

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held on **Tuesday, March 17, 2015** in the Council Chambers, 55 South Fifth Street. Present: Council President Bergonia; Councilmembers Baker, Cook, Cox, Faden and Morris; Mayor Wagner, Solicitor Lyons, Manager Smith and Secretary Garrison. Councilmember Strosser arrived at 7:10 PM. Absent: Councilmember Mahon and BVRP Chief Yost. Also present: Matt Farrand, Linda Sterling, Emily Burlingham and Ian Will.

**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 Morris, seconded by Councilmember Faden, to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2015 regular meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Linda Sterling, Executive Director of the Lewisburg Downtown Partnership (LDP), explained that she likes to appear before Council at least once a year, and noted she is willing to do so more often if requested, in an effort to keep Council informed on what is happening within the LDP. Paperwork was distributed while Ms. Sterling explained the LDP's Mission, which is working to ensure that the downtown remains the heart and soul of Lewisburg and the LDP's Vision, which is that the downtown *continue* to be the cultural and economic magnet for this region. The LDP financial review is currently underway and a copy will be provided to the Borough upon completion. The LDP's Strategic Purpose is still comprised of four pillars: organization, historic preservation, economic development and promotion. Currently the projects that will be the focus for the next five years are: promoting the value of buying local, encouraging entrepreneurship, making the downtown a destination by improving downtown accessibility, which includes parking and signage, as well as an increase in foot traffic, building a spirit of collaboration among the downtown business owners, expanding art offerings, enhancing green space, art and beautification, building a greater understanding of the value of historic preservation by working closer with HARB, sustain a stable and effective organization, and connect the downtown to the rest of our region. She explained their fundraising strategies. She explained how she meets with organizations on a regular basis in an effort to strengthen relationships, as well as create new relationships. The LDP realizes they may need to reach/partner beyond the traditional borders of the central downtown area, as a result of Penn Commons and the other development occurring along Route 15, including the high school property. She covered briefly the Keystone Initiative for Network Based Education and Research (KINBER) opportunity and how aware she has become of the "need" in Lewisburg for this increased internet speed. They are currently working with the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce (GSVCC) for regional development as they believe the growth of the future is going to be around central business districts. She reviewed the LDP's events that are held throughout the year, as well as pointed out the valuable website they maintain. She shared that the LDP brought Ted Strosser onboard to help them with the historic preservation perspective. We are looking into signage regulations and making sure the downtown businesses are aware of these regulations. She reminded everyone that Ellen Ruby has joined the LDP as the Special Events Coordinator. There was **much** discussion relative to the downtown and the various comments/rumors relative to businesses moving and/or relocating, etc.

Ian Will and Emily Burlingham, Bucknell University students, were present to share their project of carbon offsetting to work towards becoming carbon neutral. They want the community involved in this project so they are looking for the input of community leaders. Council President Bergonia indicated that Chad Smith, our Manager, would be the best person to talk to about this, and the Manager's email was provided.

**POLICE COMMITTEE:** No meeting in March. Everyone received the Chief's monthly report.

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

**a. Bradley Gill (Future Owner)/50 North Second Street/Sign.** (Note: Current owner is Nancy Bernstein.) An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for a sign. A motion was made by Rob Cook, seconded by Mary Mastascusa, to recommend approval of the installation of a 3' x 4' sign on the corner of North Second and St. John Street, said sign will be mounted on 4' x 4' cedar posts and posts shall have decorative elements on the top, be treated or stained within one year, and wording will be as shown on the diagram distributed at meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Strosser made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Baker, to acknowledge receipt of the 2014 financial auditing report from J.H. Williams and Company, LLP, Borough Auditors, and direct Manager to execute said report. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Strosser made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cook, to appoint Priscilla A. Waggoner to the Traffic Advisory Committee effective immediately; term expiration date 12/31/15. Motion was unanimously approved.

**ATTENDANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  
**LINDA STERLING**

**IAN WILL**  
**EMILY BURLINGHAM**

**POLICE COMMITTEE**

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**HARB**

**B GILL**

**RECEIPT OF 2014 FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT FROM J.H. WILLIAMS AND COMPANY, LLP**

**P WAGGONER APPOINTED TO TAC**

March 17, 2015

Councilmember Strosser made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Faden, to approve Resolution No. 15-02, a resolution adopting the Union County 2014 Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and Mitigation Plan as the official plan of Lewisburg Borough. ON THE QUESTION: Manager Smith stated the County, as part of the National Incident Management System, was required to create a plan addressing severe weather. Every five years this plan needs to be updated. Motion was unanimously approved.

\*Councilmember Strosser made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Faden, to direct the Manager to direct a letter to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) requesting they consider keeping the State Store within the Borough's boundaries. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Baker asked if that is necessary. Solicitor Lyons said he heard the State Store is in need of parking and that is an issue for them. He pointed out that the current owner of the building the State Store is located in may, because of pending legislation, be allowed to sell wine and beer if they wanted to do so. Manager Smith reminded Council the State Store doesn't pay the business privilege tax. There was **very much** discussion.

\*Councilmember Strosser withdrew his motion, and Councilmember Faden withdrew her second.

Councilmember Strosser indicated there are a few FYI's. The Planning Committee is reviewing the future existence of the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC). Councilmember Morris indicated a month or two ago she received an email indicating the TAC was reviewing their goals and objectives, as well as their charter, and then read that mediation may be needed between Council and the TAC. Reading about the need for mediation was very upsetting. She asked the TAC Chairwoman for the goals and objectives and the charter. She never heard back, but obtained the goals and objectives from the Manager, and to her knowledge no one found a charter. Solicitor Lyons indicated that is because there is no charter. Mayor Wagner explained the history of the TAC noting she has served since its inception when Richard McGinnis was Chairman. She reported Mr. McGinnis was very good at directing Council toward projects of practicality, etc. Councilmember Morris said she remembers Mr. McGinnis coming into Council meetings with research from his students that showed where there was a problem, the statistics, and a suggested resolution. Now we get opinions on one or two isolated incidents, with no data supporting the requests being made. Solicitor Lyons stated Mr. McGinnis, a professor at Bucknell University, wanted support on his ideas of how to improve traffic within the Borough and that is why Council decided to create a TAC. Manger Smith pointed out we do have a replacement for Mr. McGinnis on the TAC, but unfortunately, the committee hasn't achieved that same level; the student activities get waylaid to other issues, which are not necessarily traffic issues. Councilmember Strosser said doesn't our Council President have the ability to disband the TAC? Solicitor Lyons said absolutely, as they are simply an advisory committee. There was **very much** discussion. Councilmember Faden indicated that traffic and parking are the two issues complained about the most, so she wants to be sure there is a committee assigned with the task of reviewing the traffic and parking complaints. Councilmember Cook suggested that the Public Works Committee be assigned these issues. Councilmember Faden stated she would really like to see a better way of soliciting comments from our residents. Mayor Wagner said at the request of one of her neighbors, she, along with Councilmember Morris, decided to have a neighborhood meeting for that very purpose. There was discussion on the positive aspect of conducting ward meetings. Manager Smith questioned whether Council wanted to take action with regard to the TAC or refer this matter back to the Planning Committee for more consideration. Mayor Wagner suggested the Planning Committee review the restructuring and refocusing of the traffic and parking complaints making a recommendation to Council at their next regular meeting.

Councilmember Strosser reported that Jim Mathias, on behalf of the Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority (BVRA), indicated they are pursuing the Railroad Bridge Challenge Course and Mr. Mathias has made an offer that any Council member interested may join him on his trip to tour the site located in Bushkill, Pennsylvania. Mayor Wagner questioned if this idea were to happen, how much money would find its way to the Borough's coffers. Manager Smith said probably none, but the Borough could end up contributing less in tax monies to the BVRA. Solicitor Lyons said this isn't a money maker per se, but it would bring people to the Borough to spend money. There was **much** discussion.

Councilmember Strosser explained there is one other discussion item from the Planning Committee that did not make the agenda and that was whether the spelling of St. Catherine Street should be with an E or an A (CathErine or CathArine). Manager Smith apologized for removing this after including it on the draft agenda. He stated he would really like to have more time for additional research. There was **much** discussion.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:** No meeting in March.

U/C HAZARD  
VULNERABILITY  
ASSESSMENT AND  
MITIGATION PLAN  
(RESOLUTION NO.  
15-02)

DISCUSSION ON  
STATE STORE

DISCUSSION ON  
TAC

BVRA PURSUES  
RAILROAD BRIDGE  
CHALLENGE  
COURSE

SPELLING OF  
STREET NAME  
ST CATHERINE OR  
ST CATHARINE

**PUBLIC WORKS  
COMMITTEE**

March 17, 2015

**COMMITTEE:** There was no meeting in February. Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Faden, to approve the payment of bills from 02/14/15 through 03/13/15 in the amount of \$342,102.97. Motion was unanimously approved.

**MAYOR:** Mayor Wagner updated Council on her numerous activities. She reminded Council that invitations were sent to our Senators, Representatives and Governor for a tour of the Borough on Friday, March for purposes of addressing how the Biggert-Waters Act will impact the Borough; that her neighborhood meeting is scheduled to be held Sunday, March here in the Borough Office; and that the High School Ground Breaking Ceremony is Thursday, April . On April there will be a panel set up at the Campus Theatre for a view of local history and Mifflinburg and Lewisburg will be represented. This event is based on the show, "You're kidding, aren't you?" and it should be a good time.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT:** Council President Bergonia reported he is taking a two-day class to become certified with regard to single stream recycling in State College.

**SOLICITOR:** No report.

**MANAGER:** No report.

**OTHER COMMITTEES:** Council President Bergonia said Stacey Sommerfield, the new BVRA Executive Director, started the beginning of this month, and he is hoping to meet with her one day next week. Manager Smith indicated he would like to meet with Ms. Sommerfield. Council President Bergonia stated he would let her know that.

Council President Bergonia indicated we covered the LDP earlier this evening.

Mayor Wagner said the Town and Gown Committee will be meeting soon.

Manager Smith indicated he met with Samantha Pearson last Friday to review the Bull Run Master Plan (greenscape). Because DCNR has gone through a transitional period, we are way ahead of them, and have gotten impressive comments for our submissions. There was **much** discussion.

Council President Bergonia asked the status of the Ash Tree Removal Project. Manager Smith said the Ash trees are all down and it looks really bare out there now. There were three proposals received for the necessary stump removal and those prices were very good. An order for 59 trees has been placed and the trees are expected to be here the beginning of April; Trey Casimir, on behalf of the Shade Tree Commission, will be coordinating the volunteers needed for the planting. Councilmember Baker reminded the Manager the Boy Scouts are looking for projects. Councilmember Faden said she is working with the STC on a go-fund-me potential project to help offset the purchase of these trees. We want to reach out to everyone, not just those in the Borough, in an effort to promote an adopt-a-tree concept. Of course it won't be for a "specific" tree because that would be very difficult, but knowing the species and the area a tree is planted in should suffice. Once the logistics of a program are figured out, information will be provided. There is a plan to make this situation better.

Council President Bergonia reported as a result of the retirement of Tom Sauers there has been some restructuring; four people now report to the executive committee of the CK-COG Board; the executive committee is handling the management of this organization.

Councilmember Morris indicated the Community Garden is currently being handled by Kevin Zuidervliet, and there have been discussions on replacing the fence around the garden. Manager Smith said because this is a flood plain it is being reviewed. We have been told the replacement fence is going to be wood and will have panels that will be able to be removed.

Mayor Wagner indicated the Lewisburg Area High School Repurposing Committee meets in May and the RFP's are due before that meeting; hopefully the committee will begin the review process.

Council President Bergonia indicated a Flood Task Force meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. Councilmember Cook said we hope to have an intern available to us for GIS mapping, and there are other students interested in helping.

Councilmember Morris said there are many meetings and activities recently scheduled for the River Town Committee.

Councilmember Cox said the new Fire Chief, James Blount, addressed the Municipal and Community Advisory Committee (MACAC) at the last meeting explaining his plans for the future.

**FINANCE  
COMMITTEE  
PAYMENT OF BILLS**

**MAYOR**

**COUNCIL  
PRESIDENT**

**SOLICITOR**

**MANAGER**

**OTHER  
COMMITTEES  
BVRA**

**LDP**

**TOWN AND GOWN  
COMMITTEE**

**LNC**

**STC**

**CK-COG**

**COMMUNITY  
GARDEN**

**REPURPOSING  
COMMITTEE**

**FLOOD TASK  
FORCE**

**RIVER TOWN  
COMMITTEE**

**MACAC**

March 17, 2015

**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 Reports and Code Enforcement Officer Report. Motion was unanimously approved.

**WORK SESSION:** Council President Bergonia indicated the Manager doesn't think there is a need for a work session on April , but he will let everyone know if that should change. Manager Smith said we really need to schedule a meeting this month to start the review of the refuse fund; so far it appears we have Council President Bergonia, Councilmember Mahon and Kevin Gardner on that committee.

There being no further business, Councilmember Faden made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strosser, to adjourn the meeting. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Garrison  
Borough Secretary

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**WRITTEN REPORTS**

**WORK SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**