pointed out the fact Bucknell University is potentially building a new dormitory in the next few years and students will be going back on campus means the need for that housing. Mr. Seigel said if we decide to use this money for demolition, we could make a couple of arguments, and Councilmember Morris’ thought process is right on track. Councilmember Molesevich asked if it is better to have more projects on this list. Mr. Seigel said it certainly doesn’t hurt, and encouraged discussion and that they be written into the plan, even if they never go anywhere or aren’t a priority of the Borough. Councilmember Molesevich said there were discussions held earlier this evening about 725/727 St. Louis Street, now a boarded up vacant property, as well as 34 South Fifth Street, another student rental that is deteriorating rapidly. He suggested these properties be included on this list. Mayor Wagner stated she supports that. Mr. Seigel said he would include that as one of the projects: identifying abandoned or vacant structures that are potentially a blighting influence on the neighborhood or community. Councilmember Morris pointed out the fact Bucknell University is potentially building a new dormitory in the next few years and students will be going back on campus means the need for that housing. Mr. Seigel said if we decide to use this money for demolition, we could make a couple of arguments, and Councilmember Morris’ thought process is right on track. Mayor Wagner stated she supports that. Mr. Seigel said he would include that as one of the projects: identifying abandoned or vacant structures that are potentially a blighting influence on the neighborhood or community. Councilmember Morris pointed out the fact Bucknell University is potentially building a new dormitory in the next few years and students will be going back on campus means the need for that housing.

Manager Smith said sidewalks are an eligible use for CDBG funds; he asked Council’s opinion on using CDBG funds for sidewalks on the South Fifth Street Project vs. having the taxpayers pay for those sidewalks in conjunction with our FEMA/PEMA Grant. This area is within our slum/blight area and should be recognized in our three year objective. Mr. Seigel said that takes us to the next agenda item, other projects for consideration. We have the issue of the Antidisplacement Policy as it relates to the demolition of those structures; we need to be able to prove they are significantly code deficient, and that there is a surplus of housing available for low/moderate income families. Councilmember Morris said the student rentals aren’t low income. Mayor Wagner said they are classified that way. Mr. Seigel said in one census they were considered low/moderate income, and in another they tied the students back to the family and then they were not low/moderate income. However, in most instances, the census looks at the students as independent. Councilmember Morris pointed out the fact Bucknell University is potentially building a new dormitory in the next few years and students will be going back on campus means the need for that housing. Mr. Seigel said if we decide to use this money for demolition, we could make a couple of arguments, and Councilmember Morris’ thought process is right on track. Councilmember Molesevich asked if it is better to have more projects on this list. Mr. Seigel said it certainly doesn’t hurt, and encouraged discussion and that they be written into the plan, even if they never go anywhere or aren’t a priority of the Borough. Councilmember Molesevich said there were discussions held earlier this evening about 725/727 St. Louis Street, now a boarded up vacant property, as well as 34 South Fifth Street, another student rental that is deteriorating rapidly. He suggested these properties be included on this list. Mayor Wagner stated she supports that. Mr. Seigel said he would include that as one of the projects: identifying abandoned or vacant structures that are potentially a blighting influence on the neighborhood or community. Councilmember Morris pointed out the fact Bucknell University is potentially building a new dormitory in the next few years and students will be going back on campus means the need for that housing.

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Council President Bergonia declared the public hearing closed at 7:45 PM. He reconvened to the regular order of business and continued with the meeting.

Tara Michaels, on behalf of LARA, asked Council to consider allowing the use of the three globe street light logo in their advertisements of the Biggest Loser Weight Loss Contest. Manager Smith distributed a copy for Council’s review. There was discussion.

Councilmember Strosser made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Molesevich, to allow LARA to use the Borough’s street light logo for the Weight Loss Program, “Lose It in Lewisburg.” Motion was unanimously approved.

POLICE COMMITTEE: Councilmember Mahon made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, to direct the Solicitor to advertise a change to the parking restrictions on North Third Street between Market Street and St. John Street, from Friday-Midnight to 7 AM to Tuesday-Midnight to 9 AM. ON THE QUESTION: Council President Bergonia asked why. Councilmember Mahon indicated this was a request made many years ago by the then owner of the Café. It is very costly to the Borough (overtime expenses) and the Foreman recommended this change in an attempt to save money. Manager Smith approached the current owner of the Café, Chris Wheeler, and he doesn’t have a problem with this change.

Councilmember Mahon reported the Holiday parking survey (chalking tires) summary was distributed to Council. The Regional Police Committee will meet Wednesday at 4 PM here in the Council Chambers. Mayor Wagner reported our Manager and Solicitor did great work for our Regional Police Committee meeting. Manager Smith stated he is finalizing the changes to the Intergovernmental Agreement and will provide a copy to Council.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Morris, to approve the HARB application a, as submitted and recommended by HARB. Motion was unanimously approved.

a. Borough Building, 55 South Fifth Street. Reconstruction of Stone Wall/Refurbishing of Fence. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for the reconstruction of a stone wall/refreshishing of a fence. A motion was made by Phoebe Faden, seconded by Steve Snook, to recommend approval of the reconstruction and refurbishing work, as described in the project description and project materials section of the application, and as shown on the drawings attached, with the addition that if there are new steps made, the steps will be painted and/or stained within one year. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strosser, to accept the resignation of George (Ed) Richard as Emergency Management Coordinator, effective December 31, 2010. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Molesevich, to appoint Steven Beattie as Emergency Management Coordinator, effective immediately. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strosser, to accept the resignation of Trey Casimir from LARA (Council representative) effective January 31, 2010, with deep regret. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to appoint Peter Bergonia to LARA (Council representative) effective January 31, 2010, term expiration December 31, 2014. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to appoint Dennis Hummer to LARA, term expiration December 31, 2015. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Molesevich asked for background information. Councilmember Casimir reported Mr. Hummer lives close to the pool and park, has children who use LARA programs, new to the area, and would like to become active in the community. Manager Smith indicated Mr. Hummer is a Division Manager for Haubert Homes, Inc. in Northumberland. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strosser, to appoint Rob Cook to HARB, term expiration December 31, 2011. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to adopt Resolution No. 11-01, accepting the Union County Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and Mitigation Plan as the official plan of the Borough of Lewisburg. Motion was unanimously approved.
Manager Smith indicated back in December of 2009 the William Cameron Community Support Team was created and two members were appointed, a Council representative and a resident. When John Baker resigned from Council last year, our Council President appointed Ed Cox as the replacement; however there is nothing official documenting this in our records. Is Council action needed? Solicitor Lyons indicated there is a necessity for a motion because the By-Laws indicate that Ad-Hoc Committee appointees are appointed by Council upon the recommendation of the Council President.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Morris, to concur with the Council President’s recommendation and appoint Ed Cox to replace John Baker on the William Cameron Community Support Team, the effective date being approximately June 2010. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir said we briefly discussed the possibility of sanctions against Union County for ignoring our HARB recommendations as approved by Council. Do we know our options? Solicitor Lyons said our options are no different than they are for any other party that violates our ordinances. There are provisions of the ordinances which allow the Zoning Officer to proceed with enforcement pursuant to the ordinance against the violator for the violation, i.e. civil penalty up to a $1,000 fine for each day of the violation. Councilmember Strosser stated he would like to see the Borough recoup their costs of picking up and storing the materials, etc. Solicitor Lyons explained there really isn’t a normal process involving violations, but what Councilmember Strosser refers to is reasonable. He suggested the Manager send a letter to the County indicating Council is considering directing our Zoning Officer to pursue violations against them and filing a complaint, but in lieu thereof the Borough would consider settling for out of pocket costs. We have resolved things this way in the past, this would avoid litigation, and the Borough would recoup costs.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strosser, to have the Manager send a letter to the County Commissioners indicating Council is considering directing our Zoning Officer to pursue violations against them and filing a complaint, but in lieu thereof the Borough would consider settling for out of pocket costs. Motion was unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:** Manager Smith reported the Committee discussed the South Fifth Street Project. There is an issue regarding the completion of the sidewalk on the west side of South Fifth Street that he needs Council input on. First, the Committee reviewed the logistics of the intersection of South Fifth and St. Louis Streets, specifically the ingress/egress, the difficulty of pedestrians trying to cross over to access the Borough building, and the potential of a sidewalk along the building where the landscaping is located now. These improvements all made sense and the Committee agreed. When looking at the rest of South Fifth Street from St. Louis to St. Catherine Streets where there are three homes on the west side of the street, and then a long narrow vacant lot, the Committee originally proposed sidewalks on both sides of the street, then decided to stop the sidewalk at the end of the third property, as they did not feel they could justify going the rest of the distance to St. Catherine Street. This was basically agreed upon. At the next meeting Councilmember Molesевич brought up his feelings that the Borough should continue that sidewalk, which amounts to about 50 yards, pointing out it would improve the access to Hufnagle Park/Kidsburg so people could cross the railroad tracks. Manager Smith clarified there are a lot of logistics with the PUC and the railroad tracks, and he wanted to avoid adding these costs to an already compounding project cost. His thinking was that we could always add that sidewalk later, making it its own project. Now, since Councilmember Molesевич’s feeling is basically why not do it now as we are already doing the street, he felt Council input is needed. Councilmember Mahon asked if the homeowner is expected to pay for that extra sidewalk. Manager Smith said yes, and that is why we have been attempting to meet with the homeowner. There are options to discuss, i.e. the Borough taking ownership of the lot, which means the Borough would pay for the sidewalk. Councilmember Molesевич explained if the homeowner doesn’t want the lot, the Borough could take it and incorporate it into Hufnagle Park. The lot is undeveloped, with some nice trees, and in the future the Borough could redesign/reconstruct the entrance to the park. Manager Smith presented a drawing so everyone could see the area being discussed. There was much discussion. It was the sense of Council this sidewalk should be designed, bid as an alternate bid, and then Council can decide what they want to do after seeing the actual costs.
Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, to adopt the modifications to 2011 Final Budget (starting cash amounts and unappropriated line items) as presented on Budget Modification Summary Sheet dated January 3, 2011. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, to approve payment of the bills from 12/18/10 through 01/14/11 in the amount of $307,656.77. Motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Wagner announced she would like to recognize Councilmember Casimir for his many years of service on LARA, and presented him with a certification of appreciation to thank him for his leadership and dedication. Mayor Wagner reported she was asked to join the Board of the Union County Foundation, so anyone wishing to donate a fund or a monetary contribution for a specific cause in Union County, please feel free to do so.

POLICE CHIEF: No report.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: No report.

SOLICITOR: Solicitor Lyons stated at the last meeting the Substantive Challenge/Proposed Curative Amendment submitted by Kevin Gardner was discussed. The recommended change is for Residential Town 2, and this was referred to the local and County Planning Commissions for review. It was pointed out we did not calculate the fact all adjoining property owners must be notified 30 days prior to the hearing. As a result, this public hearing cannot be held in February. Now, if action isn’t taken it is deemed denied, which is not what Mr. Gardner wants; he will provide an extension of time beyond the 60 days as it is in his best interest. Solicitor Lyons explained he is out of town on March 8th, so this hearing could occur at the regular Council meeting March 15th. Council will need to accept Mr. Gardner’s request for extension at their February meeting. Council will have three alternatives to this request: deny, accept, decrease/increase it. There was much discussion relative to who should receive this notice. Councilmember Casimir suggested the letter be sent to everyone at this point. Solicitor Lyons said there is a grey area. Council could direct the Manager to notify both sides of Market Street and the other side of Cherry Alley, and you will have covered everyone being affected by this change. Councilmember Casimir said the main focus is the Market Street corridor. Solicitor Lyons confirmed that the notification can only be on the request of the curative amendment as it is proposed. So, if that changes, notification would have to occur again with another public hearing being held. He read, “If after the public hearing, the proposed amendment is changed substantially or revised to include land previously not affected by it, the governing body shall hold another public hearing pursuant to public notice before proceeding to vote on the amendment.”

Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, to authorize the Solicitor to advertise the public hearing on the Substantive Challenge/Proposed Curative Amendment application of Kevin Gardner for Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 7 PM, and also direct the Manager to send notices of this public hearing to all real property owners located within the area of the proposed zoning change as required by the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), to be determined by the Solicitor and Manager. Motion was unanimously approved.

MANAGER: As a result of the Borough’s newsletter there have been a number of residents that have expressed an interest in our vacancies.

Manager Smith indicated the next Public Works Committee meeting is February 7th. Mr. Seigel said the projects discussed tonight could be prioritized at that meeting. Manager Smith asked Council to contact him with any concerns/issues/recommendations relative to the CDBG Program.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, to approve payment of the bills from 12/18/10 through 01/14/11 in the amount of $307,656.77. Motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Wagner announced she would like to recognize Councilmember Casimir, to approve payment of the bills from 12/18/10 through 01/14/11 in the amount of $307,656.77. Motion was unanimously approved.

挑战/修正案提交者Kevin Gardner的修正案讨论了。3月15日，星期二，下午7点，建议由Solicitor Lyons发布通知，将会议通知发送给所有受影响的房地产业主。

Manager Smith建议在接下来的会议中优先考虑这些项目。他询问了关于CDBG项目的任何问题/关切/建议。

Finance Committee: Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, to approve payment of the bills from 12/18/10 through 01/14/11 in the amount of $307,656.77. Motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Wagner宣布她想表彰Councilmember Casimir的多年服务。并向他颁发了感谢证书。他被邀请加入Union County Foundation董事会。

Police Chief: No report.

Council President: No report.

Solicitor: Solicitor Lyons在上次会议上讨论了挑战/修正案。提出的修正案建议是住宅区2。这被转到地方和县规划委员会进行审查。我们没有计算所有相邻的财产所有者必须在听证会前30天通知的事实。结果，这个听证会不能在二月举行。现在，如果行动不采取，则视为拒绝，但这不是Mr. Gardner想要的；他将提供一个超过60天的延期，因为它符合他的最大利益。Solicitor Lyons解释说他3月8日要离开。因此，这个听证会可以在3月15日举行。Council将需要接受Mr. Gardner的延期要求。Council将有三个选择：拒绝，接受，减少/增加。讨论了谁应该收到这份通知。Councilmember Casimir建议将信件发送给所有人。Solicitor Lyons说这是一个灰色区域。Council可以指示Manager通知双方。

Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, to approve payment of the bills from 12/18/10 through 01/14/11 in the amount of $307,656.77. Motion was unanimously approved.

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Councilmember Casimir reported the Shade Tree Commission has completed the preliminary review of ash trees; there are ten ash trees in town, eight in Hufnagle Park and two in the D.F. Green Park.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilmember Strosser asked the status of the Zoning Ordinance. Councilmember Casimir said we received comments from the Planning Commission that he can’t in good conscious ignore, i.e. the three person rule. One new Planning Commission member has made comments, and he hasn’t been heard before, and Nada Gray requested another meeting to review some concerns. He hopes to have this before Council in March. Manager Smith said at that point Council will take action, hopefully, to approve the advertising of a public hearing on the proposed Zoning Ordinance. Councilmember Strosser questioned if, as part of this proposed zoning, Council could change the zoning map and make all this other stuff go away. Solicitor Lyons said yes. There was much discussion.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilmember Molesevich pointed out as a result of all the discussions on the High School Project, one issue that continually surfaces is the fact there is no one from Lewisburg Borough on the Lewisburg Area School Board (LASB). There is a procedure for changing how School Boards are elected in the Pennsylvania Code. Any change shall be submitted for approval to the Court of Common Pleas by the Board of School Directors or by petition of electors within the district.

Councilmember Molesevich made a motion to direct our Solicitor to petition the Court to reevaluate the way LASB members are elected.

Solicitor Lyons said that was changed, because we couldn’t get enough candidates to run for office in the Borough. If you do this regionally, you have more of a chance to fill the Board seats. Councilmember Molesevich said on the extreme side of that, it is possible to have nine school board members from one township or one neighborhood. As an elected official of this Borough, he doesn’t feel Borough residents are adequately represented on the LASB. Councilmember Casimir questioned the procedure as it says electors of the district. Solicitor Lyons said besides the rational reason of doing this or not doing this, we can’t do this as a Council; we are not electors, i.e. people that are registered to vote that petition the court for change. Each of you, as individuals, could do this, but as a Council you cannot take a political position and Council certainly can’t direct him, as Solicitor, to do this as it is beyond your authority. There was much discussion.

Councilmember Molesevich withdrew his motion.

Councilmember Casimir reported he, along with Kevin Drewencki, was asked by the LARA Board to meet with other local recreation providers, i.e. Heiter Center, YMCA, etc. He commented the YMCA talked like they had an inside track on the high school building.

WRITTEN REPORTS: Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to acknowledge receipt of the Budget Index, Police/Parking Reports, Zoning Officer Report, and Code Enforcement Officer Report. Motion was unanimously approved.

WORK SESSION: Council President Bergonia announced there will not be a work session held on Tuesday, February 08, 2011.

There being no further business, Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Morris, to adjourn the meeting. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Garrison
Borough Secretary