

A work session of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held on **Tuesday, August 13, 2013** in the Council Chambers, 55 South Fifth Street. Present: Council President Bergonia; Councilmembers Baker, Casimir, Cox, Mahon, Morris, Robinson and Strosser; Mayor Wagner, Secretary Garrison. Absent: Manager Smith. Also present: Carl Moyer, Dan Remley, Grace Mahon, Olivia Mahon, Devlin Shaw, Susan Warner-Mills, Bill Seigel and Sam Pearson.

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

LEWISBURG NEIGHBORHOODS CORPORATION (LNC) - PRESENTATION:

Samantha Pearson, Elm Street Manager, distributed a document titled, "LNC/Borough Collaboration Model/Scenario Analysis" dated August 2014. She explained the LNC has been in existence for seven years, with operational funding from the State. Various options have been explored for their long term organizational sustainability. The scenario provided is the one the LNC Board wanted presented to Council for consideration. The LNC is seen as a benefit to the Borough and if it would cease to exist when State funding ends, next June 30, 2014, there would be a gap of communications pertaining to neighborhood revitalization. She also distributed an information sheet dated August 13, 2013, which is a summary that shows the LNC Board members, the purpose of the organization, and what they have been doing the past seven years. The desire is to have the LNC be absorbed legally into the Borough, with the Director/Elm Street Manager becoming an employee of the Borough, funded and reviewed by the Borough on year to year basis. She requested the assistance of the Borough in gathering salary information and the proposal is for a part-time employee of 35 hours per week at an hourly rate of \$22.80.

Councilmember Strosser indicated he has a sheet showing numerous pay scenarios. Ms. Pearson said that wasn't provided by the LNC for consideration; we aren't recommending any of those. Councilmember Strosser said you are recommending the 35 hour per week scenario from this sheet. Borough Secretary Garrison explained that was the salary information sheet that was originally provided to Ms. Pearson, which addressed each of the requests she made. Councilmember Casimir asked why the \$11.50 per hour and why the \$22.80 per hour? Borough Secretary Garrison explained that Ms. Pearson initially asked, if this were to be a union position, what the part-time rate be. The rate of \$11.50 per hour is the part time rate outlined in the current union contract for 2014. Councilmember Morris clarified that the \$22.80 per hour is comparable to what is currently being paid. Ms. Pearson said it was determined this should be an administrative position and not a union position.

Councilmember Morris said having been on the LNC now for quite some time, she strongly feels there is a benefit to what this group does. She would not want to see this group disappear. As for a title for this proposed position, she isn't sure about Assistant Manager, but feels the Community Coordinator title might work. Councilmember Strosser said he likes the Community Coordinator title; it is important to have the community involved in what is happening. Councilmember Morris said she doesn't know how many have attended the North Ward meetings, but there is a group of very interested people in that area who want to be involved and really care about what is happening. She supports continuing this position and having a committee or commission that maintains the LNC Board as a group of individuals working as volunteers in the community the way they have been. Mayor Wagner said she echoes the comments just made. Many residents in the Fourth Ward have a voice and they wouldn't have had it not been for this group. She further commented there is an off spring of this coming, and that is the Neighborhood Watch Program in the North Ward as a result of safety concerns.

Councilmember Morris asked Devlin Shaw, a newer member of this community, to share his thoughts with regard to this Board. Mr. Shaw said he moved here three years ago, quickly fell in love with the town, and didn't know how to get more involved. Thanks to Carl Moyer, he was recruited, and now he feels very informed and has had the opportunity to be involved in making things better. Ms. Pearson said Mr. Shaw was instrumental in getting the LNC website up and running.

Susan Warner-Mills said the Bull Run Neighborhood is a good metaphor for what we are all about; initially when we started this, she felt there were mostly students in this area. She ended up being totally stunned at the amount of owner occupied dwellings and just how many people were willing to get together and talk to make a difference in this community.

Dan Remley said this gives a great connectivity for Bucknell University and the students to participate. It is much easier to have something that you can be a part of vs. just go help the town.

Carl Moyer indicated the last 31 years of his working career he was in fundraising and development. He sees the LDP being an extremely strong organization and his

ATTENDANCE

CALL TO ORDER

**LNC
PRESENTATION
(LONG TERM
ORGANIZATIONAL
SUSTAINABILITY)**

**SAMANTHA
PEARSON**

DEVLIN SHAW

**SUSAN WARNER-
MILLS**

DAN REMLEY

CARL MOYER

Tuesday, August 13, 2013

involvement with the LNC has been positive. He really didn't see, from a professional perspective, how there would be money available to pay for this position once State funding ceased. He sees what is being recommended here as being minimally cost invasive. He hopes Council considers this position, that between this position and the Manager's position, we could see possible grant applications that could more than pay for the extra \$32,000.00 being requested to fund this position.

Councilmember Strosser asked Mr. Remley if this idea of a Community Coordinator for the entire Borough vs. one being focused directly with the Bull Run Neighborhood would be viewed by the University. Mr. Remley said he can't speak on behalf of Bucknell University, but the President has mentioned he loves river access, the recreation aspects of the rail/trail, and once all the FEMA/PEMA issues on South Sixth Street are taken care of, the greenway that is envisioned there. Initially it was just about Bull Run, but since the LNC, it has been broader than that. He stated he has a new Joe Snyder, named Jason Cassidy, and he too will be participating. Mr. Remley said if he or Dennis Swank did not have an LNC to go to, then we have less information to bring up and share.

Councilmember Strosser interjected that both Bloomsburg and Danville just recently have hired Assistant Managers and both roles are more community focused, although not quite to the degree we are proposing here.

Mayor Wagner said she views this as a survival tactic for a town like ours.

Councilmember Morris suggested this be sent to Planning Committee and Finance Committee for further review/consideration. She pointed out we are looking at half a year funding for 2014. A job description for this position is needed and she sees this as a blend of LNC's thoughts and Council's thoughts at just how we see this job benefiting the Borough.

Councilmember Casimir said the Borough's other boards, committees and authorities were created by ordinance. Ms. Pearson said this Neighborhood Revitalization Committee would also have to be. She sees the current by-laws being replaced with an ordinance that would incorporate the purpose of the committee/mission statement, number of members, where they would have to live, etc.

There was **much** discussion. Council thanked the LNC for their valued input.

A motion was made by Councilmember Casimir, seconded by Councilmember Strosser, to approve the temporary transfer of monies from the General Fund in the amount of \$17,600.00 to the D.F. Green Recreation Fund due to a shortage, with the understanding this money will be paid back to the General Fund as soon as possible. Motion unanimously approved.

Councilmember Cox asked what the final decision was with regard to the concession stand. Councilmember Strosser said we are holding off on that until we can meet with representatives of the Little League to see how much more work they want to do and how much funding they want to contribute. Council President Bergonia questioned if the concession stand can stay in the condition it is in right now. Councilmember Strosser said yes.

A motion was made by Councilmember Casimir, seconded by Councilmember Cox, to authorize a 10% increase, effective Monday, July 15, 2013 for the Borough Secretary, Accounts Payable/Payroll Clerk and Borough Street Foreman, until such time as the Borough Manager returns to work full-time. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir asked why Bill Seigel is with us this evening. Mr. Seigel stated he is present should there be questions regarding the South Sixth Street Project. There has been a lot of activity, i.e. meetings with property owners, signed sales agreements, title searches, etc. He, along with Teri Provost, will be meeting with Council in executive session at the regular monthly meeting Tuesday, August 20th and at that time we will provide details. Mayor Wagner thanked Mr. Seigel and SEDA-COG for the hard work.

Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to hold an executive session for discussion of a personnel matter. Motion was unanimously approved.

Council entered executive session at 7:40 PM. Council returned at 8:25 PM.

There being no further business, Council President Bergonia adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Garrison, Borough Secretary

LNC PROPOSAL
FORWARDED TO
PLANNING
COMMITTEE AND
FINANCE
COMMITTEE

TEMPORARY
TRANSFER OF
MONIES FROM
GENERAL FUND
TO DF GREEN
FUND DUE TO
SHORTAGE

DF GREEN
CONCESSION
STAND

APPROVAL OF 10% PAY
INCREASE TO
SECRETARY, ACCOUNTS
PAYABLE/
PAYROLL CLERK,
STREET FOREMAN UNTIL
MANAGER RETURNS
FULL-TIME

BRIEF UPDATE ON
SOUTH SIXTH
STREET PROJECT

EXECUTIVE
SESSION ON
PERSONNEL
MATTER

(EXECUTIVE
SESSION)

ADJOURNMENT