

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 14, 2018
LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA

Mayor Wolford called the TEFRA Public Hearing to order at 6:30 P.M. Robert Lightcap, solicitor for Latrobe Industrial Development Authority, was present to provide details of a new, 144-room residence hall at Seton Hill University, with financing to be channeled through LIDA. Mr. Lightcap reported the total estimated project cost is \$11,250,000, of which \$9,450,000 will be borrowed from First Commonwealth Bank. Mr. Lightcap stated that by channeling capital expenditure financing through LIDA, local businesses or exempt facilities can borrow money at a cheaper rate as the interest on the loan is exempt from federal taxation. A public hearing is required by TEFRA prior to approval of a project by the body who created the Authority, and the body where project is geographically located. As such, this public hearing is being held on behalf of the Authority, the City Council of Latrobe, and the City Council of Greensburg.

Jennifer Lundy, the Chief Financial Officer at Seton Hill, was present to answer questions.

Mayor Wolford opened the floor for questions. Mr. Bartels questioned whether the project was a residence hall expansion or replacement. Mr. Lightcap confirmed it was an expansion as part of an effort to attract more students to live on campus. Mayor Wolford questioned the percentage of resident students. Jennifer Lundy, CFO at Seton Hill was unsure of the number, but stated their on-campus residency requirement was three years for students who do not live within 50 miles of the campus, and therefore their percentage of residents was based on the geographical location of enrolled students.

There were no further comments or questions.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:36 P.M.

Mayor Wolford called to order the Regular Monthly Meeting of Latrobe City Council at 6:36 P.M.

Mayor Wolford asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wolford asked all for a moment of silence in memory of Tom Bleehash.

The City Secretary read Roll Call:

Eric Bartels – present
Deputy Mayor Gerald Baldonieri – present
Robert Forish – present
Jim Kelley – present
John Murtha – present
Christine Weller – present
Mayor Rosemarie Wolford – present

Also present were the following: Wayne Jones, City Manager; Stephanie Balest, Solicitor; Mike Gray, Director of Public Works; Ann Powell, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer; Jim Bumar, Chief of Police; and John Brasile, Fire Chief.

Mr. Kelley moved to adopt the April 9, 2018 minutes, second by Mr. Forish. Vote 7-0.

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT

Total Expenses	\$249,780.12
Total Payroll	<u>143,747.55</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$393,527.67

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS FROM APRIL 2018

Treasurer's Report

See attachment "A"

Police Report

See attachment "B"

Public Works Report

See attachment "C"

Fire Report

See attachment "D"

Code Report

See attachment "E"

Tax Collector's Report

See attachment "F"

Mr. Murtha moved to approve the reports and bills presented for payment, second by Mr. Kelley. Vote 7-0.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS (related to agenda)

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Wolford

No report.

Public Safety and Fire Committee – Forish, Kelley

No report.

Public Works Committee – Baldonieri, Bartels

Mr. Bartels reported the committee met prior to the agenda meeting with nothing new to report.

Personnel Committee – Baldonieri, Murtha, Wolford

Mayor Wolford referenced the Motion that will be discussed later in the meeting in regards to personnel issues the committee has been working on.

Events Committee – Weller

No report.

GLSD Student Showcase Committee – Murtha

Mr. Murtha reported that the award will be presented to the recipient at the May 29, 2018 agenda meeting.

BOARD/AUTHORITY REPORTS

Latrobe Municipal Authority – Mr. Carl Bollinger reported that the new billing system is up and running, with both check and credit card payments now accepted online. Mayor Wolford mentioned a direct checking account deduction is available as well.

Mayor Wolford asked for an explanation on to why the Authority bills went up. Mr. Bollinger advised that as a result of the 537 Plan, the Authority had to take out a \$10 million bond for the sewage side, and the increased rates are to help pay back that bond. Mr. Bartels asked if there was a timetable for the project. Mr. Bollinger stated there was no time table, and while

the planning was complete, they are still waiting on the Department of Environmental Protection. City of Latrobe residents were to see a sewage rate increase of \$6.50; however, it is currently an increase of \$9.25 as the Authority was not allowed to immediately collect on the debt service as they were being sued by Unity township over the rates. The increase will go to the originally scheduled \$6.50 on January 1st.

Mr. Kelley questioned whether Unity Township has approved the 537 Plan. Mr. Bollinger is not aware of any approval but stated they cannot collect money from customers outside of the City of Latrobe due to the ongoing litigation. Mayor Wolford suggested talking about it at the May 29th agenda meeting with Zach Kanslar present.

Library Board – Mr. Bartels reported that the Book Mobile will be retired. Mayor Wolford questioned if it was a financial issue or if the book mobile had to be replaced. Mr. Bartels said it was more of a financial issue and alternatives are being discussed.

Parks & Recreation – Mr. Baldonieri reported that the pool is opening soon.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Department – Mike Gray reported that the 2017 CDBG paving was completed today with no issues; traffic restrictions due to Latrobe Hospital parking garage demolition should be lifted within two days maximum; and PennDOT is still on track to open the bridge mid-June.

Police Department – Police Chief Bumar reported the department has been working on recent construction and upcoming activities within the City designing action plans to reroute traffic.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Brasile reported the department has been busy with weather-related incidents; Hose Company #3 washed the parking garage; and the next events are the Memorial Day parade and Company #1's Street Fair that will run June 18th thru the 23rd.

Code Enforcement – No report.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION 2018-25

A resolution of the City of Latrobe, Westmoreland County, approving the Latrobe Industrial Development Authority Seton Hill University Residence Hall project. Mr. Bartels made a motion, seconded by Mr. Baldonieri, to approve this request. Vote 7-0.

Mr. Kelley made a motion, second by Mr. Murtha, to authorize the Solicitor to seek approval from the Court of Common Pleas to have an administrator appointed for the Estate of Michael Wayda and to obtain the death certificate for Mr. Wayda from the Department of Vital Records in person. Approved 7-0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION 2018-26

A resolution of the City of Latrobe, Westmoreland County authorizing an agreement with the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association for assistance in the hiring of the next City of Latrobe Chief of Police. Mr. Baldonieri moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mr. Bartels. Discussion involved whether travel expenses should be included within the Resolution wording, and what is included in the base contract price. Vote 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mike Gray reported that on Saturday, May 19th from 8:00-12:00, the City will be holding an electronics collection at the Stadium parking lot for city residents, free of charge.

Mr. Forish asked who would be in charge of yard maintenance for a vacant property on Avenue D. Ann Powell advised if she was unable to find the bank or any other responsible party, the City would mow the grass.

Mayor Wolford asked about a property on the corner of Lincoln and Walnut. Ann Powell advised that the grass was being mowed.

Mr. Bartels reported that the summer reading program at the library will be starting soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Wayne Jones discussed the G16 conference and will be sending the agenda and directions to Counsel with Chief Bumar giving his Active Shooter presentation during the Friday, May 18th session.

OPEN FORUM FOR CITIZENS' REQUESTS

James Miller, 127 East 4th Avenue

- 1) Requested Council approval to have final-round police chief candidates attend a monthly council meeting prior to the final vote, so they can let the citizens know what their anticipations and intentions are, and to answer any questions that the citizens may have of them.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

None.

Mr. Bartels made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Forish. Vote 7-0.

Regular Meeting of Council adjourned at 7:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Peton, City Secretary

