

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

February 21, 2024
7:00 P.M.

Present: Councilmen Heimbecker, Lawlor, Paulus, Rossi, Woolley; J. Jackson Eaton, III, Esquire; Kevin Chemic, P.E.; Melissa A. Wehr; Vicky Roth; Audrey Anderson

Absent: 0

Attendance: 2

Courtesy of the Floor: None.

Approval of Minutes: February 7, 2024 Regular Council Meeting

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the February 7, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes and accept same as presented.

Paulus, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

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

Reports:

1. Melissa A. Wehr
Township Manager

The Chairman and I attended an LVIA press conference yesterday regarding the announcement of the \$40 million in new infrastructure money to the airport from Representative Susan Wild and Senator Casey. This is another \$40 million that is being put back into the infrastructure at the airport from the Department of Transportation.

The Manager was notified by the Fire Company that a fire truck has a possible cracked subframe and is out of service. It is being evaluated and then we will go from there.

The Manager has an estimate for those trees on Troxell Street. There were four estimates prepared for the trees. The Public Works Supervisor met with the estimators for a comparison. They cost anywhere from \$2,600 up to \$5,000 for both trees. The Chairman asked why we are cutting down trees. The Manager replied that it is because they are blocking a Stop Sign. The State Police thought that drivers might be going through the Stop Sign because it is blocked by the trees and they don't see it. A discussion ensued. This will be placed on next meeting's agenda for a vote.

A Council Member mentioned there are three lights; one light works as you are coming down to Sherwood park on your right, the two lights on the left do not work. The Manager will take care of this.

2. Kevin Chemic, P.E.
Township Engineer

PennDOT performed a final inspection of the traffic signal on Catasauqua Road at the Valley Plaza and Bethlehem Diner intersection. They are starting the 30-day test period on it. The existing signals and poles have been removed along with the signal cabinet. The contractor needs to come back tomorrow to remove the bases from the original traffic signals and take care of a couple other minor cleanup items. The Engineer said they notified LANTA on Friday they can open the bus stops and they can start stopping at the bus stops.

The Vice Chairman asked about a depression on Catasauqua Rd. near the Troxell St. intersection. The Township staff is aware of it and Catasauqua Rd. is on the list for one of the streets for maintenance this year. The depression area will be excavated and fully reconstructed. There is also an area right at the border with the City of Bethlehem that is also breaking up. That area will be fully excavated and reconstructed. The remaining portion of Catasauqua Rd. will be milled and overlaid. The Township staff has been in contact with the City of Bethlehem for the portion that is on the border and they are in discussions so the City will make a contribution to help offset some of the cost.

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

The Attorney stated that his items are on the Agenda.

4. Maintenance Report

5. Storm Water Issues – None.

6. Fire Company Report (Written)

7. Code Enforcement Report (Written)

The Vice Chairman asked if lights are out in the Township, is that a reportable issue for the Code Enforcement Officer? The Manager stated if it is a PPL light, it could take longer to repair the light and she will discuss this with the Code Enforcement Officers to determine if it's our light or a PPL light.

8. Treasurer's Report (Written)

Motion: I move we accept the computer printouts 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, Rossi, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

9. Building Inspector's Report (Written)

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. Authorization to Send Robert Heimbecker and Anthony Rossi to the 2024 PSATS Convention and Appoint Robert Heimbecker as the Voting Delegate (Vote)

Motion: I move we approve Authorization to send Robert Heimbecker to the 2024 PSATS Convention and Appoint Robert Heimbecker as the Voting Delegate.

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

Motion: I move we approve Authorization to send Anthony Rossi to the 2024 PSATS Convention.

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

2. Bill No. 2024-01, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 18-201 of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township to Prohibit Connecting More than one Primary Commercial Building on a Property by a Single Building Sewer (Introduce)

This amendment was requested after discussion with the Public Works Supervisor, the Engineer and the Manager. Some of the large lots were being developed for multiple prior buildings, warehouses, etc. and there was a possibility of those lots being subdivided then you would have multiple owners on a single sewer lateral. This generally is a bad policy. This requires the primary buildings on any commercial property to have their own connection to the Hanover Township System. The Vice Chairman asked that the word "lateral" be added after Single Building Sewer. The Attorney explained the terminology of Building Sewer which is used the same as the word lateral for water. The Attorney will look back to see if there is a change in definition that could be added and it can be voted on at the next Council meeting. The Engineer stated that the Water Connection Ordinance is already written that you have to have a separate connection for each building. We are just updating the Sewer Lateral Ordinance to match the Water Ordinance.

3. Resolution No. 2024-35 - Amending the Fee Resolution of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township (Vote)

The Manager stated that in the last adoption of the Fee Schedule they missed the actual fee for Temporary Signs. This puts the fee in for the Temporary Signs in and the next part of that will be in Resolution No. 2024-35.

Motion: I recommend the adoption of Resolution No. 2024-35 - Amending the Fee Resolution of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township as presented.

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

4. Resolution No. 2024-36, A Resolution Authorizing Waiver of Fees for Sign Permits Issued to Public Agencies and Authorities Related to Matters of Public Safety (Vote)

The Manager stated that this is in regards to her request at the last meeting where the airport does the mass casualty training event at the airport. She thought it would be a good neighbor thing to do for them since she requires a sign permit as per the Zoning Ordinance. It is a public safety event that is well attended by our neighboring communities in case there is a mass casualty event at the airport. She felt it would be something good to waive the cost in any public safety permit fee. They still have to get their permit, but we would be waiving the fee.

Motion: I recommend the adoption of Resolution No. 2024-36, A Resolution Authorizing Waiver of Fees for Sign Permits Issued to Public Agencies and Authorities Related to Matters of Public Safety as presented.

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

Payment of Bills:

Motion: I move Council authorize payment of Payroll (2/16/2024); Voucher Nos. 27770-27800 from the General Fund Account in the amount of \$38,664.24; Voucher No. 224 from the Liquid Fuels Account in the amount of \$3,079.75; Voucher Nos. 4686-4690 from Water Account in the amount of \$2,037.40; Voucher Nos. 6426-6434 from the Sewer Account in the amount of \$208,221.50; Voucher Nos. 5417 from the Escrow Account in the amount of \$630.00 for a Grand Total Expenditure of \$278,186.31.

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

Courtesy of the Floor:

The Manager mentioned that State Representative Jeanne McNeill is having an Open House at her district office on Thursday, February 29, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Her staff will be available with information on state government related programs and services that are available and information on the recently expanded property tax rent rebate program. There will be someone there to check to see if you have any unclaimed money in the state treasury. If there is anything else you would like to discuss or ask Representative McNeill or her staff, you are highly encouraged to attend. The flyer has been put on the Township's social media page and copies have been placed at the front window in the Township's reception area.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A. Wehr
Township Manager