The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 in the Council Chambers, 55 South Fifth Street. Present: Council President Bergonia; Councilmembers Baker, Casimir, Cox, Mahon, Morris, Robinson, and Strosser; Mayor Wagner; Manager/Treasurer Smith; Solicitor Lyons; and Secretary Garrison. Also present: Chief of Police Yost, Bill Seigel, Josh Steinhurst, Dan Greene, Steve/Lisa Snook, Angelo Giunta, Bob Engle, Leroy Fisher and Tammy Burke.

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 Baker, seconded by Councilmember Strosser, to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held March 20, 2012 and the special Council meeting held March 27, 2012. Motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Ms. Shara McCallum of the Stadler Center for Poetry at Bucknell University distributed a map showing the proposed Poetry Path which includes ten (10) sites on campus and in downtown Lewisburg, as well as photos, which are mock ups, of the pedestal being proposed at two locations. Those with smart phones could scan the code to hear the poem at each location; those who do not have a smart phone can go to the website to download a podcast to hear the poem. There will also be walking tours. Hard copies of the poems will be available at various locations. The purpose of this project is to make poetry part of people’s life experiences. Councilmember Mahon asked if you can read the poem at each site. Ms. McCallum said no; this is to honor the oral tradition of poetry, as poetry is meant to be heard. Councilmember Mahon said this excludes a huge segment of population that doesn’t have a smart phone. Ms. McCallum said this is something that was anticipated and why there will be tours offered at various times throughout the year. Councilmember Casimir stated this was discussed at the Planning Committee meeting, he came prepared to recommend it, but now that he realizes the poem isn’t on the pedestal he is not sure how he feels. Councilmember Morris said depending upon the size of the poem and the size of the pedestal, some senior citizens wouldn’t be able to read it. Ms. McCallum said it would really limit the ability to choose poems that were more than ten (10) or so lines. Chief Yost commented in Milton there was a project where they provided a box at each site for brochures. Ms. MacCallum said it may not be feasible to have printed materials at every site, but certainly if they can, they will. She will also check to see if Bucknell University would be willing to loan people headsets to allow them to take advantage of this poetry path. There was much discussion.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strosser, to approve the poetry path project as described, contingent upon Ms. MacCallum or another representative returning to the Planning Committee to discuss this in more detail. Motion was unanimously approved. Councilmember Casimir said the next Planning Committee meeting is May 10th at 5 PM.

Michelle Sanders, Emergency Management Coordinator for the County, stated she is here to recognize Steve Beattie, the Borough’s local Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Beattie worked aggressively to complete the basic certification requirements of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, and she is proud to present him with a plaque recognizing this efforts.

Angelo Giunta, 119 North Second Street, owner of Champion Shoes, stated he represents several businesses tonight regarding off-premise signs. He asked Council to revoke the ordinance that prevents off-premise signs, noting how extremely important they are as they identify the businesses that are located off of Market Street; not everyone can be located on Market Street. Our businesses need Council’s help, and this would not only benefit the businesses, but the Borough as well, because if we make money, we pay more in taxes, etc. He explained his history in Lewisburg, and pointed out the businesses located off of Market Street contribute as much to the success of Lewisburg as any others. Also, Bob Brouse, a Mifflinburg Borough Councilman, has reported his Borough is in the process of changing their ordinance to allow off-premise signs 24/7 twelve (12) months out of the year. He asked that Council keep an open mind and consider this request.

Nancy Bernstein, 50 North Second Street, owner of Temperance House, stated everyone knows that competition is fierce and there is no other way for her to let people know where the Temperance House is.

The owner of Catherman’s Candy said they have a very small business and so many times during the week people say they would have never known we were here if the sign wasn’t out.
Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Steve Snook, 30-32 North Second Street, said he and his wife own University Hair Design. He feels we have to respect Council’s view on this matter as they are trying to eliminate a plethora of miscellaneous signage. On our side, it would be appreciated if we could have some form of signage, i.e. something very well thought out, architecturally designed to fit Victorian Lewisburg, which would allow businesses the ability to put up a sign. He said each person wanting to display a sign could possibly pay for the privilege of advertising; this is an attempt to compromise. Mr. Giunta agreed that something is better than nothing and doing it right is very important as it needs to be complementary to businesses and our town.

Councilmember Casimir clarified this Council agrees with Union County’s Comprehensive Plan, working more towards mixed use and preserving businesses in residential areas. The signage, deliveries and garbage are what make people not want businesses in residential areas. A great deal of time has been spent on off-premises signs, and he agrees with Mr. Snook’s suggestion, which has been discussed. He hopes we find a nice wrought iron Victorian style sign for placement in the middle of town that would have the capability of holding multiple placards. There was much discussion. Councilmember Casimir stated we are trying to find a compromise and he is willing to meet to talk about this Victorian style sign, take it to committee, and possibly amend the ordinance. Mr. Giunta said that is progress and thanked Council for listening. (As did the other business owners present.) Josh Steinhurst, a member of the Planning Commission, stated they would be willing to look at this too.

Council President Bergonia adjourned the regular order of business to conduct a public hearing. He called the public hearing to order at 7:45 PM.

Josh Steinhurst stated he is present on behalf of the Planning Commission and they are generally in favor of this amendment; however, some specific issues were noted. There were changes that theoretically allow for residential uses in the floodway by removing the University restriction and some other things. Probably not what was intended, unlikely to occur, but with campgrounds and other things being noted, everyone should be aware. There were a number of other small issues where commercial signs will be allowed in the Bucknell District. We also want feedback on how to evaluate things sent to us so we can maximize our usefulness. Councilmember Strosser reported he attended a Planning Commission meeting for a project, and there was discussion about this very subject. It was suggested we try to coordinate/overlap meetings in an attempt to allow both groups to meet and discuss issues, and that we continuously work on the zoning ordinance vs. trying to update it all at one time after many years. Councilmember Casimir stated some of the recommended changes noted in the Planning Commission draft of the March minutes were made. Two pages reflected things that appeared to not be voted on or approved. Mr. Steinhurst said everything was voted on by the Commission, but we didn’t think any recommended changes were encapsulated into the public hearing version. Councilmember Casimir affirmed the off-premises sign was changed to match the Planning Commission’s wording. Mr. Steinhurst said this further proves there is a communication issue that needs resolved. Councilmember Casimir said when the amendment was passed, one big change was with regard to granny flats and businesses in alleyways; we had asked the Planning Commission work on this language. Mr. Steinhurst explained they decided to tackle some smaller things first, trying to use them as a get communication issues squared away. The Fire Chief will be invited to attend the meeting when granny flats, etc. are discussed. Manager Smith said recognizing the Planning Commission meets the first Wednesday of each month, maybe a representative could attend the Planning Committee meeting which is normally the second Thursday of each month, or a report could be provided to Planning Committee as part of the communication line. Mr. Steinhurst said that might be a good start. Manager Smith said the Planning Commission also needs to review the matter of manufactured housing. Councilmember Casimir explained Borough Council clearly wanted to move forward with the recommendations of the County Comprehensive Plan, meaning more mixed use throughout the Borough. Some Planning Commission members helping with the draft amendment of the zoning ordinance were absolutely opposed to this. Obviously since it is something Council wants to do, we will, with or without the Planning Commission’s assistance. Mr. Steinhurst stated the Commission is very much aware that Council is the elected body, and noted there has been a fair amount of turnover within the Planning Commission over the last several years. Councilmember Morris indicated she understands there are a number of individuals on the Planning Commission who are in agreement with the direction Council is moving. Mr. Steinhurst commented the future looks bright. Councilmember Casimir said he looks forward to having two-way communication between the Planning Commission and the Borough. Mr. Steinhurst agreed that he believes that will happen in 2012.

Council President Bergonia asked if anyone else wishes to speak. No one wished to speak, so he declared the public hearing closed at 8:00 PM. He reconvened to the regular order of business and continued with the meeting.
Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strosser, to approve Ordinance No. 1013, an ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance by redefining "building height," deleting the "measurement of height" illustration there from; rewriting the description of prohibited off-premises signs; and eliminating schools, universities, critical community facilities, libraries, museums, municipal buildings and campgrounds from those activities prohibited in any floodway and flood fringe. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Morris asked how the off premise sign regulation is written. Councilmember Casimir explained it is written to allow permanently affixed directional signs only in Highway Commercial or Bucknell Districts. There was much discussion. Councilmember Morris stated she would like to go on record that Council will continue to discuss the off premise regulations in an attempt to compromise with the business owners present this evening. Councilmember Casimir pointed out with regard to the flood ordinance, Bucknell brought this to our attention as they want to build their environmental center down there. It turns out that our flood ordinance wasn’t written straight from the State rules and our ordinance was actually more restrictive. Motion was unanimously approved.

POLICE COMMITTEE: No meeting.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to approve HARB applications a, b, c, e, f, and g, as submitted and recommended by HARB. Motion was unanimously approved.

a. Elvena Kreamer-Connie Goodwin/34 North Front Street/Fence. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for installation of fence. A motion was made by Ted Strosser, seconded by Steve Snook, to recommend approval of the installation of a fence as submitted in the HARB application under project description, with the stipulation this fence be a maximum of 4 ft. high, be wood and painted or stained within one year of installation. Motion was unanimously approved.

b. Bucknell University/310 South Seventh Street/Windows. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for replacement windows. A motion was made by Steve Snook, seconded by Kim Walter, to recommend approval of the replacement windows as submitted in the HARB application under project description and per the attached proposal, with clarification that windows are to be 6 over 6 simulated divided lights, to fit and be same size as existing windows. Motion as unanimously approved.

c. Bucknell University/420 South Seventh Street/Replace Roof. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for a new roof. A motion was made by Robert Cook, seconded by Steve Snook, to recommend approval of a new roof as submitted in the HARB application under project description, with stipulation that doors remain as they currently exist. Motion was unanimously approved.

d. Robert Lack/29 South Second Street/Siding. No one was present; application will be reviewed next month.

e. Kevin Gardner (Brynwood Rentals)/43-45 South Second Street/Garage-Carriage House. An application was made by Kim Walter, seconded by Mary Mastascusa, to recommend approval of this construction, as submitted in the HARB application and as shown in the drawings provided. Motion was approved, with one abstention and one no vote. (Ted Strosser abstained and Elaine Wintjen voted no.)

f. Charles North (Trebecca)/437 Market Street/Signage. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for placement of two signs. A motion was made by Steve Snook, seconded by Mary Mastascusa, to recommend approval of the two signs as submitted in the HARB application under project description, and as shown in the diagram attached. Motion as unanimously approved.

g. Kate Fairweather/209 Market Street/Signage. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for placement of vinyl window signs. A motion was made by Steve Snook, seconded by Robert Cook, to recommend approval of the two window signs as submitted in the HARB application under project description, and as shown in drawing attached. Motion as unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir checked on the Lewisburg High School sign; the sign will be between the current pillars and will have interchangeable type. It was reported they have raised $3,000 and need $5,300 more. They are hoping for installation to occur by the end of April.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Councilmember Strosser made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, to prioritize the 2012 CDBG Project selection in the following order: Reimbursement for South Fifth Street ($53,359); Donald Heiter Center ($14,000); Borough wide curb cuts ($10,000); Administration ($16,000) for a total of $93,359. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Mahon asked what the Heiter Center money will be for. Mr. Siegel said Andrea Tufo is looking at a before preschool program for parents that leave for work earlier than they have child services available. There are private funds and foundation funds already identified for this, and Ms. Tufo is hopeful to kick this off this coming school year. (Council commended Ms. Tufo for her contributions to the Heiter Center.) Motion was unanimously approved.

Manager Smith said the potential South Sixth Street Project and/or St. Louis Street Project between Sixth and Seventh Streets was removed, and he put that money into our reimbursement because $10,000 doesn’t make a difference to either project.
Tuesday, April 17, 2012

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to approve payment of bills from 03/17/12 through 04/13/12 in the amount of $268,172.93. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir reported the Borough assessed a one-time $40 fee to all rental properties from St. Louis Street south to St. George Street and from South Sixth Street to South Seventh Street for student move-out expenses incurred as a result of the placement of ten (10) two-yard dumpsters for a period of one month.

Councilmember Morris questioned the sheriff sale of the property across the street, 34-36 South Fifth Street. Solicitor Lyons said he believes it is May 2nd. Manager Smith said he will provide Council with a copy of the sheriff sale notice.

MAYOR: Mayor Wagner thanked Bucknell University for the wonderful fundraisers for charity and their efforts to get the community garden underway. Also, thanks to Wanda and Preston Boop, Briar Patch Farms, Rabbi Pezeto and Ms. Cunningham for their help with the community garden. She suggested everyone watch the videos of the spring thaw clean up. She discovered there is an effort by Rand McNally and USA Today to map out the best small towns in American and she is attempting to find out how to get a town nominated; the website is www.bestoftheroad.com. She reminded everyone the annual Arts Festival is Saturday, April 28th.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: No report.

SOLICITOR: Solicitor Lyons advised the ordinance amending the parking permit program has been duly advertised and is ready for Council action. He commented he didn’t feel an ordinance was needed last month; however, upon receiving additional information he realized an advertisement was in order. This went to the Planning Committee and they approved the advertisement for this ordinance, but Council should also authorize this.

Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, to affirm the Planning Committee’s direction authorizing the Solicitor to advertise an ordinance amendment with regard to the parking permit program, and to approve Ordinance No. 1012, an ordinance amending the established parking permit program for certain municipal parking lots by increasing and describing the types of parking permits, and establishing the number of metered and/or reserved parking spaces in said parking lots. Motion was unanimously approved.

Solicitor Lyons advised he was authorized to prepare and advertise an ordinance for the termination of the Lewisburg Police Department and the Civil Service Commission, and to make necessary language changes as a result of this. Councilmember Casimir asked if something should happen and regional didn’t work; how long would it take to reorganize the Police Department. Solicitor Lyons said technically it could be done immediately; as for getting the ordinances established, it may take a month as we simply rewrite the ordinances. Solicitor Lyons stated the Police Department name is now the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Department (BVRPD) and the Chief is now the Police Chief of the BVRPD throughout every ordinance. In going through the ordinances where there is a reference to Chief of Police, there is also a reference to “his designee” and that is to allow the Borough Manager or Borough Administration to step in so the Police Department doesn’t have to worry about non-Police issues. Our Police Department, at one time, did almost everything in the Borough that was non-garbage, non-assessments, etc. Years ago it was questioned why the Police Department was doing all this, so parking violations, etc. were assigned as an administrative task. Many times, although the Police Chief is referenced, it is the Borough Manager or the Borough Secretary that is actually involved. It would be a very wise idea, at some point, for a committee to go through all these ordinances to determine what really is a Police matter and what really is a Borough matter, and change accordingly. This is not a rush, but it is something that needs to be done.

Councilmember Mahon made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Morris, to approve Ordinance No. 1014, an ordinance dissolving the Borough’s Police Department and Civil Service Commission; and amending all Sections of the Code as necessary as a result of the creation of the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Department. Motion was unanimously approved.

Solicitor Lyons reported he had an opportunity to review the proposed Community Garden Management Agreement, made several changes, and forwarded them to Wayne Bromfield and our Manager for review. Manager Smith stated Mr. Bromfield replied to the email indicating he reviewed the changes and is comfortable with all but the ones regarding indemnification. Solicitor Lyons commented this is resolvable and he will contact Mr. Bromfield to negotiate. Councilmember Casimir asked if the probationary period is included in the agreement. Solicitor Lyons said there is no probationary period; they get one growing season and at the end of the first year we have the right to
Tuesday, April 17, 2012

determine if they are in compliance; if not, we have the right to terminate. There is no automatic termination in this agreement; it continues over the five-year term. Councilmember Casimir reported Stacy Sommerfield asked him to serve on the Board of Directors. Also, Tom Egan sent an extensive email of things that need to be taken into account with regard to maintaining and operating a community garden, including what he strongly feels is important, the creation of a group to review the first year performance. There was much discussion. Council President Bergonia asked that all Councilmembers receive a copy of the agreement and directed this to the Planning Committee for additional review and discussion.

MANAGER: Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Morris, to approve an amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Lewisburg Borough, East Buffalo Township, and the Lewisburg Area Recreation Authority (LARA) to increase the 2012 annual millage contribution from 0.154 to 0.23 mills for a period of one-year effective 01/01/12 through 12/31/12: contingent upon the Solicitor’s review and approval of the amendment. ON THE QUESTION: Manager Smith clarified this doesn’t change the millage being collected. This simply decreases the unappropriated balance. Councilmember Morris asked if this covers the additional monies we have had to give them at year end for the last several years? Manager Smith said it is actually a little less and this gives them the ability to use as needed vs. finding themselves short at year end. Councilmember Casimir said this action is reflective of LARA’s new Chairman, Jim Mathias, who has extensive experience in business and financial fields; he has reviewed all of LARA’s liabilities/shortfalls, etc. and finds LARA cannot go forward with their finances without this. Before things blew up at the end of last year, he was prepared to have a very simple twenty minute IGA meeting at which we would write out the school district and increase the millage to 0.23, but things went a different way and he wasn’t sure LARA could continue in its current form; he is still not so sure about that. But, to make a best effort to make LARA viable and sustainable, this is a bare minimum starting place; this allows LARA to know in the beginning of a month that they can make payroll that month. They will now be receiving about $40,000 a year from Lewisburg Borough. Mayor Wagner stressed LARA will now have no end of year request for financial assistance. Councilmember Casimir said that is the hope. There was much discussion. Mayor Wagner stated she hears so many positive comments about the Rail/Trail. She even received an invitation from Mifflinburg to have a meet and greet on the trail and it wasn’t a LARA sponsored activity. She suggests that our neighbors, who enjoy all these fine services provided by LARA, contribute in some fashion to help out. Councilmember Casimir agreed; LARA needs to work on these relationships. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, to direct the Solicitor to advertise an ordinance amending the Lewisburg Area Joint Sewer Authority (LAJSA) Articles of Incorporation by changing the composition of the Board to nine members: five representatives from East Buffalo Township and four representatives from Lewisburg Borough, as requested by the LAJSA Board. Motion was unanimously approved.

Manager Smith commented work has begun on the Market Street Project and PennDOT mandated the contractor work nights from 8 PM to 6 AM. As they move up the street, they have an intersection work to two ramps diagonal from one another and into they come back down Market Street, they will do the other two ramps opposite the ones already completed allowing pedestrians the ability to cross at all times. Milling and overlay work is scheduled to begin the beginning of July, and that too will be night work. This work is from the bridge all the way to Bull Run Crossing. When they mill Market Street we will lose all our parking lines, so we may want to consider no parking meter enforcement on Market Street at that point. Councilmember Casimir asked if it is the Borough’s responsibility to repaint those lines and did we budget for that. Manager Smith said yes it is and no we did not. The contractor awarded the Market Street Paving Project and the Market Street Bulb-Out Project was Don E. Bower. There was much discussion.

Manager Smith reported our Tax Collector, Connie Moore, has indicated a little over 80% of taxes were collected in the discount period this year vs. a little less than 75% in previous years. Ms. Moore is doing a good job turning funds over to us quickly.

Manager Smith said as you know, we signed an agreement for our first grant through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. We were notified we were successful in our second grant, although we did not receive the agreement yet. He, along with Dan Greene, will be meeting to draft a press release, and we also have been looking into administration of this, possibly through SEDA-COG, as it will be a massive undertaking. After meeting with SEDA-COG, they have agreed to provide oversight, supervision and administration to Dan Greene, the project lead, at no cost to the Borough. Normally administration of a project this size could cost approximately $10,000 per house. Mr. Siegel said SEDA-COG has had a long standing positive relationship with this Borough and he is glad to be able to assist. Council thanked Mr. Siegel. There was much discussion.
OTHER COMMITTEES: Council President Bergonia reported LARA is doing the best they can and he is pleased with the performance of Jim Mathias and Katie Davis. The Rail/Trail is being used heavily, which is great, and there has even been talk of bathrooms being installed in Vicksburg.

Councilmember Morris reported the Lewisburg Downtown Partnership (LDP) is moving ahead successfully; nothing new to report. Manager Smith reported Linda Sterling also met with PennDOT regarding the Market Street Project and has been fielding questions and concerns of the businesses successfully.

Mayor Wagner stated there is nothing to report with regard to the Town and Gown Committee.

Dan Greene said he was to discuss the annual assessment of the Elm Street Program in March, but it was postponed until June.

Councilmember Casimir reported the Shade Tree Commission is working with the Lions Club and has planted eleven big trees in Soldiers Park. As part of the Arbor Day celebration, Friday, April 27th at 5 PM, there will be one more tree planted. Manager Smith reported four new trees were also planted behind the Post Office in the parking lot. Councilmember Casimir said although approval was received from DEP to plant trees on the old gas works property at St. George and Front Streets, the majority of the STC members decided they wanted to do more research to make sure it was a responsible thing to do. Manager Smith said community service workers cleared the bank at this location and the benches there are solid concrete benches on bases (donated by the Garden Club); it should make a really nice river view. Councilmember Casimir noted the first round of delinquent notices went to those that have not fulfilled their obligation to replant a tree after removal of a tree. There was much discussion.

Council President Bergonia reported it is basically business as usual for the Central Keystone-Council of Governments (CK-COG).

Chief Yost provided Council with the first monthly report from the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Department (BVRPD), along with the required quarterly report of finances in accordance with the IGA. Mayor Wagner extended an invitation to all Councilmembers to stop by the BVRPD for a visit. There was much discussion.

Councilmember Mahon asked what is happening with the old marketplace building. Solicitor Lyons indicated the owner had some health issues, but he has heard the owner intends on continuing with the project.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

WRITTEN REPORTS: Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Morris, 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 announced there will be a work session on Tuesday, May 08, 2012; representatives from Citizens Electric will be present.

Council President Bergonia called for a five minute recess at 9:15 PM. Council returned at 9:20 PM.

Council entered executive session at 9:20 PM. Council returned at 9:45 PM.

There being no further business, Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strosser, to adjourn the meeting. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Garrison
Borough Secretary