The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 in the Council Chambers, 55 South Fifth Street. Present: Council President Bergonia; Councilmembers Casimir, Cox, Mahon, Morris and Strosser; Mayor Wagner; Solicitor Lyons, Manager Smith and Secretary Garrison. Councilmember Robinson arrived at 7:10 PM. Absent: Councilmember Baker. Also present: Tom Egan, Douglas DelBure, Andrew Howard-Johnson, Glen Morisano, Sam Ferebec, Dylan turner, Sean Sherkey, Margaret Stockdale, Rachel Franza, Kelsea Alderman, Henry S. Gabriel, Robert Winter, Chris Mander, Chris Brown, Sam Davidson, Emily Partridge, Vince Fasanello, Chad Janicki, Hugo McMenamin, Matt Farrand.

**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 Casimir, seconded by Councilmember Strosser, to approve the minutes of the regular council meeting held September 17, 2013. Motion was unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Council President Bergonia stated he will allow public participation during the discussion of the proposed social gathering ordinance.

**CONDITIONAL USE/PUBLIC HEARINGS:** Council President Bergonia adjourned the regular order of business to conduct two (2) conditional use hearings for the properties known as 638 Market Street and 700 Market Street. He called the public hearing to order at 7:05 PM.

Matt Sauers, the Zoning Officer, suggested this hearing be continued until next month as the Planning Commission did not have the adequate materials to review.

Council President Bergonia asked if there is anyone that would like to speak regarding these two properties. No one wished to speak. Council President Bergonia declared the conditional use public hearing closed at 7:05 PM. He reconvened to the regular order of business.

Councilmember Strosser made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, that the conditional use hearings for the properties known as 638 Market Street and 700 Market Street be continued until the November 19th meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

**POLICE COMMITTEE:** Councilmember Mahon reported the Police Committee met in October. Manager Smith stated the Chief indicated he would prefer not to review the monthly report line by line, but would simply distribute for Council review and should there be questions, he would be happy to address them. Chief Yost distributed his September 2013 monthly activity report.

Councilmember Mahon made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strosser, to direct the Solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance eliminating one-way traffic on Cherry Alley between North Fifth Street and Raspberry Alley. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Casimir said this was discussed a few months ago. Manager Smith looking at notes seconded. It was sent back to Traffic Committee for further consideration and this was the recommendation they were comfortable bringing before the Police Committee. Mayor Wagner indicated the Traffic Committee felt this was the best way to get people around to the parking area, especially on event days. Councilmember Casimir said it seems like a solution in search of a problem, so he will vote against this. Councilmember Strosser said only people in the know will do this, but now it can be done legally without people going out onto Market Street. Councilmember Morris asked if that alley is wide enough for two cars. Chief Yost said no, but it is only about 120 to 150 feet from the alley to Fifth Street and you can see if anybody is coming that short distance. Motion was approved with two dissenting votes; Councilmembers Casimir and Morris voted no.

Mayor Wagner reported the Police Committee is recommending the creation of an ordinance dealing with social gatherings; nothing has been prepared as we are currently looking at options and seeking input from others. Councilmember Casimir asked if there is a minimum number for these social gatherings; he sees in the draft of Bloomsburg’s document that they set the number at 150. Chief Yost said yes, that number would be determined by Council, but that is the idea. We would like to have knowledge of the gathering, have control over the gathering, and make the people having the gathering be responsible so it doesn't get out of hand. A member of the public asked for an outline of what is being proposed. Chief Yost indicated we only have samples from other municipalities that we are reviewing at present. Mayor Wagner said when we have something, we will share it. Council is very thorough when considering ordinances like this. Chief Yost reiterated we are simply looking to have some sort of control to better regulate that party atmosphere with safety being the key driving factor. Concerns to be addressed when looking at large numbers of people would be bathroom facilities, security, as in monitoring the age of those attending because there may be alcohol there, and his ability to have adequate staffing levels in place, etc. Also, there have been properties in this Borough where we had to close a house because of damages to the
Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for façade work. A motion was made by Elaine Wintjen, to recommend approval of the placement of an awning as stated in the project description section of the HARB application. Motion was unanimously approved.

c. Expectations Women’s Center/9 North Third Street/Awning. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for the placement of an awning. A motion was made by Ted Strosser, seconded by Elaine Wintjen, to recommend approval of the placement of an awning as stated in the project description section of the HARB application. Motion was unanimously approved.

d. Beaver Memorial United Methodist Church/42 South Third Street/Renovations. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for renovation work. A motion was made by Phoebe Faden, seconded by Elaine Wintjen, to recommend approval of the renovations as stated in the project description section of the HARB application. Motion was unanimously approved.

e. Todd Kramer-Matt Dewing (Sweet Frog)/328 Market Street/Façade Work. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for façade work. A motion was made by Robert Cook, seconded by Elaine Wintjen, to approve Option B of the documents distributed with the addition of an EIFS cornice on the top of the building. Motion was approved, with one abstention. (Ted Strosser abstained from voting.)

f. Mark Spiro-Elizabeth Durden/738 Market Street/Porch-Mud Room. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for the placement of a wraparound porch and mud room. A motion was made by Elaine Wintjen, seconded by Mary Mastascusa, to recommend approval of the work as noted in the project description section of the HARB application and as shown on the diagrams attached to same. Motion was approved, with one abstention. (Ted Strosser abstained from voting.)

Manager Smith said he needs clarification on the make-up of the Route 15 Traffic Corridor Study Group. We didn’t allow room for an individual that has expressed an interest in serving. Councilmember Casimir explained that Kim Wheeler has been involved with the Route 15 Corridor from the beginning, is a professional planner, and she would like to serve. If we want to create a spot for her, we need to make a new motion, and he reminded Council that we have an agreement with East Buffalo Township that it can only be four members and an alternate. It was the sense of Council that a new motion should be made.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to change the composition of the Route 15 Corridor Study Group as follows: Mayor, Manager, a Planning Commission member, a Councilmember, and an at-large Borough resident, one of whom will be designated to be an alternate. ON THE QUESTION: Council President Bergonia indicated the members specifically are: Mayor Wagner, Manager Smith, Planning Commission Chairwoman Stacy Hinck, Councilmember Strosser and Borough resident at-large Kim Wheeler, with Manager Smith being designated as the alternate. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir indicated an executive session is needed on a legal matter involving Borough property.

Tuesday, October 15, 2013 foundation and inside structure of the building due to the weight. If an application/notice has to be given for a social gathering to be held, this paperwork would give the name of the person responsible so if there were an issue, he would know exactly who they would need to contact. Councilmember Morris stressed the Police only become involved if there were a problem. Manager Smith gave an example; you register for a party of 75 people and 200 people show up. Nobody cares as long as there isn’t an issue; however, if there is an issue, that application/notice is the tool that gives the Police the right to say you agreed to 75 and you have too many. Mayor Wagner said this is something Council has looked into numerous times before; unfortunately we haven’t been able to agree on the specifics; now we are looking at it again. Chief Yost stressed we are not here to try to eliminate what occurs, as there is a good social interaction of the off-campus community; 90% of the time there are no issues, but when there are issues, sometimes they are serious issues and we must protect ourselves. An example would be if there was a party and a floor collapsed with kids being injured. One of the first things a parent would say would be how could they have been allowed to have so many kids in that house? The Borough must have measures in place to protect everyone. There was much discussion. It was determined that the student body present would elect three or four people to represent their concerns and these representatives should feel free to attend the next Police Committee meeting scheduled November 5th at 5 PM at which time this will be discussed further.

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

a. Daniel J. Rheam/110 Market Street/Replace Roof Shingles. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for replacement of roof shingles. A motion was made by Mary Mastascusa, seconded by Robert Cook, to recommend approval of the use of architectural shingles. (Note: HARB determined that the slate shingles were not a defining feature of the building.) Motion was unanimously approved.

b. Don Reichenbach/114 North Third Street/Replacement Windows. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for replacement windows. A motion was made by Kim Walter, seconded by Robert Cook, to recommend approval of replacement windows as stated in the project description section of the HARB application, with the condition the replacement windows be the same size with exterior divided light. Motion was unanimously approved.

c. Expectations Women’s Center/9 North Third Street/Awning. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for the placement of an awning. A motion was made by Ted Strosser, seconded by Elaine Wintjen, to recommend approval of the placement of an awning as stated in the project description section of the HARB application. Motion was unanimously approved.

d. Beaver Memorial United Methodist Church/42 South Third Street/Renovations. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for renovation work. A motion was made by Phoebe Faden, seconded by Elaine Wintjen, to recommend approval of the renovations as stated in the project description section of the HARB application. Motion was unanimously approved.

e. Todd Kramer-Matt Dewing (Sweet Frog)/328 Market Street/Façade Work. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for façade work. A motion was made by Robert Cook, seconded by Elaine Wintjen, to approve Option B of the documents distributed with the addition of an EIFS cornice on the top of the building and getting rid of the existing peak. Motion was unanimously approved.

f. Mark Spiro-Elizabeth Durden/738 Market Street/Porch-Mud Room. An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for the placement of a wraparound porch and mud room. A motion was made by Elaine Wintjen, seconded by Mary Mastascusa, to recommend approval of the work as noted in the project description section of the HARB application and as shown on the diagrams attached to same. Motion was approved, with one abstention. (Ted Strosser abstained from voting.)

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Councilmember Casimir commented last spring Council was asked to vote on spending $4,000.00 for design work to rip-rap Buffalo Creek. He asked for time to investigate other alternatives and he contacted Shannon Stamm, Union County Conservation District, then Jason Fallon of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, then Dave Keller of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and the Renee Kerry of the North Central Pennsylvania Conservancy. He is happy to announce that today we almost completed log cribbing and rock reinforcement to stabilize our stream bank. We improved upon an existing recreational facility and created wildlife habitat at almost a zero cost to the Borough. The work will continue and hopefully be completed tomorrow.

Councilmember Casimir stated we continue to work on amendments to the zoning ordinance for off-site parking and granny flats. Proposed amendments were sent to the Zoning Officer, the Union County Planning Commission, and our Planning Commission. Our Planning Commission had extensive comments, so he will continue to rewrite the amendments taking into account the concerns raised. He hoped to have this done before he left Council, but given the advertising requirements, etc. it is not going to happen.

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

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Robinson, to approve payment of bills from 09/14/13 through 10/11/13 in the amount of $1,156,721.21. Motion was unanimously approved.

Manager Smith reminded Council the Borough received monies for the Repetitive Flood Claim Grant and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Solicitor Lyons stated we concluded our first three settlements yesterday. Manager Smith indicated demolition is hopefully going to occur around the first week of December.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strosser, to approve J.H. Williams & Company, LLP, Certified Public Accountants, to conduct the annual audit for the Fiscal Year 2013 in the amount of $10,000.00, as well as prepare all quarterly taxing forms for Fiscal Year 2014 in the amount of $2,080.00. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Casimir indicated at the advice of Councilmember Baker, who has an accounting background, we had talked last year about the benefits of changing our accounting firm as a general practice. Due to the Manager’s recent absence, and the fact J.H. Williams is located in Wilkes-Barre and no one here has any personal relationship with them of any kind, we decided we were comfortable with them performing our audit for another year. Manager Smith pointed out the amounts being charged are exactly the same as last year. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion to approve the reallocation of $1095.00 in 2011 CDBG funding from improvements to the Union/Snyder Adult Daily Living Center to the Sixth Street Project (2011 project abandoned by the Area Agency on Aging). Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to approve an increase of $1.50 per month to the residential refuse rate, making a flat fee of $58.50 per quarter, and an increase of $1.50 per yard for bulk containers for commercial and industrial establishments effective January 1, 2014, ON THE QUESTION: Manager Smith reminded everyone that 2014 will only show three quarters of the increase, not a full year of the new rate, because the first quarterly billing of 2014 is for the last quarter of 2013. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Morris, to direct the Solicitor to draft a resolution to reflect the increase in refuse fees as approved by Council. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cox, to direct the Manager to proceed with the 2014 budget preparations based on a two mill increase, as recommended by the Finance Committee. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Casimir reported the Finance Committee closely reviewed all funds for next year. Our Manager has indicated he needs to know what the millage increase should be so he can proceed with budget preparations. After a review, the Finance Committee recommends a 2 mill increase to the General Fund, bringing it to 8.98 mills. Manager Smith said everyone has paperwork showing an increase of 1.2 and 3 mills. Also provided are yearend figures, as well as averages. Councilmember Morris asked if we captured that first quarterly payment for the Police in the budget before us. Manager Smith said no. Councilmember Casimir indicated that is part of the reason behind the Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN); it is our hope that is over the next couple of years we can get ourselves over this hump so we don’t find ourselves having to come up with an extra $100,000.00 at the end of each year. Manager Smith pointed out he lowered the building fund transfers, thinking if we do any improvements to this building we will do it using our manpower. Mayor Wagner said to raise our millage is a decision made with a lot of blood, sweat and tears; unfortunately this Borough is built up and there is nowhere else to get money. Everything is going up and the only way to finance services for this Borough is to raise taxes. Councilmember Cox pointed out over the last few years we have had
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minimal millage increases. Councilmember Morris commented we have had years with no millage increases. Manager Smith reminded Council of the approximate $60,000.00 to BVRec, which is now being paid back monthly over the next several years. He stressed 42% of this Borough is exempt from taxes. A mill to this Borough is $176,000.00. There was much discussion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir indicated the Finance Committee discussed the towing that occurs during leaf/snow removal season. Manager Smith explained the Borough’s towing needs are not the same as the Police Department’s towing needs. The Police have a requirement for proper impoundment, security, lighting, etc. which affects the cost of towing. The Borough tows vehicles that people need for work, so they get picked up rather quickly. The Finance Committee, as a result of an individual’s complaint about the towing cost, wants to rewrite the Request for Qualifications to address the Borough’s needs. Mayor Wagner stated she feels strongly that vehicles should not be towed out of town, be stored in a place that is someone protected, and be where there is someone to needs. Mayor Wagner stated she feels strongly that vehicles should not be towed out of town, be stored in a place that is someone protected, and be where there is someone to

requirements.

MAYOR: Mayor Wagner said she attended the 35th Anniversary Program for the Small Business Development Center of Bucknell University, which was attended by Secretary Walker of DCED. Lewisburg was publicly recognized as a model community and the executive assistant, Michael Cortez, then met with our Manager. Manager Smith reported the Borough already is doing what DCED is advocating. Mayor Wagner indicated she presented a proclamation at the 25th Anniversary event of the Merrill Lynn Conservancy, spoke at the Stop the Hate Rally, and will be presiding over a wedding on Saturday.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Council President Bergonia reminded everyone Halloween is Thursday, October 31st and Trick or Treating is 6 to 9 PM.

SOLICITOR: Solicitor Lyons said in order to proceed with the Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN), he needs authorization of Council to prepare the necessary resolution and coordinate with the Manager on all other actions required to acquire this loan. Councilmember Casimir indicated the Manager has recommended the TRAN amount be $750,000.00. The interest rate on this Note is the same whether it is $100,000.00 or $750,000.00. Manager Smith explained it will operate like a line of credit, whereby you pay interest only on the amount of money you draw upon. Solicitor Lyons reported the Borough hasn’t done a TRAN since 1985, so he needs to contact DCED regarding the advertising requirements, etc. Since this Note isn’t needed until January, there is adequate time for him to investigate.

Manager Smith said last month Council approved the Land Development Plan for the Jersey Shore State Bank (JSSB). One of the conditions was the installation of sidewalks, at the discretion of the borough. The Manager reported he met with the County Planning Director, two PennDOT representatives, and the Borough Engineer. PennDOT has expressed their concern because the Borough participated in a Route 15 Corridor Study, which called for sidewalks on both sides of Route 15 and now the Borough has had a Land Development Plan presented and we didn’t require sidewalk installation at the time of the construction, which is one of the biggest recommendations of the study. We did share the same sidewalk requirement for Dunkin Donuts, and that was before the Route 15 Corridor Study. Recognizing we were requiring sidewalks, but simply at a later date, he felt compelled to share the feedback he received with Council. Councilmember Cox said we are going to require sidewalks, just not now. Councilmember Casimir said he doesn’t want to be controlled by PennDOT, but the County Planning Director made some good points, i.e. if the property changes hands over the years, how much more difficult it would be to enforce the sidewalk issue. These are two big developments right next to each other, so we could make this the anchor of our Route 15 Corridor with sidewalks. Solicitor Lyons confirmed that if there is a condition on a plan, it is enforceable. Manager Smith said yes, but this Borough currently has a legal suit against another property that such.
was developed twenty years ago saying you could only have 23 cars on this lot. Solicitor Lyons interrupted and said that is different as we are saying we reserve the right to require installation of sidewalks at our discretion. Manager Smith commented he is taking some heat from the professionals, as they feel if we do not do it now, we are not going to. Again, he felt it was important to bring this feedback to Council for consideration. Councilmember Casimir said if we are going to require JSSB to do it now, then we need to require Dunkin Donuts to do it now. Manager Smith agreed. Mayor Wagner asked the Planning Commission’s feelings. Mr. Egan said he can’t speak for the Planning Commission, but feels if we do the sidewalks, we should be saying to PennDOT that intersection needs attention. Manager Smith said PennDOT is not going to touch that intersection, it is out of their right-of-way, and it is a Borough street. They have also said part of the reason it is dangerous is because the stop bar is so far out. With the new building the slope will be eliminated, so we should be able to move the stop bar back, which will give a nice connection right into Dunkin Donuts. Councilmember Strosser stressed for the people walking there already, the sidewalks will make it safer for them. Councilmember Casimir this would be very forward looking, as it will probably be another 50 years before this corridor has trees and sidewalks and will look like Market Street; he views this as an opportunity. He questioned the arrangement the Borough has with Dunkin Donuts. Manager Smith said our approval to Dunkin Donuts was conditioned upon meeting the engineer’s recommendation, which was that they install sidewalks at the direction of Council. Solicitor Lyons suggested we send a letter asking that they do this before we demand they do this. There was much discussion.

Manager Smith indicated the parking meters will be covered during the Holiday Season beginning Friday, November 29, 2013 through Wednesday, January 1, 2014. He reported the Sunset Rotary is contributing toward the purchase of the bags this year.

**OTHER COMMITTEES:** Council President Bergonia indicated the pool has been closed and the Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority (BVRec) is working on their budget for 2014. Manager Smith reported, along with the Shade Tree Commission, is working on the ash trees. He approached this with the thought that as the trees die he will simply deal with them, thinking they aren’t going to all die at the same time. Unfortunately they are, so we need to be proactive. Councilmember Casimir explained the STC is working on a plan, as part of a grant, and we have assessed our ash trees, determined which ones need immediate attention, and how we can possibly do waves of removals to avoid huge expenses in one year. He explained these trees come down dangerously and people have been killed by falling ash trees. Councilmember Casimir said there was a press release put out by the BVRec that there will be two public meetings scheduled in the next month to discuss the fate of the Borough’s tennis courts. The Manager is looking at some grant opportunities through the State, and he is looking into some grant opportunities through the United States Tennis Association (USTA). Anyone interested in tennis should be in attendance at these meetings.

Councilmember Morris reported there is nothing new to report on the LDP.

Mayor Wagner commented the Town and Gown Committee did not meet this month.

Councilmember Morris stated there is nothing new to report on the LNC. Mayor Wagner commented there have been some North Ward Neighborhood meetings for the Crime Watch Group and the LNC participated in the Woolly Worm Festival.

Councilmember Casimir stated the STC is very busy as we decided the main planting should occur in the fall vs. Arbor Day in the spring when things are so busy and hectic for the Borough. We will be planting about 20 trees in the next month, as well as doing some removal and major pruning jobs throughout the Borough. Councilmember Mahon asked where the plantings will be. Councilmember Casimir said in Kidsburg, to replace some trees that were removed, along Fourth Street, as we didn’t get all the planting done last year, and also on Seventh Street, where trees had been damaged and/or died. Council previously talked about having various boards, commissions and authorities report back to Council at work sessions and the STC’s idea is that they be grouped for brainstorming purposes. An example would be for the STC, the Traffic Committee and the Planning Commission to meet at the same time, as they have overlapping missions.

A member of the public asked if trees could be planted in the area of the Lewisburg Cemetery. Councilmember Casimir indicated that is a private organization and private property where real estate is super valuable. Our STC actually suggested the planting of memorial trees, but nothing ever happened.
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Council President Bergonia indicated the CK-COG remains very busy; the annual reorganizational meeting was held and the executive committee seats expiring are represented by East Buffalo Township and Lewisburg Borough.

Councilmember Morris stated the Community Garden is having their Zombie Run this Saturday from 2 PM to 6 PM.

Mayor Wagner said the Traffic Advisory Committee discussed safe routes to school. A citizen was present requesting a three-way stop sign at South Fourth Street and St. George Street, which will be studied. Manager Smith indicated the Chief reported there was a five year review of that intersection and no accidents were reported.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilmember Casimir said he will be sending out, in anticipation of the reorganization meeting in January, the annual review for the Manager. Please fill this out and return as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

WRITTEN REPORTS: Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, 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 November for continuing 2014 budget discussion.

Council President Bergonia called for a five minute recess at 9:10 PM.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Morris, to hold an executive session for discussion of a legal matter involving Borough property. Motion was unanimously approved.

Council entered executive session at 9:15 PM. Council returned at 9:30 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 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Garrison
Borough Secretary