The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 in the Council Chambers, 55 South Fifth Street, Lewisburg. Present: Council President Morris; Councilmembers Comas, Derman, Frederick, Heany, Mahon, Medina and Yohn; Mayor Wagner, Solicitor Lyons, Manager Lowthert, Secretary Garrison and Police Chief Yost. Absent: Junior Councilmember Ezra Buonopane. Also present: Peter J. Bergonia, Jr., Stacey Sommerfield, Teri Provost, Bill Seigel, Stephen Buonopane, Ethan Hron, Grace Fitzgerald, Jamie Ptaeck, Max Gustafson, Matt Farand, Alfred Sievers, Sam Pearson, Taylor Lightman and Barbara Kalin.

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Morris called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Councilmember Derman, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2018 regular monthly meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

COUNCIL PRESENTATION(S): Teri Provost from SEDA-COG explained there is a Council received the Buffalo Valley Regional Police approved. return and vent from existing HVAC unit in the newly created office on the second floor. ON THE Borough Hall Renovation Project, specifically for the furnishing and installation of material for professional services fee by $250.00 to offset the cost of this oversight. Motion was unanimously approved.

Stacey Sommerfield, Executive Director of the Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority (BVRA), presented a power point presentation which provided details of the BVRA’s mission/goals, statistics, activities, and also the coordination that occurs between the various recreation resources in the area, as they strive to continue to provide comprehensive park/recreation programs.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY AGENDA ITEM: No one wished to speak.

PUBLIC WORKS/POLICE COMMITTEE: Council received the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Department’s (BVRPD) monthly report. Councilmember Comas asked if the criminal statistics breakdown by municipality will continue to be in this monthly report. Chief Yost yes, as this was requested to be included by the BVRPC. There was some discussion.

Councilmember Mahon made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derman, to award the South Sixth Street Revitalization/Streetscape Project to Wolyniec Construction, Inc., in the amount of $85,100.00, subject to receipt of acceptable performance and payment bonds and proper insurance from the contractor, and contingent upon the review and approval of the Borough Engineer, SEDA-COG, and the Borough Solicitor. (Note: Project to be paid for from the Borough’s CDBG funds and the Bucknell University contribution for South Sixth Street tree plantings.) Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Mahon made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Medina, to approve Change Order No. 06 in the amount of $4,290.00, which falls under standard renovations for the Borough Hall Renovation Project, specifically for the installation of new floor outlets and the elimination of existing floor outlets and patch holes from removal of existing outlets. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Derman questioned why this wasn’t part of the project initially. Manager Lowthert said a number of outlets were hidden under the existing cubicles and they no longer met code requirements so they had to be removed. Also, we didn’t know the exact location for the setup of offices at the time of the bid; this had to be addressed later. Councilmember Comas asked what standard renovations means. Manager Lowthert said there are two funding sources. The standard renovations consist of the Council Chambers, the office area and the new office upstairs and are paid by local funding. The other funding source is the RAB component which is the handicap ramp, handicap accessibility and handicap bathroom and are paid by CDBG funding. This project came in over budget and this is part of the reason we want to move that $18,088.00 of CDBG funding into this project. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Mahon made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derman, to approve Change Order No. 05 in the amount of $690.30, which falls under standard renovations for the Borough Hall Renovation Project, specifically for the installation one data cat6, jack and two port wall plate, and one voice cat6 wire and jack in the newly created office on the second floor. ON THE QUESTION: Manager Lowthert explained in the newly created room this was necessary to allow flexibility of the set-up of offices within this room. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Mahon made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derman, to approve Change Order No. 07 in the amount of $1,085.47, which falls under standard renovations for the Borough Hall Renovation Project, specifically for the furnishing and installation of material for return and vent from existing HVAC unit in the newly created office on the second floor. ON THE QUESTION: Manager Lowthert said the architect forgot to include HVAC venting in the new room upstairs and we need climate control. The architect indicated his willingness to reduce their professional services fee by $250.00 to offset the cost of this oversight. Motion was unanimously approved.
Manager Lowthert said a request was made to the Borough by a property owner to not install a section of curbing on the east side of North Third Street just north of St. Mary Street. It would be very easy to pull this out of the project. Since curbing is installed to control water, he has addressed this with the Borough’s engineer. The engineer has indicated it doesn’t appear this will be an issue. The property owner has been informed that if this curb is not installed at the property owner’s request, the Borough will not take responsibility/liability for future water issues on their property. There may be a slight risk of damage along the edge of the roadway. Stephen Buonopane and Sam Pearson of 200 North Third Street are the property owners that have made this request. Ms. Pearson said to install this curbing would endanger a tree recently planted; roots would have to be cut to do this curb installation and this would then not be an ideal place for this tree to grow. Mr. Buonopane and Ms. Pearson went into great detail to substantiate their request for no curbing. Mr. Buonopane shared is feelings with regard to the importance of shade trees. Ms. Pearson shared photos of the location being discussed. There was much discussion. Manager Lowthert indicated he would like to know Council’s decision: 1) installation of this curb as in the project plans or 2) cut off the curb a little shorter and not have a curb in the area addressed by Mr. Buonopane and Ms. Pearson, with a stipulation that if there are any issues as a result of this, the issues would be the property owner’s responsibility.

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to direct the Manager to not have the curb extended/installed as far north as detailed in the plans on the east side of North Third Street, north of St. Mary Street, but to end the curb just before the newly planted tree or where the current curb ends. Motion was unanimously approved.

Manager Lowthert said he received several calls about tree roots being damaged as a result of the handicapped ramps going in; we do not have a choice. When the Borough does a street project PennDOT requires that new handicapped ramps be installed if the current ones are deficient. The roots must be cut to get the slope necessary to meet the ADA requirements. The other option would be to not pave the street. It is the responsibility of the Shade Tree Commission to take care of the shade trees and get new ones planted.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE: Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn, to approve the payment of bills from March 17, 2018 through April 13, 2018 in the amount of $344,508.91. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn, to approve submittal of a budget revision to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for FFY 2015 CDBG Program, specifically as follows: 1) South Sixth Street Reconstruction current budget: $49,840.00 – Revised Budget $31,752.00, a decrease of $18,088.00; 2) Borough Hall Renovation Removal of Architectural Barriers (RAB) current budget $51,500.00 – Revised Budget $18,088.00, an increase of $18,088.00. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn, to accept the bank proposal from Jersey Shore State Bank (JSSB) for the Borough’s debt service loan for 2018, fees not to exceed $500.00, with no additional conditions, for the amount of $200,000.00 for the period of 10 years at 2.71%; and to direct the Borough Solicitor to proceed to file the necessary paperwork for this debt service loan. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Heayn said this was discussed at length and we may later decide to pay off a significant amount of this earlier to avoid the interest with no fees or penalties. Solicitor Lyons questioned the timetable for this process. Manager Lowthert said he will tell JSSB that they will be contacted by our Solicitor just like the rest of the borough.

Manager Lowthert indicated the remaining Borough contribution to the Lewisburg Downtown Partnership (LDP) has been made. He said the May Administrative Finance Committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 7th, not Monday, May 14th, as he will be out of town on Borough business.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING COMMITTEE: Councilmember Yohn made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn, to approve HARB item a, as submitted and recommended by HARB per their minutes dated April 10, 2018. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Heayn said this is a large project for identification signage throughout the campus and it adheres to the signage aesthetic that is there already both in color and size. Motion was unanimously approved.

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT: No report.

MAYOR: Mayor Wagner reported Lewisburg Borough hosted a roundtable meeting Wednesday, August 4th with U.S. Senator Casey, along with Mayors from Shamokin, Selinsgrove, Mifflinburg, Middleburg and Sunbury; this was a very productive meeting. The Mayors in attendance decided to continue to meet routinely to discuss issues of concern. She reported as Mayor she can perform weddings and she has recently decided she will only marry people from the Borough, only perform on the Borough property and she will only marry two people at a time.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Stephen Buonopane of North Third Street said he is concerned about the Borough’s commitment to shade trees. Shade trees are a valuable resource to our community and he feels they are undervalued and facing risk of decline. He read sections of the current construction contract and then read Chapter 332-Subsection 10 from the Borough ordinance, “In connection with any construction or the performance of any work whatsoever in the Borough in the vicinity of any shade tree, before any work shall be commenced, guards shall be placed at all shade trees which might be affected by such work to so as to effectually prevent injury to them.” This morning a tree across from his home was struck by a piece of construction equipment. Ms. Pearson said it was the Lewisburg Area Joint Sewer Authority (LAJSA). Manager Lowthert indicated he would contact the LAJSA. There was much discussion. It was the sense of Council that the ordinance clearly shows the Borough’s intention to protect the street trees and it was also acknowledged how difficult it is to balance between street/sidewalk work and street trees. Manager Lowthert stated he will share Council’s thoughts/feelings with the Borough engineer. He pointed out that Council held a work session on the topic of shade trees and it was also acknowledged how difficult it is to balance between street/sidewalk work and street trees.

Manager Lowthert said the community garden group is planting two trees in the community garden area in memory of Stacy Hinck for her many contributions. Council wanted to do something to recognize Ms. Hinck’s many years of work on behalf of this Borough in her many positions. Council had talked about a print. Councilmember Mahon said she talked to her brother at the Open Door and his suggestion was a print of the old train station, which he is willing to do at his cost of $150.00. We would need to get a plaque memorializing Ms. Hinck for placement under this print. Mayor Wagner said Stacy Hinck started on Council in 1996, served as President of Council, Chairperson of the Planning Commission, a member of the Recreation Authority and a member of the committee that started the regionalization of the police. Solicitor Lyons commented that Ms. Hinck’s husband thought a print was a wonderful idea and this print is perfect as Ms. Hinck spent so much of her time here. There was some discussion.

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Medina, to authorize the purchase of this print of the old train station for placement in the Borough Council Chambers in memory of Stacy Hinck, at a cost not to exceed $250.00, including the appropriate language on the plaque. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Yohn made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derman, to adopt Resolution No. 18-06, a resolution authorizing the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to request railroad crossing alterations at Fourth Street, Buffalo Road, St. Mary Street, Cherry Alley, St. Louis Street, University Avenue and Brown Street from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC). ON THE QUESTION: Manager Lowthert said he didn’t get clear direction from Council at the work session. Typically this Borough has had an outside Solicitor review changes to our zoning ordinances. That was specifically said. Council President Morris indicated she believes most of us didn’t realize that. Solicitor Lyons said he hasn’t prepared a zoning ordinance in thirty years; we have had outside counsel or the County Planning Commission do this. He shared that he has some names of outside Counsel and that is his recommendation. Motion was unanimously approved.

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT: No report.
BOROUGH SOLICITOR: Solicitor Lyons said with regard to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO), he has reviewed this, the engineer has reviewed this, but we are not drafters of a SALDO. His recommendation is that this be reviewed by outside counsel before we go through the process of enacting an ordinance which requires planning commission reviews and public hearings. This should be handled the same as the zoning ordinance amendment just discussed. Manager Lowthert said he would act on the zoning amendment and SALDO at the same time. Solicitor Lyons said at the same time yes, but there would have to be separate public hearings and separate advertisements. He clarified that the same counsel can review both proposed ordinances. Manager Lowthert asked if Council is ok with this being sent to outside counsel for review, upon completion forwarded to the County and Borough Planning Commissions, with our Solicitor preparing and advertising as required under the MPC. Solicitor Lyons said the direction of Council is sufficient, no motion is needed. It was the sense of Council that the SALDO be handled the same as the proposed zoning ordinance amendment.

JUNIOR COUNCILMEMBER: Absent.

OTHER COMMITTEES: Councilmember Frederick reported he has nothing further to report this evening; Stacey Sommerfield provided Council with a great presentation tonight.

Council President Morris said she has nothing new to report for the LDP.

Councilmember Derman said the LNC’s Housing Committee has held one meeting. Currently the LNC Board meets six times a year and that may increase and there may also be work sessions scheduled. A community clean-up was recently held and a live stake planting recently occurred. Ms. Pearson indicated the River Road Holiday is going to be held again this year, on Mother’s Day, with lots of activities.

Barbara Kalin, Shade Tree Commission Chairperson, indicated she is present to ask permission to plant two trees in the LAR Park at St. Mary Street. She provided information showing the locations of the plantings for the Arbor Day observance on Friday, April 27th, which we hope to hold at 11:45 AM. Manager Lowthert reported the STC has discussed this with the BVRA and they are good with the location, as is the Borough staff. The Borough crew isn’t planting these trees as the STC has money in their budget to take care of this. Councilmember Comas said this is the consecutive year for the Borough to observe Arbor Day. Ms. Kalin said this Arbor Day observance is one of the four standards necessary for Lewisburg Borough to meet in order to be deemed a Tree City. There was much discussion. Manager Lowthert said a PA One Call will be placed by the Borough for this planting, as it is Borough property. Ms. Kalin indicated there is a press release, as well as many invitations for this event. There was much discussion.

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derman, to approve the planting of these two trees in the LAR Park in observance of Arbor Day, April 27th, as recommended by the STC. Motion was unanimously approved.

Manager Lowthert indicated he was talking with Ms. Kalin and there were procedural questions raised that need our Solicitor’s input. When the STC meets to review applications, there has been difficulty getting a member to second a motion (or vote) so action can be taken. He knows HARB has a timeframe associated with regard to when action must be taken, is there a timeframe associated with the STC taking action? Solicitor Lyons said currently there is no such thing for the STC. Manager Lowthert said members feel like they don’t have enough information or that they aren’t experienced enough to take action. We need for them to be comfortable taking action on the applications. Solicitor Lyons suggested training and/or an expert’s opinion if it is a serious issue. Ms. Kalin said members are saying they need more information before they can make a decision, and there was discomfort in making a decision that would affect a property owner financially. Manager Lowthert stressed this is part of what you have to do if you agree to serve on the STC; that is your responsibility. Solicitor Lyons said if there are five members and you can’t get a quorum for a vote? This has to be addressed and he doesn’t have a simple solution tonight. We could put something in the ordinance that indicates if no action is taken by the STC, the application is deemed approved, but he will have to research this. It could be as simple as if a member doesn’t want to make a decision, then they need to resign. Councilmember Comas commented the STC will be looking into ways to resolve some of these issues as additional work sessions are scheduled. There was much discussion. Solicitor Lyons said this isn’t the time to address all the issues of the STC, but they will need to be addressed.

There was no report for the Central Keystone-COG.

There was no report for the Community Garden Committee. Council President Morris indicated it is obvious they are extremely busy there.

Councilmember Derman said he thought the MACAC was changed to the Central Susquehanna Fire and Emergency Services Board (CSFESSB), but the transition hasn’t officially happened yet; he will keep Council informed. Mayor Wagner asked the names of the President and Vice President of the new board. Councilman Derman said Daniel Dietrich (Buffalo Township) and David Hassenplug (Kelly Township) respectively.
ANY ADDITIONAL BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL: Councilmember Comas indicated he attended the last BVRPC meeting where there were discussions on the March March for our Lives event; he wants people to know if they want to do anything on Market Street, it is a State road and a PennDOT application is required. He said back in December on Facebook there was an East Buffalo citizens’ group talking about parks, and it occurred to him Facebook may be one way to address all kinds of things, including trees, etc. He is trying to be careful because of the Sunshine Law, but he created a Facebook group called Lewisburg Citizens’ Forum. He isn’t in charge of it and it isn’t reflective of official Lewisburg policy, but he feels it will be useful.

Councilmember Derman asked, as a result of the work session discussions on signs, does this Council wants to allow off-street advertising anywhere in the Borough? Manager Lowthert said the current ordinance prohibits it. Solicitor Lyons said this has been an issue for a very long time and it has to be addressed in some fashion. Councilmember Comas indicated his desire to do what we can to help our businesses and would be in favor of looking into it. Council President Morris indicated the LDP has a Design Committee already working on some way to provide appropriate signage along Market Street for those businesses off Market Street. Councilmember Mahon commented she doesn’t have a problem with a business, like Champion Shoe, placing a directional/informational sign on Market Street, but she does believe the Market Street businesses will have an issue with this as they feel they have to pay for this prime space/location, so why should allow a business off Market Street to place their signs on Market Street. Council President Morris pointed out there are a lot of businesses along the side streets and if we were to allow them all to do this it could mean a lot of signs. There was very much discussion.

WRITTEN REPORTS: Councilmember Mahon made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derman, to acknowledge receipt of the Budget Index, the monthly parking report, the monthly Code Enforcement Officer’s report, and the monthly Zoning Officer’s report. Motion was unanimously approved.

WORK SESSION: Manager Lowthert reported a work session is needed May 8th and there are two topics to choose from. We have the refuse ordinance and the non-discrimination ordinance. The refuse issues basically come down to the amount of trash being put out, so do we want to set a residential limit; and cans being placed at the curbside without lids. The non-discrimination ordinance was discussed at length at the Community Development/Planning Committee meeting and it appears this may be ready for presentation and discussion of Council. Taylor Lightman, a member of AMP, said he is hoping Council will take the non-discrimination ordinance up at the May work session as they are prepared and will distribute their draft ordinance to all members of Council for review. Councilmember Medina said he spoke to Taylor Lightman, addressed some of the concerns expressed at the committee meeting, and that is why we have the draft ordinance ready to go. It was the sense of Council that the non-discrimination ordinance be the topic of discussion at the May work session.

Council President Morris called for a five minute recess at 8:45 PM.

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to hold an executive session on legal matters. Motion was unanimously approved.

Council entered executive session at 8:50 PM. Council returned at 9:30 PM.

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, for the Borough Manager to respond to the letter dated February 28, 2018 from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) in regard to the VanSant Project (FEMA DR-4030-PA-98/PEMA 4030-59-049), indicating that the Borough has elected to repay to PEMA the amount of $9,600.00 deemed to be an ineligible expense under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Comas, to adjourn the meeting. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Garrison
Borough Secretary