

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

March 17, 2021  
7:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Councilman Tocci

Attendance: 4

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Approval of Minutes: March 3, 2021 Council Meeting

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the March 3, 2021 Council Meeting and accept same as presented.

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

Aye Unan.

Reports:

1. Melissa A. Wehr  
Township Manager

1. Declaration of Emergency Disaster has been extended weekly and will be until at least April 16, 2021 following Lehigh County's lead.

2. The Township Manager attended another River Central Meeting. The website is planrivercentral.org. Township Manager encouraged Council to go on their website. There are outreach dates which are fast approaching to move forward with their plan. They are asking that all the stakeholders attend one of the meetings which are set up for three different days at three different times. The meetings will be the same but just held on different days and different times so that everyone has a chance to attend and put their input in. The dates are Thursday, April 8 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.; Friday, April 9 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. or Wednesday, April 14 at 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

3. There will be a Zoning Hearing Board Meeting on March 25, 2021 regarding tractor trailer parking at 954 Marcon Blvd. A discussion ensued.

4. The Township received a semi-annual allocation from LCB, which was not as much as the Township anticipated receiving.

5. With the new Covid-19 Relief Bill that was recently passed or in the process of being passed there is money that is allocated out to Counties, States and Townships.

The Township's share is approximately 10% and what the Township will receive is based upon the number of residents which will be approximately \$158,000. The Township Manager asked for a recommendation from Council to use these funds for sewer and water infrastructure. One Council member recommended that the monies go to the working people in the Township's commercial district since they've been hit the hardest. Council will take this under advisement before making a decision. A discussion ensued.

6. The Township Manager received an email from Noah Chrismar from the KRE Group withdrawing their Application and thanking the Township for its consideration. The Township Attorney recommended that a motion be made from Council accepting the withdrawal of the Application.

Motion: I move we accept the withdrawal of the KRE Application for Rezoning as recommended by the Township Attorney.

Heimbecker, Lawlor: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

7. The Township Manager advised Council that she has signed up two Council members and herself for the Virtual Pass with PSATS and she is awaiting the documentation on the directions for logging into certain classes. Once she receives same, she will forward it on to the Council members that are signed up. A discussion ensued.

8. The Township Manager discussed 954 Marcon Blvd. and they are appearing before the Zoning Hearing Board at their next meeting on March 25. She told Council that the Township's Building Inspector is in attendance this evening to discuss and address any concerns with the proposed use at this site and has a packet of information for all board members to refer to regarding the building code. A discussion ensued. After hearing the Building Inspector's concerns, Council agreed, as a whole, that there are too many variables going into this and decided to send the Township Solicitor to the hearing on their behalf to voice their concerns.

Motion: I move that the Township Solicitor attend the Zoning Hearing Board Meeting on March 25 on behalf of the Hanover Township Council and register their objection regarding the 984 Marcon Blvd. project as discussed.

Heimbecker, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

9. As a topic of interest, the Morning Call reported that the Postal Service Inspector General is going to audit the Lehigh Valley facility after the mail slow down from last year that frustrated so many customers.

2. Al Kortze, P.E.

Township Engineer

1. The Willowbrook Road Sanitary Sewer Project is complete. The manholes have been abandoned in place and the televising has been completed.

2. Regarding Lot 5A Project. There was a preconstruction meeting last week. They are looking to getting started by the end of the month or some time in April. There are some outstanding items that they need to take care of in order for this project to start.

3. The Willowbrook widening has resumed. They are looking to finishing this up within a month or so depending on the weather.

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

Mr. Eaton said his items are on the Agenda this evening.

4. Maintenance (Written)

5. Storm Water Issues – None.

6. Fire Company Report (Written)

A Councilmember asked when the Fire Company would be coming before the Board regarding their Handbook and Certifications. The Township Manager said these were separate items. She said she asked for Certifications in January and has been working with the Fire Chief. She has received some Certifications but not all of them. She recalls when the Fire Chief reported about redoing the Bylaws, he said it would take approximately four to six months. It will be summer time before Council sees the Bylaws.

7. Code Enforcement Report (Written)

Council Chairman asked how the new Code Officer was working out. The Township Manager said he is working out well. She has received numerous positive comments from residents who have come in contact with him.

8. Treasurer's Report (Written)

Motion: I move we accept the computer printouts dated March 17, 2021, for the General Fund Account, Capital Reserve Account, Escrow Account, Liquid Fuels Account, Sewer Account and Water Account subject to audit.

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

Aye

Unan.

9. Building Inspector's Report (Written)

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. Bill No. 2021-02, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township to Add a New Part 4, Noise Control, Restricting Levels of Noise in Residential Areas to 57 Decibels, in Parks, Businesses and Institutional Areas to 67 Decibels, and in Industrial Areas to 77 Decibels, with Lower Limits at Night and to Establish Penalties for the Violation of the Ordinance (Public Hearing)

The Chairman of Council opened the Public Hearing. The Township Solicitor mentioned that at an earlier introduction there were questions raised about what this would do to lawn mowers and chain saw use in circumstances such as that. The Township Attorney said there is a list of special exceptions to the Noise Ordinance during daytime hours for certain uses which would be above that level, i.e., emergency vehicles, sirens, construction use, etc. He provided Council with language and hours of operation (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) which would essentially accept equipment for general property maintenance use and is clear that it's only accepted during maintenance use on the property, i.e., can't have a chainsaw retailer demonstrating all day. Chairman Closed the Public Hearing.

Motion: I move that we accept Bill No. 2021-02, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township to Add a New Part 4, Noise Control, Restricting Levels of Noise in Residential Areas to 57 Decibels, in Parks, Businesses and Institutional Areas to 67 Decibels, and in Industrial Areas to 77 Decibels, with Lower Limits at Night and to Establish Penalties for the Violation of the Ordinance and shall be amended by adding a new Subsection F in Section 403, Variances and Extensions, as follows:

F. Grounds maintenance. The emission of sound from the operation of lawnmowers, snow blowers, chainsaws and other lawn, garden, forestry and landscaping equipment when employed for maintenance of the property on which they are used during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

Aye

Unan.

2. Bill No. 2021-03, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 21, Part 1 of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township by Adding a Part D to Prohibit the Use of Property for Events at Which Attendees Impede the Safe Operation of Vehicles on Adjacent Streets and to Establish Penalties Upon Owners and Tenants of Property for the Violation of this Ordinance (Public Hearing)

The Chairman of Council opened the Public Hearing. The Township Attorney explained the circumstances that brought this amendment to light. He said this Amendment makes the property owner liable for a violation if this were to occur on their property. A discussion ensued. The Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

Motion: I move we accept Bill No. 2021-03, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 21, Part 1 of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township by Adding a Part D to Prohibit the Use of Property for Events at Which Attendees Impede the Safe Operation of Vehicles on Adjacent Streets and to Establish Penalties Upon Owners and Tenants of Property for the Violation of this Ordinance as Ordinance No. 630.

Heimbecker, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

3. Authorization for Manager to sign the Offer of \$5090.00 for the Temporary Construction Easement along the D&L Trail in Hanover Township (Vote)

Motion: I move that we give Authorization for Manager to sign the Offer of \$5090.00 for the Temporary Construction Easement along the D&L Trail in Hanover Township as presented.

Heimbecker, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

Payment of Bills:

Motion: I move Council authorize payment of Payroll (02/192021), Payroll (03/05/2021); Voucher Nos. 25678-25684 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 25685-25732 from the General Fund Account in the amount of \$111,136.52; Voucher Nos. 189 from the Liquid Fuels Account in the amount of \$5,493.24; Voucher Nos. 4545-4546 (Prepaid), Voucher No. 4547-4548 from Capital Reserve in the amount of \$153,932.57; Voucher Nos. 5008-5010 from the Escrow Account in the amount of \$20,138.38; Voucher Nos. 4427-4431 from the Water Account in the amount of \$2,854.06; Voucher Nos. 5990-5991 (Prepays), Voucher 5992-5997 from the Sewer Account in the amount of \$15,924.26 for a Grand Total Expenditure of \$309,544.12.

Paulus, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Lawlor, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

Chairman asked the Township Manager what Guardian Storage. The Township Manager replied that they are looking to come in on the vacant lot aside of the Knights Inn behind the shopping center.

Courtesy of the Floor:

The Township Manager addressed one of the Councilman's questions earlier in the meeting regarding the markings at Taft Street. A PA One call was submitted for the repair of the sewer pipe at Taft Street.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A. Wehr  
Township Manager