

BOROUGH OF LEHIGHTON

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MUNICIPAL BUILDING, P.O. BOX 29, LEHIGHTON, PA 18235



April 6, 2026

RE: Lehigh Borough Council Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2026

CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

Mayor Saunders presented an award to Mr. Clair Breiner as serving as Crossing Guard for 26 years.

ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of Lehigh Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday March 2, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Dave Zimmerman. Council Members in attendance were: Grant Hunsicker, Dave Arndt, Rebecca Worthy, Jordyn Miller, Steve Hawk, and Joe Flickinger. There were no Council Members absent. Officials in attendance were: Mayor Ryan Saunders, Borough Manager Dane DeWire, Assistant Borough Manager Brooke Lichtenwalter, Borough Secretary Jessica Ahner, Solicitor James Nanovic, Borough Engineer Vanessa Nedrick, Police Chief Troy Abelovsky, Fire Chief Patrick Mriss, Light & Power Superintendent Barry Fisher, Public Works Superintendent Kris Kunkle, Recreation Director Tom Evans, and Junior Councilperson Reagan Abelovsky. There were no Borough Officials absent.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT

Nick Catania of 164 South 1st Street spoke about a form he was looking for events. Miller said we did have one drafted but never finalized anything. He also was disappointed on what he saw last month about the event that was presented by Manessa Strohlein's "Krampusnacht Event." He said it brought in a substantial amount of people and funds for gifts for Children in Youth and was very good for community last year. Mayor Saunders said Mr. Flickinger addressed the event being unsafe where it was being held and Henninger said at last meeting they are going to Mahoning Township. Mayor Saunders said they can come back to renegotiate with better answers to the concerns.

Stephen Ebbert of 221 South 9th Street there to represent LDI and Lehigh Valley #1 Social Club his event for July 26, 2026 of the LDI Parade in Celebration of America 250 called . He is looking to co-host the event. They are looking at floats representing the Constitution of the United States. Event will be from 8 am to 3 pm. After parade, event continues to the Recreation Center on a Festival until 10 pm. Worthy asked if they planned to have a beer garden on sight. Ebbert replied that may be on LDI's application. He does not plan on beer garden, rather having an open house at Fire Company.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Flickinger noted about posting on agenda going into executive session for a generalization posting of personnel and not being more specific. There was discussion about this and determined that it was legal to do this in generalization. Flickinger referenced the case Reading Eagle Co. v Council of Reading.

DA/RW motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of February 2, 2026 and Special Meeting minutes of February 12, 2026 and 6 were in favor, Joe Flickinger opposed. 6-1

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DeWire said we have a \$1M piece of equipment waiting to be purchased with only \$318K ready to be applied to purchased and the rest will need to be financed. He spoke to USDA with a rate of 4.99% and can also do the 2% from state but the application takes approximately 6 months to process. JTNB can provide us with a 4.49% rate. DeWire said he thinks our best option is to go with JTNB with a \$200K down payment at 4.49% and 2% interest for 1/3 of state financing. Flickinger asked when the payments would start. DeWire said when we sign paperwork. JF/SH motioned to finance the new pumper truck with JTNB with a \$200K down payment at 4.49% and 2% interest for 1/3 of state financing and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

Mayor Saunders said the updated snow emergency routes are in you packet and ready to be advertised for Ordinance. JF/RW motioned to advertise the updated snow emergency Ordinance as presented and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

Mayor Saunders said that there is a posting in your packet that was scheduled by Chief Abelovsky for a meeting with Weissport. This is a memo of points discussed at meeting. Mayor, Chief and Flickinger spoke their opinion. JF/SH motioned to decline the Police Service request in Weissport and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

Flickinger said Weissport Borough currently owes Lehighon Borough \$406,822.23 he would not want to add any fees to the amount. He asked Solicitor Nanovic if there was anything to do. Flickinger asked if the money would come from the Borough or Weissport Sewer Authority. Solicitor Nanovic said it would be calling a meeting with Council and seeing what you can come up with. DeWire said he will see what he can find out why the payments stopped and what else transpired. He will bring this information to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

DeWire explained he didn't have the fee schedule completed and Evans wanted to change some rates before I do that. Evans spoke about changing rates for parks and pool. Prices for parks \$150.00 rental fee and for pool \$300 for 30 guests and \$400 for 50. SH/JF motioned for 6th and coal and Baer Memorial pavilion fee of \$150 for Parks and at pool \$300 for 30 people and \$400 for 50 people and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

Evans added that he would like to open the pool to Slatington, Tamaqua, etc. Zimmerman said the discussion is tabled until next month.

DeWire said we are registered with Costars for 2026/2027. Ahner completed in January.

DeWire reported that for the 2025 PMEA electric rate study Lehighon's current residential rate is \$178/MWH and commercial rate is \$275.4/MWH. He then noted Lehighon residential rates are 5.15% under Eastern PA average, 8.30% above the PA average, and 18.17 under PPL rates. The commercial rates are 8.57% under Eastern PA average, 6.98% above PA average, and 12.92% above PPL rates. Flickinger thanked DeWire for the update.

Arndt requested to be added to agenda for discussion of having twice a month meetings. There was discussion amongst Council. Arndt said he suggested the second meeting so things get processed quickly. Hawk said we do have the ability of scheduling a Special Meeting. There was more discussion. Hunsicker said it would cost more a meeting. DeWire said it will not cost anymore money. SH/RW motioned to have meetings twice a month and 3 were in favor and 4 opposed. Motion was not passed.

There was discussion on non-emergency odd-even parking. Mayor Saunders explained it would go by the day so roads can be plowed. Hunsicker thinks we have too many cars on streets to do this. Worthy said there are way too many cars on 4th Street. No motion was made.

SH/GH motioned to approve extension letter for Armin Feldman lot consolidation at the recommendation of planning commission and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/RW motioned to approve extension letter for Ford Relocation consolidation at the recommendation of planning commission and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

SH/GH motioned to approve LASD's Commencement Motorcade with road closure on Monday, June 8, 2026 at 6 pm and all were in favor with no objections or questions. 7-0

SH/GH motioned to approve Carbon County Art League and Lehighon Parks and Recreation's Art in the Park on Saturday, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, and October 10, 2026 from 9 am to 5 pm and all were in favor with no objections or questions. 7-0

RW/JF motioned to approve Whippin' Waters Lure Company's Kids Fishing Derby on May 31, 2026 from 8 am to 8 pm at the Baer Memorial Park and Pavilion and Lehighon Borough will waive the \$150.00 application fee and all were in favor with no objections or questions. 7-0 Question were asked by Flickinger if permission from Fish and Boat Commission. He has all documentations he needs, Hawk thought this is a great idea but wanted to know how he stops public from fishing there too. The game Commission marks everything off and shuts down to public. His brother died and its named after his brother Joe Hunsicker. David Hunsicker spoke a little more about the event. Worthy then amended motion to include waiving the \$150.00 Lehighon Borough application fee.

JF/SH motioned to table the Parks and Recreation Block Party on Saturday, July 4, 2026 from 2 pm to 10 pm until next month meeting for more information and all were in favor with no objections or questions. 7-0

SH/JF motioned to approve the Lehigh Fire Co. No 1 and LDI's 'Small Town, Big Story' America 250 Celebration Parade with road closures on September 26, 2026 from 8 am to 3 pm. Celebration continues at the Grove and Recreation Center until 10 pm and all were in favor with no objections or questions. 7-0 Worthy asked if there was plans on a beer garden? Ebbert said it may be on LDI's application.

SH/GH motioned to approve \$50 donation for Carbon County Sports Hall of Fame Ad for 2026 and all were in favor with no objections or questions. 7-0

SH/GH motioned to appoint Valerie Bennett to fill Parks and Recreation's one-year term vacancy at the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board and all were in favor with no objections or questions. 7-0

RW/JF motioned to hire candidate #1 as Lineman Helper at the recommendation of the Hiring Committee, pending pre-employment requirements and all were in favor with no objections or questions. 7-0

JF/SH motioned to accept Civil Service Commission's List of Candidates for Patrol Officer and all were in favor with no objections or questions. 7-0

RW/DA motioned to pay Treasurer and Assistant Borough Manager \$2500.00 on extra work they did and 6 were in favor and Joe Flickinger opposed. 6-1

SH/DA motioned to amend agenda to include discussion on the Borough Manager Employment Agreement and 6 were in favor and Joe Flickinger opposed. 6-1

DeWire said that his Agreement was the same as when he was hired in August of 2023.

SH/DA motioned to approve Borough Manager's Employment Agreement that was voted on at the December 2025 meeting and 6 were in favor and Joe Flickinger opposed. 6-1 Flickinger requested a copy of Agreement.

OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

President of Council – Nothing to report.

Borough Manager – DeWire said nothing additional to report if anyone had questions on report to let him know.

Borough Engineer – Nedrick said nothing additional to report if anyone had questions on report to let her know.

Solicitor – Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Paper Report provided. Additional Bills Report provided.

Mayor – Mayor said he has been working with Chief on Candidates and background checks to hopefully select the right candidate.

Police Chief – Paper Report Provided. Performing background checks for new Patrolman. Flickinger gave his opinion on other municipalities Police Department's compared to Leighton and number of officers employed.

Fire Chief – Paper report provided. Chief Mriss said we invested to secure the new apparatus.

Light & Power Superintendent – Paper report provided. Fisher reported working on relay upgrade.

Public Works Superintendent – Kunkle reported they took possession of the new truck and took DeWire for a ride. DeWire recommended Kunkle buy a radio for the truck and DeWire noted he is working on a state level to trying to secure funds for new digital. Kunkle suggested we put the old truck on Municibid. He also said he has an employee doing state inspection duties that I want to know if he can be compensated. DeWire told him to get everyone's signature of approval to pay the employee additional for those hours.

Recreation Director – Not Present.

Junior Councilperson – Reagan reported at the school board meeting February 23, 2026 the school district was awarded \$230,000 from PennDOT's Automated Program to be used on intersections. There still has been no action on 9th Street traffic light project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Administration – Jordyn Miller, Chair; Steve Hawk, Co-Chair. Miller had nothing to report. Flickinger disagreed with Borough Manager Employee Agreement and wanted to have discussions. Council suggested to amend agenda.

Economic Development, Buildings and Codes – Steve Hawk, Chair; Rebecca Worthy, Co-Chair – Hawk and Worthy reported they met with Jake Dohmen (Zoning Officer) on February 6th about the rental inspections and wanted to make sure everything was on track for the 2 years and any other issues that need to be addressed. Worthy said Dohmen was happy to be able to discuss things with Council members.

Police, Fire and Safety – Joe Flickinger, Chair; Jordyn Miller, Co-Chair. Flickinger wanted to thank everyone who helped and attended Trailfest that the Mayor had put together. The Fire Department received two grants in amounts of \$8,137 and \$14,933. Fire Chief said with funds we were able to start the process of new radios upgrade and with DCNR grant pumping tank in back of truck.

Light & Power Committee – Rebecca Worthy, Chair; Grant Mosier, Co-Chair. Nothing to Report.

Sewer Committee – Grant Mosier, Chair; Dave Arndt, Co-Chair. Nothing to Report.

Streets, Public Works & Recreation – Dave Arndt, Chair; Joe Flickinger, Co-Chair. Nothing to Report.

Library Board – Steve Hawk, Chair. Hawk reported that there are great people that work there.

Parks & Recreation Board – Rebecca Worthy, Chair. Worthy reported we are working on events coming up.

Canal Commission – Ryan Saunders, Chair. Nothing to Report.

Council of Governments – Rebecca Worthy, Delegate; Joe Flickinger, Alternate. Nothing to report. Link was not working.

Civil Service Commission – Rebecca Worthy, Chair. Worthy reported that we submitted hiring list to Council.

ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

JF/RW motioned to accept Official Reports and all in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

GH/SH motioned to approve treasurer report and pay the bills and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

ADJOURNMENT

RW/JF motioned to go into executive session for personnel at 8:45 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

RW/SH motioned to go back into regular session at 9:05 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

RW/GH motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 7-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Ahner, Borough Secretary