The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 in the Council Chambers, 55 South Fifth Street. Present: Council President Bergonia; Councilmembers Baker, Casimir, Cox, Mahon, Morris, Robinson and Strosser; Mayor Wagner; Solicitor Lyons; and Secretary Garrison. Absent: Manager Smith. Also present: Matt Farrand, Evamarie Socha, Bill Seigel and Teri Provost.

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 Cox, to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held July 16, 2013 and the work session held August 13, 2013. Motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

POLICE COMMITTEE: No meeting in August. Chief Yost distributed and reviewed his July 2013 monthly activity report in detail. He pointed out on the time summary report Council will start seeing PPU’s for the Lewisburg Area School District, as they are buying two hours of service per day. Chief Yost reported National Night Out was a huge success and he thanked all those who came out. Mayor Wagner stated it is wonderful how all these law enforcement agencies come together and work with the BVRPD.

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

a. Craig Bennett/43 North Eighth Street/Siding-Windows-Doors. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for miscellaneous renovation work. A motion was made by Mary Mastascusa, seconded by Steve Snook, to recommend the removal of the insul-brick, and the repair and repainting of the original siding, if able to do so, and if not, covering with vinyl smooth siding; windows will be replaced with vinyl one over one windows in the original openings; the roof will be shingled with 50 year architectural shingles; the gutters will be replaced with ½ round gutters; the porch front siding will be replaced with balustrades and the lattice underneath will be synthetic lattice with the same profile; new window openings on the side sleeping porch shall match the front face openings roughly; if there are windows put on the back side sleeping porch. Motion was unanimously approved.

b. Claudia Ebeling/47 South Seventh Street/Fence. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for a fence. A motion was made by Robert Cook, seconded by Mary Mastascusa, to approve the application as detailed in the project description portion of the HARB application. Motion was unanimously approved.

c. Robert Lack/234 Market Street/Signage. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for signage. A motion was made by Ted Strosser, seconded by Elaine Wintjen, to approve moving the existing sign for the swim shop that is currently at 212 Market Street to the new location of this business which is 234 Market Street. Motion was unanimously approved.

d. Jennifer Bair/225 Market Street/Signage. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for signage. A motion was made by Elaine Wintjen, seconded by Steve Snook, to approve placement of a sign, as shown in the attachment to the HARB application. Motion was unanimously approved.

e. Emily Dryden-Peter McNamara/30 South Front Street/Renovations. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for renovation work. A motion was made by Steve Snook, seconded by Robert Cook, to approve the application as detailed in the project description portion of the HARB application, specifically the replacement of the windows being two over two in the original openings. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir reported that East Buffalo Township agreed to proceed with four members and one alternate as the committee composition from each municipality for the Route 15 Traffic Corridor Study Group and the Planning Committee is recommending one Planning Commission member, two Councilmembers, one of those being an alternate, and the Manager and Mayor as our four plus one.

Councilmember Casimir stated we continue to work on our zoning ordinance amendments for off-site parking and granny flats, and hope to bring something before Council soon.

Councilmember Casimir indicated we discussed the proposed Community Coordinator position; we chose not to make an opinion known until we heard more from the Finance Committee.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Councilmember Strosser made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Morris, to authorize the advertisement of the Recycling Center Improvement Project bid. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Strosser explained this was discussed at length and it was decided that we should bid this project to include the paving of the existing recycling center area, and not the expansion area, in order to stay within the grant funding. However, we are also providing an alternate bid for the paving of the expanded area, which will allow the Borough, if the bids come in under budget, to pave the entire Recycling Center.

Councilmember Strosser made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to reject the sole bid for the micro-surfacing of Terrace Drive and Meadow Lane submitted by E.J. Breneman, L.P. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Strosser indicated Borough has decided to reject the sole bid and rebid this work in early spring of 2014 hoping to obtain competitive bids for this project. Motion was unanimously approved.
Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Baker, to award the bid for the repaving of North Second Street to the lowest responsible bidder, Mid-State Paving, in the amount of $13,986.00, subject to receipt of acceptable performance and payment bonds and proper insurance upon review and approval of the Engineer and Solicitor. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Morris, to award the bid for the repaving of St. George Street to the lowest responsible bidder, Eastern Industries, Inc., in the amount of $24,394.00, subject to receipt of acceptable performance and payment bonds and proper insurance upon review and approval of the Engineer and Solicitor. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Strosser indicated these bids combined came in under the estimates provided by Larson Design Group. Motion was unanimously approved.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to approve payment of bills from 07/13/13 through 08/16/13 in the amount of $557,445.31. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir reported the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Department (BVRPD) is entering into a lease agreement with the Housing Authority to commence mid-2014 and we are told there is no financial impact to the Borough for 2013. Any impact to the Borough’s 2014 budget will be shared by the Chief for the upcoming budgeting process.

Councilmember Casimir indicated the CDBG allocation for 2013 has been released and the original amount of $90,000.00 was an estimate; the actual allocation is $94,241.00, which is good news.

Councilmember Casimir indicated the Finance Committee had the opportunity to review a status report for the 2013 General Fund; as we have been told by our Manager numerous times, it is going to be very, very tight. It definitely appears the carryover into 2014 will be an issue, so we are going to have a lot to talk about.

Councilmember Morris asked if there was discussion on the Community Coordinator position. Councilmember Casimir indicated the work session, where this position was presented, was held the day after our Finance Committee meeting; this will be discussed at September’s Finance Committee meeting.

MAYOR: Mayor Wagner said August was an extremely busy month; there was much activity with our new neighborhood, the North Ward, including a meeting where a Neighborhood Watch was discussed. Councilmember Morris said there will be presentation to Council with regard to the Neighborhood Watch in the near future. Mayor Wagner said she is meeting with the Chairman of the Packwood House to see if they will take over the Victorian Parade. She indicated she would like the CATV Advisory Committee to be called together to review the cable franchise agreements with regard to businesses.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: No report.

SOLICITOR: Solicitor Lyons indicated we need to amend Resolution No. 13-03, which was passed at the March meeting, as we need to reauthorize Bill Seigel as our agent to proceed with the two different grant programs, and the amendments will specifically be Resolution No. 13-03A (HMGP) and Resolution No. 13-03B (RFC). He said one motion adopting these resolutions would be appropriate.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Baker, to approve amending of Resolution No. 13-03, by creating Resolution 13-03A, authorizing William C. Seigel to execute for and on behalf of the Borough all required forms and documents for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Resolution 13-03B, authorizing William C. Seigel to execute for and on behalf of the Borough all required forms and documents for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance for the Repetitive Flood Claims Grant Program. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Baker questioned why we are doing this. Bill Seigel said we are dealing with FEMA and PEMA. Although the resolution was adopted by this Council in March and followed verbatim their model resolution, it did not have a square around the certification section and the paper is different from theirs. Motion to adopt Resolutions 13-03A and 13-03B, amending Resolution No. 13-03, was unanimously approved.

MANAGER: Council President Bergonia reported that Kelly Township provided mowing services to the Borough in July along the stream bank at Wolf Field using their radial arm mower. As a form of mutual aid, the Manager is proposing the Borough provide pesticide spraying services to Kelly Township, as they currently do not have anyone licensed to perform this work. Again, Kelly Township would be paying for the materials; this is simply the Borough basically repaying Kelly Township for services provided.

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OTHER COMMITTEES: Council President Bergonia indicated in about two more weeks the pool will be closing and then we will have doggy dips. He is pleased to share that the Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority (BVRec) is doing well financially this year.

Councilmember Morris reported there is nothing new to report with regard to the LDP; they are very involved with their capital campaign.

There was no Town and Gown Committee meeting.

Councilmember Morris stated the LNC is extremely busy and there are lots of activities coming up. There is a Welcome to the Neighborhood event for students Tuesday, September 3rd at 7 PM at Zelda’s. There is an ice cream social on Tuesday, August 27th at 5:30 PM in the pocket park next to the cemetery. Chief Yost said Monday, August 26th from noon to 5 PM is the Welcome to the Neighborhood event for Bucknell University’s freshmen downtown.

Councilmember Casimir stated our STC continues their work on delinquencies. We also are dealing with people that continue to remove the Borough’s shade trees without a permit. The STC hired someone to start working on the Emerald Ash Bore Plan and this person actually received some training from a Harrisburg Forester.

Council President Bergonia indicated the CK-COG is busy inspecting all the rental properties.

Councilmember Morris stated the Community Garden is doing great. They have asked for help in the garden Wednesday and Thursday from 5 PM to 7 PM, with a Happy Hour occurring at 7 PM on Thursday. There are plans for a formal community garden dinner, approximately $50/person, to be held outside using Bucknell University’s tents, tables, plates, etc. on Sunday, September 22nd. There is the annual potluck dinner on Saturday, September 28th, and there is a Zombie Run to be held on Saturday, October 19th.

Councilmember Strosser reported there was no Traffic Advisory Committee last month.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilmember Strosser indicated the Bicentennial Bison Project is moving right along; tomorrow night there is a Chamber event at Parkview and our bison will be on display.

Bill Seigel stated it was reported by the Finance Committee that the actual CDBG allocation is higher than the estimate. It would be appropriate for Council to make a motion allocating these funds since the dollar amount changed; he will then take this to the County Commissioners. The allocation is $77,281.00 to the South Sixth Street Project and $16,960.00 for administrative services. Also, at Council’s September 17th meeting he will provide a resolution for enactment of Council, as well as signature documents, for the re-designation of Sixth Street as a slum and blight area for reinvestment of CDBG funding. This must be done every ten years and we will work to get this approved as part of the 2013 application. The six block area from Market Street to St. George Street, and from Fifth Street to Seventh Street, was designated as an area of disinvestment in the Borough because of the condition of the infrastructure, so the neighborhood qualified as a potential slum and blight neighborhood under the U.S. Department of Housing Urban Development criteria, qualifying the use of 100% of your funds in that neighborhood without having to document a benefit to low and moderate income persons. This is how you have done projects on those streets the past several years.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Baker, to accept the 2013 allocation of CDBG funding in the amount of $77,281.00 for the South Sixth Street Project, with $16,960.00 for SEDA-COG’s administrative services (total amount $94,241.00). Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir reported he finally spoke to a representative of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. After checking out the Buffalo Creek bank, it appears a modified mud sill would be appropriate and there is a grant that covers this type of work, specifically an NPC Stream Restoration Grant. He will be contacting Shannon Stamm, the Union County Environmental Coordinator, to gather more information so we can proceed.

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 indicated there will be a work session in September to begin the 2014 budgeting process.
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Council President Bergonia called for a ten minute recess at 7:35 PM.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to hold an executive session for discussion of the South Sixth Street Demolition/Real Estate Update, as well as a personnel issue. Motion was unanimously approved.

Council entered executive session at 7:45 PM. Council returned at 9:20 PM.

There being no further business, Councilmember Strosser made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cox, to adjourn the meeting. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Garrison
Borough Secretary