

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

April 17, 2024
7:00 P.M.

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

Absent: Lawlor

Attendance: 5

Courtesy of the Floor: Chris Kaklamanis, ARC

Chris Kaklamanis, representing ARC of Lehigh and Northampton Counties introduced himself. They are a nonprofit organization providing service, education, resources and supports for children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. Their nonprofit organization started in the late 1960s with a group of local families that were determined to help their children achieve independence and live and fulfill their life goals as included members of our families. He gave an overview of ARC. The ARC currently serves 16 individuals that reside in the 18109 zip code area. ARC provides vital resources for one of their most crucial programs that they call their advocacy program which provides completely free of charge educational resources, one-to-one support for families or individuals, a few dozen webinars each year and resource coordination services. Mr. Kaklamanis is here this evening to talk about their One Step Forward Celebration as Hanover Township was kind enough to support for their organization. This will be held on May 16, 2024 at DeSales University.

Approval of Minutes: April 3, 2024 Regular Council Meeting

Motion: I move we waive the reading of the Minutes of the April 3, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes and accept same as presented.

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

Reports:

1. Melissa A. Wehr
Township Manager

The April Zoning Hearing Board meeting has been continued until May, which involves the billboard at 1855 North Dauphin Street.

We received our dividend checks from the insurance company which covers a five-year period. The dividends this year were about 50% more than what we received last year.

April 27 is the Lehigh International Airport's emergency preparedness exercise day which will be from 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Approximately 40 agencies represented by 219 personnel will participate.

I entered our newsletter into PSATS contest award this year. Last year we took third place and this year we took second place. There were 31 townships that submitted and 130 entries for this year's competition and 16 townships won awards. We received second place for our newsletter for populations under 5,000.

May 2 is State Police Appreciation Day at 9:00 a.m.

2. Kevin Chemic, P.E.
Township Engineer

Yesterday a sinkhole opened on Taft Street and was excavated this morning. The sinkhole was at the sanitary sewer line. The City of Bethlehem videoed the line. There was no damage to the line and no settlement. They backfilled around the pipe with stone and filled it up with flow fill this afternoon. That needs to settle overnight then they will do the pavement restoration.

We had the pre-bid meeting for the Marcon Blvd. Sanitary Sewer Project. We went out to the project site and walked the site with them. May 1 is the bid opening date.

3. Jason Ulrich, Esquire
For J. Jackson Eaton, III, Esquire
Township Attorney

The Attorney stated that he had nothing to report this evening other than what is under New Business.

4. Maintenance Report
5. Storm Water Issues

A Councilman asked if we are expecting any follow up from Lehigh County regarding the INI of the Act 537 Plan. The Manager replied that we had a meeting with LCA and they are looking to do a new agreement with all the 15 municipalities that are in there. The goal is to have this wrapped up by this time next year. The Engineer said there are a lot of side agreements that they need to be reconciled. Different municipalities have different views on different items. The Manager stated that they will be back before the Council in the near future.

6. Fire Company Report (Written)
7. Code Enforcement Report (Written)
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, Woolley: Moved and Seconded
Heimbecker, Rossi, Woolley, Paulus: Aye Unan.

9. Building Inspector's Report (Written)

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. Authorization for Council to grant approval to Community Partners 4 Kids to have animal rides at Canal Park on May 4, 2024 (Vote)

Motion: I move for the Authorization for Council to grant approval to Community Partners 4 Kids to have animal rides at Canal Park on May 4, 2024 as presented.

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

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 (Public Hearing)

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing.

The Attorney stated that there are two Ordinances on the Agenda this evening that are akin to each other. One relates to water and one relates to sewer, and are mirrors of each other. Essentially what we are doing here and this only applies to future development and developers in the future who eventually connect to the system. Originally prepared, the way the Ordinance reads for both water and sewer are that what will happen is if someone connects they can run one line to the property but if there are multiple buildings on the property they are only metered for that one line. This requires them to deal with separate metering for each individual building so that you get a more accurate read and a more accurate calculation on your usage on both water and sewer. The Manager requested that a grandfather clause be included in the Ordinances for anyone that has an existing condition and they will not be immediately forced to make these changes. Over the course of time, as their laterals degrade, and they are required to replace that lateral they will then be required to do the multiple connection. At this time, they will not be required to do so.

Motion: I recommend 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 as Ordinance No. 654 as presented.

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

Aye Unan.

The Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

3. Bill No. 2024-03, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 26, Section 26-144 of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township to Prohibit Connecting More than One Primary Commercial Building on a Property by a Single Water Lateral (Public Hearing)

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing.

The Attorney stated that this is a mirror of the Sewer Ordinance except it addresses water laterals as opposed to sewer laterals. Same grandfather provisions have been applied and additional modification to the structure or the property or subdivisions would constitute a reason to force additional lateral metering.

Motion: I recommend Bill No. 2024-03, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 26, Section 26-144 of the Statutory Code of Hanover Township to Prohibit Connecting More than One Primary Commercial Building on a Property by a Single Water Lateral as Ordinance No. 655 as presented.

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

Aye Unan.

The Chairman closed the Public Hearing

4. Resolution No. 2024-41, A Resolution Authorizing the Manager to Sign an Intergovernmental Business Partner Registration Agreement for PennDOT (Vote)

The Manager stated that this is for access on to PennDOT's TSAMS, their traffic signal assessment management system. This will allow us to go online and see the permits issued for the different traffic signals, plans that were submitted for any electronic signals, flashing lights, and any intersection control beacons. We have access to other things on PennDOT's system, but they require us to have the Resolution in place before they will give us the access to the TSAMS System. There is no cost to us and it is another access tool for the Public Works Supervisor.

Motion: I recommend the adoption of Resolution No. 2024-41, A Resolution Authorizing the Manager to Sign an Intergovernmental Business Partner Registration Agreement for PennDOT as presented.

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

Aye Unan.

5. Authorization for the Township Attorney to appear before the Zoning Hearing Board as an Objector to Appeal of Billboard (Vote)

The Manager stated this is before Council to discuss if they want the Attorney to represent them before the Zoning Hearing Board as an objector to the billboard. The

Attorney stated that Council has automatic standing to any case in which you choose to intervene. You are being asked if you want to send the Township Attorney based off what the Zoning Officer raised, which are valid objections, to attend the Zoning Hearing Board and object to the application of the applicant.

The Manager gave some background on the situation since it was here many times before the Zoning Hearing Board. The Attorney stated that there is no downside to sending him. There was further discussion on this matter concerning the reasons the Attorney would attend any Zoning Hearing.

Motion: I recommend the Authorization for the Township Attorney to appear before the Zoning Hearing Board as an Objector to Appeal of Billboard.

Heimbecker, Rossi: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Rossi, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

Payment of Bills:

Motion: I move Council authorize payment of Payroll (3/29/2024), Payroll (4/12/2024); Voucher Nos. 27892-27924 from the General Fund Account in the amount of \$87,725.19; Voucher Nos. 4694-4695 from Capital Reserve in the amount of \$29,584.25; Voucher No. 226 from Liquid Fuels in the amount of \$5,795.09; Voucher Nos. 4699-4701 in the amount of \$72,360.88; Voucher Nos. 6451-6455 from the Sewer Account in the amount of \$28,218.42; Voucher Nos. 5424 from the Escrow Account in the amount of \$315.00 for a Grand Total Expenditure of \$223,998.33.

Paulus, Woolley: Moved and Seconded

Heimbecker, Rossi, Woolley, Paulus:

Aye

Unan.

Courtesy of the Floor:

A Councilman reported on the PSATS Convention which two Council Members attended on the Township's behalf. He encouraged other members of Council to attend in the future. It is very educational and worthwhile.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A. Wehr
Township Manager