

BOROUGH OF LEHIGHTON

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



July 6, 2026

RE: Lehigh Borough Council Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2026

CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of Lehigh Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday June 8, 2026 in attendance were: Dave Arndt, Rebecca Worthy, Dave Zimmerman, Grant Hunsicker, Steve Hawk, and Joe Flickinger. Council Member absent was: Jordyn Miller. Officials in attendance were: Mayor Ryan Saunders, Borough Manager Dane DeWire, Assistant Borough Manager Brooke Lichtenwalter, Borough Secretary Jessica Ahner, Police Chief Troy Abelovsky, Fire Chief Patrick Mriss, Borough Engineer Vanessa Nedrick, Light & Power Superintendent Barry Fisher, and Public Works Superintendent Kris Kunkle. Officials absent were: Recreation Director Tom Evans, Junior Councilperson Reagan Abelovsky, and Solicitor James Nanovic.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Grace from the Willow Foundation explained that the organization helps individuals access needed support, with a focus on mental health services. She reviewed the services offered and stated that the Foundation's regular business hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Andra Metcalfe, attorney for Disability Right in Pennsylvania, thanked the Borough for the opportunity to speak and stated that the Foundation supports individuals recovering from mental health conditions. She noted that clients are protected from discrimination under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and stated that targeting an office serving individuals with disabilities is illegal. Mr. DeWire asked whether the Foundation had experienced any issues with the Borough Zoning Office, and the response was no. The Mayor asked whether all requested permits had been received, and the response was yes. The Mayor stated that there has never been any targeting by the Borough, and Councilwoman Worthy said that we have always been diligent watching crime and medical emergencies in the Borough.

Bambi Elasser of LDI discussed the proposed Beer Garden in the Grove, when LDI plans to co-host an event with Fire Company No. 1. SH/GH made a motion to approve LDI's Beer Garden in the Grove and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

JF/RW motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of May 4, 2026 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief stated that he and Dr. Miller will take another look at the ordinance before we adopt it. A resident spoke about bicycle safety concerns, including children riding without helmets and e-bikes traveling at high speeds. Tina Henninger asked whether the Police Department could visit schools to discuss bicycle safety. Chief stated that the department is considering several options and is focused on getting the ordinance in place before moving forward.

DeWire and Nedrick discussed the work needed at the Second and Iron Street traffic signal. Lynette Moyer, a crossing guard, stated that the intersection is problematic and the drivers do not adhere to the speed limit. DeWire stated that the Borough should consider what would be best for the intersection, including the possibility of installing a 4-way stop. Nedrick stated that the permit was found and that a study should be completed, along with gathering accident and ticket information to submit to PennDOT. SH/DA motioned to award Second and Iron traffic study contract to RVE for \$7,840.00 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

SH/DA motioned to structure the Police Department Patrolman sign on bonus to provide \$2500 at time of hire and \$2500 after probation, requiring 3-year minimum tenure and five were in favor and Grant Hunsicker opposed. 5-1

NEW BUSINESS

RW/SH motioned to hire additional pool lifeguards and employees as at the recommendation of the Recreation Director and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

RW/JF motioned to purchase Lot #1 and #2 of parcel 70-11-A500 from Blue Ridge Real Estate and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

JF/RW motioned to accept letter of intent to retire from employee #075 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

SH/JF motioned to advertise for Light & Power vacancy and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

SH/GH motioned to move forward with Administrative Office Construction drawings through RVE at \$13,170 and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

JF/SH motioned to purchase personnel gear for the Fire Department in the amount of \$14,540.48 from Diehl Emergency Equipment and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

SH/DA motioned to permit Keystone Novelties Distributors, LLC to erect their annual temporary Fireworks sales tent and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

DeWire asked to table the motion for Ordinance #2026-686, setting the 2026 electric rates.

SH/RW motioned to adopt Resolution R6-2026, designation of the Chief Administrative Office of the Pension Plan and all were in favor with no question or objections. 6-0

JF/RW asked to table Resolution R7-2026. 6-0

SH/JF motioned to adopt Resolution R8-2026, Opioid Settlement Grant for Lehighton Police Night Out and all were in favor with no question or objections. 6-0

SH/GH motioned to approve 2026 Holiday Office Closures and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

JF/SH motioned to approve Lehighton Police Night Out, Thursday, October 8, 2026 at Baer Memorial Park from 5 pm to 8 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

DA/JF motioned to table discussion on 2026 Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association Conference.

“Lunch and Stroll at the Borough” was supported by Council.

OFFICIAL’S REPORTS

President of Council – Nothing to Report.

Borough Manager – Report Provided. Nothing to Report.

Borough Engineer – Report Provided. Nedrick stated that survey work is being completed around the Borough remaining from last years I & I work.

Solicitor – Not Present.

Treasurer – Paper Report provided. Additional Bills Report provided.

Mayor – Mayor Saunders attended the Emergency Management Expo at the RETC on May 9, 2026 hosted by Commissioners Wayne Nothstein and Mike Sofranko. He spoke at the UVO Memorial Service; it was well-attended. Mayor asked Residents and Business Owners on First Street to use the public lot to alleviate the parking congestion during business hours. He also attended the Pool Pals event and said it was incredibly fun to watch the boat event. Residents stressed we should have more events like this. Mayor said there are residents concerned about vacant condemned buildings in the Borough that he is working on this problem.

Police Chief – Report Provided. Chief and Mayor are working on the Community Crime Watch Program. First Presbyterian Church donated \$200 to ‘Shop with a Cop’ program and also donated 12 cases of water. Police Department is currently working on finishing the upstairs area of its building for use as a training room, and a television was donated for the room. On May 22nd, the Police Department hosted an open house for the first grade class, and the Fire Department displayed the fire trucks for the students.

Fire Chief – Report provided. Not Present.

Light & Power Superintendent – Report Provided. Nothing to Report.

Public Works Superintendent – Report Provided. Kunkle said the new Borough Mechanic started work.

Recreation Director – Not Present.

Junior Councilperson – Not Present. DeWire said he reached out to school district about traffic light and they are moving forward to get this completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Administration – Jordyn Miller, Chair; Steve Hawk, Co-Chair. Hawk had nothing to report.

Economic Development, Buildings and Codes – Steve Hawk, Chair; Rebecca Worthy, Co-Chair – Hawk had nothing to report.

Police, Fire and Safety – Joe Flickinger, Chair; Jordyn Miller, Co-Chair. Flickinger stated that work has begun on the hazard mitigation plan. He explained that the review process traditionally takes

more than one year, and the goal is to have reviews completed by mid-November 2026 so the plan can be submitted to PEMA. He stated that this process occurs every five years and should be completed within the next six to eight months. Flickinger requested the 911 Resolution be added to agenda next month. There was discussion that it did not need a Resolution.

Light & Power Committee – Rebecca Worthy, Chair; Grant Hunsicker, Co-Chair. Worthy thanked everyone who helped with the cleanup from the storm. She stated the storm was severe in Weatherly, knocking out power and bringing down trees. Fisher added that the storm caused significant damage in Weatherly and that Borough crews spent 71 work hours assisting there. Flickinger stated that the mutual aide response shows the Borough has a good crew.

Sewer Committee – Grant Hunsicker, Chair; Dave Arndt, Co-Chair. Hunsicker had nothing to report.

Streets, Public Works & Recreation – Dave Arndt, Chair; Joe Flickinger, Co-Chair. Arndt had nothing to report.

Library Board – Steve Hawk, Chair. Hawk had nothing to report.

Parks & Recreation Board – Rebecca Worthy, Chair. Worthy reported that the Board entered a boat in the Regatta race hosted by Pool Pals and that the Boat (train) did not sink. She stated that the event was enjoyable. She also reported that their Steam Punk event is being held this month. On June 6th, Richie and High Street Rockers from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., and she expressed interest in having them perform again.

Canal Commission – Ryan Saunders, Chair. Mayor Saunders thanked everyone who helped with cleanup in May, mentioning the large amount of garbage collected along the trail. He thanked Jared McEvoy for disposing the rubbish and Ty Poole for using his equipment to drag out trees. He stated that an enormous tree fell into the canal and will be cut up and dragged out of the canal. A concrete pad was poured for a Memorial bench to be installed on June 9th, and another bench that will be installed in July. The Mayor stated that the Borough is currently in litigation with the contractor for the new spillway construction because of a work stoppage claim. The Water Authority stopped work. The Borough attorney has been contacted regarding how to proceed.

Council of Governments – Rebecca Worthy, Delegate; Joe Flickinger, Alternate. Flickinger reminded Hawk to attend the COG meeting on June 23rd, where donations will be distributed to the Lehigh, Palmerton, and Jim Thorpe Libraries.

Civil Service Commission – Rebecca Worthy, Chair. Nothing to Report.

ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

SH/JF motioned to accept the officials' reports and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

GH/SH motioned to approve treasurer's report and pay the bills and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

ADJOURNMENT

RW/GH motioned to go into executive session for legal and personnel matters at 8:05 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

SH/RW motioned to return into regular session at 9:00 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

JF/SH motioned to adopt Resolution R7-2026, PCCD Grant to off-set new patrolman hiring and sponsor an applicant and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

JF/RW motioned to send the Assistant Borough Manager to the 2026 Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association Conference in Bedford and 4 were in favor and Dave Zimmerman and Steve Hawk opposed. 4-2

RW/SH motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections. 6-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Ahner, Borough Secretary