

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

August 18, 2021
7:30 P.M.

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

Absent: 0

Attendance: 1

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Approval of Minutes: August 4, 2021 Capital Reserve Budget Hearing
August 4, 2021 Regular Council Meeting
July 21, 2021 Council Amended Minutes (Typo)

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the August 4, 2021 Capital Reserve Budget Hearing and accept same as presented.

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

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the August 4, 2021 Regular Council Meeting and accept same as presented.

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

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the July 21, 2021 Council Amended Minutes (typo) and accept same as presented.

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

Reports:

1. Melissa A. Wehr
Township Manager

1. Declaration of Emergency Disaster was extended this week. The County extended theirs from August 13, 2021 to October 31, 2021. As everyone may know, Northampton County is the highest in Pennsylvania with the number of positive Covid cases.

2. If Council has not filled out the River Central Community Survey, please take a few minutes to fill it out. Also, get your friends, family members and neighbors to fill it out. The LVPC is close to reaching the total number of responses that they are looking for.

2. Regarding the River Central Community Survey. The Township Manager asked if Council has not done so yet to please complete it and have your friends, family or anyone who lives or works in the listed communities also fill it out. If anyone knows young adults ranging from 18 to 30 years old, the LVPC is looking for that age bracket to respond to the survey and get the numbers up for that age bracket. Surveys will be at the Township's Community Night on August 24. One of the Councilmembers suggested that the Township contact someone for Covid shots. The Allentown Health Bureau will be at Community Night with all three Covid shots available. If someone has to get a second shot, it will be scheduled to be at the Township Building on September 15 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

3. The Township Manager received several applications for the Code Enforcement Officer positions. She will be conducting interviews within the next two weeks.

4. The Airport Road closer that was supposed to occur for the road construction is postponed until tomorrow night.

One of the Councilmembers had a question regarding the Township Capital Budget. He asked the Township Manager to explain the consolidation of the Fire Company Budget. The Township Manager replied that on the Capital Budget, the Fire Company Budget will still be the same amount for all the trucks, but it will be placed into one account. If she keeps them in separate accounts, the Township will always be borrowing from one account to pay for the other account. It will all be there, but earmarked under separate headings for all the fire trucks.

Another Councilmember mentioned that its been since November, December, 2020 and into January, 2021, that the Township was supposed to see a revised Fire Department Handbook and wanted to know if the Township Manager ever received it. The Township Manager only received a copy of their handbook back in 2020. When she went to look something up this past year, she did not have a current copy of what the Fire Department has. She was told it's in there, but their pages are different. The Councilmember recalled the Fire Chief asking for an extension because there were level of certifications that had to be met. He said he will not approve any monies until their ducks are in order. If the Township is going to have a Fire Department, they need to play by the rules. A discussion ensued.

Nick Marlow, Assistant Chief, Han-Le-Co Volunteer Fire Company, said the Fire Department has a reading which consists of three meetings to update and make changes to their Constitution. They've gone through two meetings to date and are to have the third meeting in September. One of the reasons he is in attendance this evening is to learn. He is not pleased with how things are at the Fire Department. A Councilmember asked if

the Township Manager received any certifications. She replied that she received the Chiefs. He was going to work on the rest. The Township Manager asked him for them and he replied that he thought it was a done deal. She reminded the Fire Chief that he was going back to work on and get the rest of the certifications to her. That was four months ago. The Fire Chief has not and will not get the certifications in question to her. A discussion ensued. The Township Attorney will provide a review of what the Township can and cannot expect from the volunteer Fire Company and also what the State of Pennsylvania's expectations and requirements are as well. The Township Manager said there is a lack of communication between the Fire Chief and the Township. The Fire Chief does not inform the Township Manager of things she should be aware of. The Township Manager asked the Council what they thought was an acceptable percentage of calls that he should be responding to as the Fire Chief. One of the Councilmembers said that he does not think they can answer that question since the Township does not pay their Fire Department personnel. One Councilmember said the Fire Chief should go on 50% of the fire calls. According to their Bylaws, the Fire Chief is supposed to respond to all calls. In January, the Fire Chief responded to five percent of calls; in February it was 37%; March was 52%; April was 25%; May was 28%; June was 41%; and July was 43%. In seven months, the Fire Chief met the Councilmember's requirements of what he feels the attendance should be at 50%. The Township Manager believes that when you reach the authority of a Fire Chief, that Fire Chief should be responding to at least 80-85% of all calls.

2. Al Kortze, P.E.
Township Engineer

1. The Township Engineer updated Council on the recycling portion of the Postal Rd. project which has been completed as of Monday. It will sit and cure for several weeks and then they will come back and do the final wearing course hopefully by mid-September.

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

1. Gave an update on Rockefeller. The paperwork from PennDOT is still in process. He will keep following up and report back to Council. His other items are on the Agenda.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A. Wehr
Township Manager