

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

July 16, 2014
7:30 P.M.

Present: Councilmen Heimbecker, Martucci, Paulus, Wegfahrt, Woolley; J. Jackson Eaton, III, Esquire; Frederick W. Hay, P.E.; Sandra A. Pudliner; Vicky Roth

Absent: 0

Attendance: 14

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Approval of Minutes: July 2, 2014 Regular Council Meeting
July 2, 2014 Special Council Meeting (Workshop)

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the July 2, 2014 Regular Council Meeting and accept same as presented.

Paulus, Wegfahrt: Moved and Seconded
Heimbecker, Martucci, Wegfahrt, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the July 2, 2014 Special Council Meeting (Workshop) and accept same as presented.

Paulus, Heimbecker: Moved and Seconded
Heimbecker, Martucci, Wegfahrt, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

Reports:

1. Sandra A. Pudliner
Township Manager

1. The Township Manager advised the Board that they are in receipt of a copy of correspondence from the Pennsylvania State Police indicating that they would request that the Township give consideration to allowing them to conduct a training course in the Municipal Building for Monday, October 20, 2014 through Friday, October 31, 2014 to run from 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. They noted there would be approximately 25-30 attendees at the training. The Board indicated that they had no issue with the State Police utilizing the municipal building for the training course and advised the Township Manager to indicate same to them.
2. The Township Manager advised that the Township has also received correspondence from the Pennsylvania State Police setting forth their position regarding donations towards their Memorial Day yearly celebration from local businesses in the Township.

3. The Township Manager advised the Board that she become aware that the Allen Township Board of Supervisors has extended the time for approval of the Rockefeller Group plans until August 15, 2014.
4. The Township Manager advised that as Council had requested she has responded to the business on Race Street with respect to their concerns over the Allen Township FedEx Development

There was some discussion with respect to the appraisal for the property on Dauphin Drive located adjacent to the Township's park property. The Township Manager advised that she had again requested the appraisal and she will again contact the appraiser to determine when same may be forthcoming.

There was also discussion with respect to the potential of the Township utilizing a credit card machine. The Township Manager indicated that she had been contacted by a representative from the Government Division of a credit card machine organization. In discussions with that individual, there were some concerns due to the fact that the Township's water and sewer accounts would require a split transaction with respect to the credit card machine to make sure that the funds are appropriately credited to either the water or sewer account. In general, the gentleman indicated that he felt the way this worked best would be for the Township to deposit everything into one account. He was informed by myself and the Township staff that the Township does not utilize just one account but separates the funds into five major accounts. The gist of the discussion ended with the individual indicating that he was not sure that the Township was the type of organization that could utilize this type of payment method easily. He indicated that he would present the Township with his interpretation on how the matter would work via email to the Township Manager by the end of the week. The Township Manager also noted to the Board that there would be a 3% charge which could either be absorbed by the Township or passed along to the user and depending on the number of accounts; there would be a \$7.00 per month charge per account. For instance, if the Township utilizes five accounts there would be a \$35 per month charge. The Township Manager also noted that the Township could either purchase the machine at a cost of approximately \$450 or lease same.

2. Frederick W. Hay, P.E.
Township Engineer

1. The Township Engineer advised the Board that looking at phasing the Chestnut Grove Sewer Replacement Project, he is of the opinion that the development does not lend itself well to phasing. He spoke to the Public Works Department and he is of the opinion that the Township should most likely just do the project next year. He noted that by not phasing the project and doing it all in 2015, the Township could save approximately \$50,000. Chairman Paulus commented that by doing it in 2015 the Township can again apply for the CDBG Grant one more time. Councilman Wegfahrt questioned when in the year this work would be done and the Township Engineer indicated it would most likely be done in early fall 2015.

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

1. The Township Attorney initiated a discussion with respect to suspension of an Ordinance until a referendum took place. He indicated that referendum provisions in the Charter only refer to a new Ordinance. If an Ordinance is passed, the public can challenge same within 30 days. If petitions are gathered and filed then that Ordinance is suspended. After that, the public may be able to amend in some fashion the Ordinance that was passed.

4. Maintenance Report (Written)

5. Fire Company Report (Written)

6. Code Enforcement Officers' Reports (Written)

7. Building Inspector's Report (Written)

Chairman Paulus acknowledged receipt of a written Maintenance Report, written Fire Company Report, written Code Enforcement Officers' Reports, and written Building Inspector's Report and same were noted for the record.

Vice Chairman Heimbecker questioned the Maintenance Supervisor regarding whether or not he has looked at the trees as same relates to the PPL lines being tangled within same in the residential development where he lives. Mr. Mouer indicated he is in the process of developing a list of dangerous areas to be sent to PPL.

8. Treasurer's Report (Written)

Motion: I move we accept the computer printouts dated July 16, 2014, for the General Fund Account, Capital Reserve Account, Escrow Account, Liquid Fuels Account, Sewer Account and Water Account subject to audit.

Paulus, Heimbecker: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Martucci, Wegfahrt, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. Bill No. 2014-11, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 26, Part 1, B. Water Rates, Rents and Charges, Section 124, Meter Rates of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township (Introduce)

The Township Engineer advised the Board that it is necessary for the Township to raise the water rates. In that regard, the meter rates have been increased from \$5.00 to \$7.00 per 1,000 gallons per quarter. The minimum charge has increased from \$35.00 to \$49.00 for the first 7,000 gallons used. The Township Engineer

indicated that this increase has become necessary due to the increased water bills the Township pays to the City of Allentown.

Bill No. 2014-11 was introduced at this time with a Public Hearing on same to be held on Wednesday, August 6, 2014 at 7:30 P.M.

2. Bill No. 2014-12, An Ordinance to Initiate a Referendum for the Purpose of Amending the Township Charter to Make Certain References Gender – Neutral, Correctly Reference the Eminent Domain Code, Change Reference From “Voters” to Electors”, Conform Limitation on the Term of a Person Filling a Council Vacancy with the Election Code, Reference Applicable Cable State Laws, Allow Certain Public Notices to be Made Through the Township’s Internet Web Site, Eliminate Requirement to File Ordinances and Resolutions with the Lehigh County Clerk of Courts, Permit Fines in the Maximum Fines in the Amount Permitted by State Laws, Remove Limitations on Court or Agency Review of Certain Actions of Council, Substitute Reference to the Public Official and Employee Ethics Act in Place of Conflict and Solicitation Provisions, Sections 6.03 and 6.04, and Conform Time Limits for Submission of Referendum Petitions with the Pennsylvania Code (Introduce)

The Township Attorney advised the Board that there are three other Ordinances which amend the Charter that have already been passed. He indicated that he will talk to the Election Board as to how to put something this extensive on the ballot.

Bill No. 2014-12 was introduced at this time with a Public Hearing on same to be held on Wednesday, August 6, 2014 at 7:30 P.M.

Payment of Bills:

Motion: I move Council authorize payment of Payroll (06/20/14), Payroll (07/03/14); Voucher Nos. 20452-20459 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 20460-20501, from the General Fund Account in the amount of \$331,113.22; Voucher Nos. 116 from the Liquid Fuels Account in the amount of \$5,665.78; Voucher Nos. 4128-4129 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 4130-4132 from Capital Reserve in the amount of \$52,193.15; Voucher Nos. 4113-4130 (Prepays), Voucher Nos. 4131-4133 from the Escrow Account in the amount of \$28,451.30; Voucher Nos. 3931-3934 from the Water Account in the amount of \$3,031.18; Voucher Nos. 5154-5163 from the Sewer Account in the amount of \$70,159.66 for a Grand Total Expenditure of \$490,614.29.

Paulus, Martucci: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Martucci, Wegfahrt, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

Courtesy of the Floor:

Mr. Robin Yoder, the Township Fire Chief and Code Enforcement Officer, advised the Board of a skunk problem in the Chestnut Grove Towne Garden Development. The Township's Maintenance Supervisor advised Mr. Yoder that he would speak to him with respect to ways to handle the situation. Mr. Yoder also advised the Board that there had been a recent incident in Chestnut Grove Park with respect to a rental where there were between 100 and 150 people in attendance. He indicated that this was way in excess of the park's capacity and that in addition, the individuals had left litter on the streets in the development, and also taken up all the parking on the streets in the area in the development. The Board discussed this matter in depth and determined that they would revise the Township's paperwork to indicate that if there is a situation where the park is over the capacity which is indicated for that park; the Township has the option of holding the security deposit posted with the Township. Additionally, signs would be made up for all three parks indicating the capacity for the pavilion rental.

At this point in the meeting, a resident of Allen Township approached the Board and advised that he found it interesting that the Rockefeller Group is considering building a warehouse on Township land. He noted that currently there is empty warehousing everywhere in the Lehigh Valley.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra A. Pudliner
Township Manager