

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held on **Tuesday, February 18, 2014** in the Council Chambers, 55 South Fifth Street. Present: Council President Bergonia; Councilmembers Baker, Cook, Cox, Faden, Mahon, Morris and Strosser; Mayor Wagner; Solicitor Lyons, Manager Smith, Secretary Garrison, and Lt. Hosterman. Also present: Jim Mathias, Katie Davis, Dale Schrader, Jaydette Schrader, Zach Schrader and Samantha Pearson.

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 Strosser, seconded by Councilmember Faden, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2014 regular meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Mayor Wager stated it is her honor tonight to introduce Dale Schrader, an active volunteer since 1983 with the Union County Emergency Squad, currently serving as the Chief and Vice President. He, along with his immediate family and highly skilled crew, provide invaluable services to this community. They are volunteers responsible for raising their own money, seeing to their own training, and they are always there when needed. This Emergency Squad is celebrating 50 years. She presented Mr. Schrader with a Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Schrader provided details of the work they do and the numerous events they participate in.

Katie Davis, Executive Director of the Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority (BVRec), distributed a handout dated February 2014. She updated Council on their financial status, their 2014 improvement/investment goals, their top operation focuses, their Rail/Trail DCNR Grant Projects and their SEDA-COG Transportation Alternatives Program Award.

Jim Mathias, Chairman of the Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority (BVRec) distributed a handout titled, "BVRA 2014 Update to the Municipalities" and stressed the BVRec is in better shape than ever. He provided an overall assessment of the organization over the last two years sharing their progress, as well as the areas continued improvement is needed. He shared the biggest long term challenges: funding for reinvestment, new programming for pool/park development and the railroad bridge. He also provided details regarding the proposed Miller Center for Recreation and Wellness, noting this would be a great regional effort. He also commented BVRec isn't looking for more money from the Borough and Township, but hopes they get some new partners, which would be good for everybody. He thanked Council for their support.

Samantha Pearson, Elm Street Manager, presented a detailed update on what the LNC has been doing this past month. The LNC is assisting HARB with a public meeting to discuss historic preservation. Manager Smith explained the Borough hired a consultant in 2002 to assist the Borough in reviewing the HARB District, as well as get it designated at the State level; that was done. However the Historic District designated at the State level doesn't match the Borough's current Historic District. Part of the process to be able to remedy that is to notify all property owners that own property within this State designated Historic District (or any that now fall outside the District), that consideration is being given to this boundary change. Secondly there is the necessity of a public meeting. Lastly, Council would be in a position to adopt the State's designated Historic District map as the Borough's official Historic District map. Ms. Pearson reported the LNC has been working to keep up with the proposed flood insurance changes and feels strongly these changes will have an impact on our community as approximately 40% of the Borough will be affected. She questioned if there will be a public meeting on this topic and offered the services of the LNC to help make sure a public meeting happens. She requested Council write a letter addressing this legislation with the County and the State legislators. This may end up being delayed, but it should still be addressed now. The LNC is working on assembling a basic team for the Rivertowns Project. Also, this past week she became aware that a number of Bucknell University students are proposing projects in the Borough directly related to Elm Street Programs. She will provide details via email. She said the students are being encouraged to present their projects to Council. Councilmember Baker commented if the Bucknell students want to make a presentation, his suggestion would be a Public Works Committee meeting.

Manager Smith said he has talked extensively on this flood insurance situation, kept Council apprised as much as possible, and basically has attempted to protect Council. His feeling is it will be detrimental to Council to hold a meeting with residents, very unhappy residents, when what Council is meeting about is something Council can do very little about. Now, after listening to Ms. Pearson make an offer of the LNC spearheading this, this would be a way of disseminating information to the public while still providing Council the distance he feels is needed because of the nature of this matter. Mayor Wagner commented the new North Ward is affected, as well as the Bull Run area, so this would definitely be something the LNC could address. Councilmember Baker agreed. Councilmember Strosser stressed we really ought to know what to say before we start talking to people; that may mean more research. There was **much** discussion.

ATTENDANCE

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION RECOGNITION GIVEN TO DALE SCHRADER AND THE UNION COUNTY EMERGENCY SQUAD

KATIE DAVIS

JIM MATHIAS

SAMANTHA PEARSON

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Baker, to direct the Manager, along with Samantha Pearson, to draft a letter regarding the flood insurance issues for Council review and approval. Motion was unanimously approved.

POLICE COMMITTEE: Councilmember Mahon indicated everyone should have a January 2014 monthly activity report. She introduced Lt. Barry Hosterman, who is here because Chief Yost is at a Sexual Assault Conference in New Orleans. The Police Committee met to continue discussions on the proposed social gathering ordinance and the Chief will provide drafts based on the feedback received. Mayor Wagner reported the BVRPC has a work session next week to discuss numerous items, i.e. the strategic plan; the Civil Service process, which is required for new hires; acquisition of GPS units for the police vehicles so we know where they are at all times and can track mileage, etc. Councilmember Mahon shared a story of one of our Police Officers noticing water coming out of the back of the Open Door, which is her brother's store. The Officer went to her brother's home to notify him of what he saw, and as a result, flooding was minimized. She pointed out how grateful we should be for having them available.

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

a. Bucknell University/416 Market Street/Signage. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for signage. A motion was made by Steve Snook, seconded by Robert Cook, to recommend approval of the sign as submitted in the HARB application under project description. Motion as unanimously approved.

Courtesy Review:

a. Tom Egan-Jamie Piperberg/333 North Third Street/Demo-New Construction (Preliminary Review). An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for demolition/new construction of home. Much discussion took place as the property owners were looking for recommendations from HARB on how to proceed, as well as looking for comments with regard to the look of the rebuild proposed on this project. HARB was sympathetic to the flood plain zoning, etc., and discussed at length were the following items: need for a door on the front of the home; whether rebuild should look as close to the original building as possible; front elevation; brick vs. clapboard; changing of the roof line (3 story proposed); position of gable. It was also agreed that the demolition approval would be tied to the approval of the new construction.

Councilmember Mahon asked the reasoning behind the demolition of 333 North Third Street. Councilmember Strosser explained the current owners are looking at possibly tearing this home down, conditional upon being able to meet all Code requirements to rebuild a new home. HARB doesn't want to approve a demolition and then something happens, and there ends up being an empty lot. He asked the Solicitor if HARB has the authority to ask these property owners to post a bond. Solicitor Lyons said HARB has the authority to establish a condition of the demolition to be that they rebuild. But, require a bond, which in essence is insurance or security, he would have to research that. This definitely has to be a marriage of the two, demolition and construction. Manager Smith suggested this be made part of the land development plan. Solicitor Lyons said there will have to be a land development plan and there are flood issues that have to also be addressed. Councilmember Strosser said HARB feels this probably isn't going to be the last one to come before us and we want to be in a position where we do this right the first time and every time thereafter. Councilmember Faden said HARB is going to need to allow residents to be a little more creative than they have been in the past because of the flood issues. Mayor Wagner asked if you mean allowing resident to raze their homes? Councilmember Faden said raze them or move them. There will be people we have the utmost faith in for doing exactly what they say they are going to do; however, there may be others that we aren't so sure about, so this bonding, if it can be done, would be an added protection for the Borough. There was **much** discussion. Councilmember Strosser offered to do additional research on this, as he seems to recall something like this has been done before.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Councilmember Baker made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strosser, to direct the Manager to contact PennDOT to request their recommendation with regard to the Borough undertaking a signalized intersection study for pedestrian safety. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Strosser explained this would be for the pedestrian crosses at Second, Third and Fourth Streets. Currently they do not work, with the bulb outs they are way too long, people push the button and get impatient and cross anyway. We would like PennDOT to reprogram these so you can walk with green. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Baker said he has several FYI's for Council: 1) a letter was submitted to Kelly Township requesting additional consideration be given to the intersection of Airport Road and Route 192 as part of the Traffic Impact Study (TIS) resulting from the new high school location; 2) the Committee, after much discussion, is not recommending an all way stop at South Fourth and St. George Streets or North Water and St. Anthony Streets, even though recommended by the Traffic Advisory Committee; 2) the Committee also is not recommending the pedestrian flag crossing idea, even though this was recommended by the Traffic Advisory Committee. And although we were not recommending a flood insurance meeting be held, strictly because the committee didn't feel we had enough information, our discussions tonight have addressed this issue.

LETTER REGARDING FLOOD INSURANCE ISSUES

POLICE COMMITTEE
BVRPD

PLANNING COMMITTEE
HARB

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

COURTESY REVIEW FOR T EGAN AND J PIPERBERG/333 NORTH THIRD STREET

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
PENNDOT RECOMMENDATION BEING REQUESTED FOR SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION STUDY FOR PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Baker, to approve payment of bills from 01/18/14 through 02/14/14 in the amount of \$451,279.73. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Morris indicated there are two FYI's: 1) a letter of appreciation is being sent to Graham Showalter for his monetary contribution toward additional electrical work required this past year at the Wolfe Field Complex for the Fourth of July Celebration; and 2) \$350,000.00 was transferred from the Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN) into the General Fund with the expectation of a partial payback to occur by the end of March.

MAYOR: Mayor Wagner thanked the Manager and the Borough crew for the great job they did removing snow. Councilmember Baker indicated he received compliments on the snow removal work. Manager Smith shared that one individual retired and another is out on workers compensation, so we have basically four crew members available. Now, we do utilize the refuse crew, which consists of three men, when we can. He has actually been helping, as a result, and has gained a lot of respect for the guys, i.e. what they have to do, the hours they are required to work, etc. Towing has been occurring, as we have had to haul snow, an expensive proposition, but we really didn't have a choice because of the amount of snow. There was **much** discussion. Mayor Wagner said tomorrow night she, along with Councilmember Morris, will be attending a stakeholders meeting from 6 to 8. Stacy Hinck, Chairwoman of the Planning Commission, will be hosting this meeting which will be attended by various representatives of other boards, commissions and authorities in an attempt to gain a centralized focus for this Borough. This has been a very busy month. She is extremely pleased with our Repurposing Committee, which consists of Linda Sterling, Steve Beattie, Andrea Tufo, Ted Strosser, Kathy Morris, Dennis Swank, Clare Sammells and Ellen Flacker-Darer. This committee is tasked with determining our mission as a committee, and the criteria and evaluation material. The process of determining what we want from anyone leasing or using that property is extremely important. Councilmember Strosser stressed the School District *must* decide if they want to own this building or not. Mayor Wagner commented they will not make that decision. Solicitor Lyons said they have to as that will determine which group of people you will be going after for that property, i.e. someone that wants to purchase or someone that wants to lease. Councilmember Baker asked the percentage of people representing the Borough on this committee? Councilmember Strosser said slightly less than half, but Borough representatives did 80% of the talking. Mayor Wagner thanked our Solicitor for providing research on the deeds postdating the Harrison purchase. Again, there was **much** discussion. Mayor Wagner said Mr. DiRocco made it very clear this committee was not the decider and she made it clear if there was an issue of zoning, the Borough would be the decider. She reminded Council there will be a very important meeting with DCED at 10 AM on Friday, March 7th, as she is hoping to get more DCED support going forward.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: No report.

SOLICITOR: No report.

MANAGER: Manager Smith indicated he has two FYI's for Council. As you know, FYI's are not action items, but things he wants to make Council aware of. Union County has requested interested participants serve on a Steering Committee responsible for the adoption of a Greenway and Open Space Plan. The County originally felt the Comprehensive Plan would satisfactorily cover this; however, DCNR wants to see a separate plan, so a Steering Committee is to be formed to basically pull the necessary information together. It was the sense of Council that the information needed is already contained within the Comprehensive Plan, which Council already participated in creating, so they directed the Manager to monitor the progress of this project and keep them informed. Manager Smith commented Ms. Pearson addressed earlier that she learned Bucknell students conduct projects within the Borough as part of their curriculum. This is an ongoing occurrence that happens each and every year; he routinely has met with many students over the years and two students just this week alone. Again, this is nothing new and something that is just a routine part of his responsibilities as Manager. Councilmember Baker asked what comes out of these projects. Manager Smith explained that hopefully the students learn from what they do through, and noted there have been times the Borough has received some usable information. But, most of the time the scope and scale of what the students do is very limited.

Manager Smith indicated notification was received that the Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Grant Application was not funded, again. This is to get the "smart" signal vs. the focused camera through an analogue system. There was discussion regarding the traffic signals at Route 45 and Route 15 as a result of the extreme sun glare and the resulting traffic congestion.

OTHER COMMITTEES: Council President Bergonia reported Katie Davis and Jim Mathias provided the BVRec report.

**FINANCE
COMMITTEE
PAYMENT OF BILLS**

MAYOR

**COUNCIL
PRESIDENT**

SOLICITOR

MANAGER

**OTHER
COMMITTEES
BVREC**

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Manager Smith indicated Linda Sterling is working on an application for designation as a Keystone Main Street with the DCED; she was hoping to present this to Council tonight, but decided that she would present to the Planning Committee first, and then it will come before Council at the regular monthly meeting in March.

Mayor Wagner indicated there is nothing to report for the Town and Gown Committee.

Council President Bergonia reported Samantha Pearson provided a report on the LNC.

Manager Smith indicated he has nothing to report for the STC.

Council President Bergonia indicated the CK-COG continues to be extremely busy and the big issue they are dealing with now is the Laurelton Center.

Councilmember Morris stated there is no report for the Community Garden Committee.

Manager Smith commented the TAC was addressed earlier.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

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

WORK SESSION: Council President Bergonia indicated at this time it appears there will not be a work session in March.

There being no further business, Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to adjourn the meeting. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Garrison
Borough Secretary

LDP

TOWN AND GOWN

LNC

STC

CK-COG

**COMMUNITY
GARDEN**

TAC

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

WRITTEN REPORTS

WORK SESSION

ADJOURNMENT