

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

September 15, 2021  
7:30 P.M.

Present: Councilmen Heimbecker, Lawlor, Tocci, Paulus, Woolley; J. Jackson Eaton, III, Esquire; Al Kortze, P.E.; Melissa A. Wehr; Vicky Roth

Absent: 0

Attendance: 2

The Chairman mentioned that the Board was in Executive Session prior to this meeting regarding a personnel matter. No decisions were made. He apologized for the late start in this meeting.

At this time, the Township Manager asked for a moment of silence for the 13 U.S. soldiers that passed away on the August 26 attack in Afghanistan.

Courtesy of the Floor:

The Fire Chief for Han-Le-Co Volunteer Fire Company voiced concerns he has with the Manager. After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that the Fire Company would meet with the Council to resolve matters.

The Secretary with Han-Le-Co Volunteer Fire Company offered her support for the Fire Chief. She has the completed up-to-date Bylaws and will give copies for Council to the Manager.

Chelsea Southard who is a local metal and glass artist addressed the Board at this time. Her art exhibit, located at 1825 Weaversville Rd. will not be ready to open in October due to not obtaining a Highway Occupancy Permit from PennDOT. She is working to resolve this issue. A discussion followed.

Approval of Minutes: August 18, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the August 18, 2021 Regular Council Meeting and accept same as presented.

A Council Member again voiced his concerns regarding transparency and also individuals attending meetings on line via a video feed, etc. or recording being made available to the public and a lack of detailed Minutes.

Paulus, Woolley: Moved and Seconded  
Heimbecker, Lawlor, Woolley, Paulus:  
Tocci:

Aye  
Nay

Reports:

1. Melissa A. Wehr  
Township Manager

1. The Declaration of Disaster Emergency has been extended. Currently, the County is extending theirs until October 31, 2021. As everyone may know, the Valley is again a hot spot and every day there are notifications coming across regarding the high number of cases.

2. The River Central Community Survey has been completed. Thank you to everyone who took the survey. The LVPC was very pleased with the general overall response and were present at our Community Day and events at other municipalities.

3. Another small hangar is going to be built at the Airport. It is on the Planning Commission Agenda for this month. In keeping the Board informed, the Airport will be closed for 72 hours starting Thursday for their paving project.

4. The Township Manager is in the process of finalizing the 2022 Budget. The Board will receive it within the next week or so, if not sooner.

5. The Township Manager is continuing to work on the Township Newsletter. If anyone has any input, please forward it to her. Notification was sent out to everyone who contributed last year for changes and additions.

6. With the Valley being a hotspot for Covid, several park cancellations have come in because of the rise in cases.

7. The last Friday of October is typically the night for Trick or Treat in the Township which has been past policy. She asked the Board if the Township will continue with that tradition. The Board agreed to keep it the last Friday in October. She will note it on the Newsletter/Calendar that every year Trick or Treat will be on the last day of October of that year with no rain date.

8. The Audit has been completed and the Township Manager has extra copies for the Board members who want a copy.

9. There was a small sinkhole on N. Irving Street near Airport Center Drive that was brought to the Township's attention today. The Public Works Supervisor was looking into it.

A Council Member asked for an update on the graffiti issue at the end of Lloyd St. The Township Manager replied that she mentioned it to the property owner and he was supposed to have it taken care of by end of August. She will follow up with the property owner. Also, the Council Member expressed his concerns with the tractor trailers on Middle Lloyd St. He would like the signs posted on Airport Rd. The Township Engineer informed the Board that PennDOT is not agreeable to this. The Manager discussed the concerns with Logistics Trucking as well as the State Police.

2. Al Kortze, P.E.

Township Engineer

1. The Township Engineer reported on the Paving Project at Postal Road will be completed in the near future.

A discussion ensued regarding the paving that the Township had done in the Taft Street area. The Township Engineer is in contact with the paving company concerning the divits in the Troxell Street area.

3. J. Jackson Eaton, III, Esquire  
Township Attorney

1. The Township Attorney said he does not have anything to report on the progress regarding PennDOT and Willowbrook Road situation. It is still in Harrisburg and working its way through the administration paperwork.

2. The Township Attorney's other items are on the Agenda.

4. Maintenance Report (Written)

5. Storm Water Issues. None

6. Fire Company Report (Written)

The Secretary for the Fire Company summarized the details of the report.

7. Code Enforcement Report (Written)

8. Treasurer's Report (Written)

Motion: I move we accept the computer printouts dated September 15, 2021, for the General Fund Account, Capital Reserve Account, Escrow Account, Liquid Fuels Account, Sewer Account and Water Account subject to audit.

Paulus, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Tocci, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

9. Building Inspector's Report (Written)

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. Resolution No. 2021-41, A Resolution Approving the Preliminary/Final Land Development Review, Guardian Storage Allentown Airport LLC, 1890 Airport Rd., Allentown, PA 18109 (Vote)

Kate Darcel of Fitzpatrick, Lentz & Bubba was present on behalf of the Developer. She is before the Board this evening with this Resolution that Council



Township Meetings, Establishing Additional Content for the Agenda, Providing for the Amendment of the Agenda and Limiting Official Action by Council on Items not on the Agenda (Introduce)

The Township Attorney stated that this is an amendment to the Township's Ordinance which already sets forth provisions regarding the Agenda to bring it to compliance with the new state law concerning agendas that went into effect on September 1.

6. Authorization for the Township Manager to file the Annual MMO Report to PMRS (Vote)

Motion: I move Council approve Authorization for the Township Manager to file the Annual MMO Report to PMRS as presented.

Heimbecker, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Tocci, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

7. Bill No. 2021-09, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 26, Part 1 (Water Rates, Rents and Charges) Section 124 Meter Rates of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township (Introduce)

The Township Manager stated raising these rates is for Capital purposes, in particular, projects that need to be completed in order to sustain a well-working system. It is always more cost effective to maintain it then to do emergency repairs. In order to move forward with the proposed upcoming projects and to keep it a sustainable enterprise fund, the numbers before Council are the rates that are being proposed for water which was not raised since 2014; however, the Cities of Bethlehem and Allentown continually raise their rates and at times raised heavily. The Chairman of Council said it has always been the Township's position that the Township does not profit from water and sewer and it is just to cover the costs. The Township Manager said she is proposing in the 2023 Capital Projects to have a study done to see where the Township falls. A discussion ensued.

8. Bill No. 2021-10, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 18, Part 3 (Sewer Rates, Rents and Charges) Section 303 of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township (Introduce)

The Township Manager said the Township staff and Engineer looked at everything as a whole. They reviewed the three best options available and felt what Council has before them was the most economical solution for both the Township and its residents and customers.

9. Open restrooms during public meetings during Pandemic (Vote)

Motion: I move to authorize that the Township open their restrooms to the public during meetings.

Tocci, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Tocci, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

Payment of Bills:

Motion: I move Council authorize payment of Payroll (08/20/2021), Payroll 09/03/2021); Voucher Nos. 26009-26016 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 26017-26065, from the General Fund Account in the amount of \$124,182.82; Voucher Nos. 195 from the Liquid Fuels Account in the amount of \$5,389.46; Voucher Nos.4570-4571 (Prepaid), Voucher Nos. 4572-4574 from Capital Reserve in the amount of \$36,949.75; Voucher Nos. 5082-5101 from the Escrow Account in the amount of \$34,745.00; Voucher Nos. 4463 (Prepaid), Voucher Nos. 4464-4467 from the Water Account in the amount of \$37,649.24; Voucher Nos. 6062-6063 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 6064-6070 from the Sewer Account in the amount of \$58,705.34 for a Grand Total Expenditure of \$297,624.61.

Paulus, Woolley: Moved and Seconded  
Heimbecker, Lawlor, Tocci, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

Courtesy of the Floor:

The Fire Chief questioned why we are continuing the Declaration of Disaster. The Township Manager replied that the Township is continuing to do this because of the Grant monies out there and with the Pandemic and funding of different things that might come up, i.e., Covid-19 supplies, etc. She is following suit with the County. She wants to keep everyone healthy and safe.

The Township's Emergency Management Coordinator followed up by saying they are purchasing some masks and supplies to reboot the surplus already on hand before Covid. He mentioned that the County had a Hazard Mitigation meeting mainly to discuss the different hurricanes of last year and this year. With Hurricane Ida coming through a few weeks ago, the Township sustained minimal damage.

One of the Council members attended the Catasauqua High School Meeting last evening as a parent representative. The United States Army Rangers presented the school district with a flag that flew over a secret outpost in Afghanistan because the Army Ranger named Curtis graduated from the high school.

One of the Council members thanked the Township Manager for the tribute she put together at the beginning of the meeting honoring and in remembrance to the 13 U.S. fallen soldiers in Afghanistan.

Mark Southard who is the father of Chelsea Southard who spoke earlier regarding her art exhibit said one of his concerns is the Township public restrooms. A discussion ensued.

Mr. Southard asked if he could read the names of the 13 fallen soldiers. They are: Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo; Sgt. Nicole L. Gee; Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover; Cpl. Hunter Lopez; Cpl. Daegan W. Page; Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez; Lance Cpl. David L.

Espinoza; Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz; Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum; Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola; Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui; Navy Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak; and Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss.

A Council member asked to be on the record and stated that the Township restrooms should be available for anyone who attends meetings in this facility and he requests the entire Board to agree. The Chairman said it has been a Township Manager decision. The Township Attorney said that according to the new meeting rules, this is to be referred to the Manager for further action at the next meeting unless Council wants to amend the Agenda. The Township Attorney asked the Council Member to explain the new rules for amending something on the Agenda and why he wants it amended. Under the new rules, when Agendas are posted they have to include everything being discussed and placed on the Agenda within 24 hours of the meeting. If a change to the Agenda is requested, it would have to be amended at the present meeting since it was not an Agenda item. The reason for the amendment to this evenings Agenda is that the Council Member was not aware that the restrooms were not available to the public. The Township Manager said the reason for keeping the restrooms closed is that the Township does not have the staff to clean the restrooms. A discussion ensued.

Motion: I move that Council amend this Agenda so that they can vote on whether they allow their restrooms to be open to the public.

Tocci, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Tocci, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A. Wehr  
Township Manager