

I. OPENING

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Announcement of Executive Session (if applicable)
- E. Public Comment Procedure

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – TOWNSHIP RESIDENT ONLY – 3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

III. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS

- A. Introduction of Junior Council Persons for the 2021-2022 School Year
- B. Presentation by McMahon Associates on WalkWorks Grant

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS

V. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Presentation and Review of Capital Improvement Plan 2022 – 2026
- B. Review of Investment Options
- C. Saucon Rail Trail Events:
 - 1. Saucon Rail Trail 10K – 9/6/21
 - 2. 2021 HLSC Bikes and Brews – 9/9/21
 - 3. Robbins Rehabilitation East Ride for Huntington’s – 9/19/21
- D. Resolution #60-2021 –Special Fire Police
- E. Resolution #58-2021 – NORCO Grant Submission – Public Works Storage Building
- F. Resolution #59-2021 – Establishing Township-Wide Policy to Purchase Products Made in the U.S.
- G. Discussion Regarding Mask Mandate in the Township

VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Approval of August 18, 2021 Council Minutes

VII. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

- A. Township Manager
- B. Council
- C. Solicitor
- D. Engineer

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – NON-RESIDENTS ONLY

IX. ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Saucon Valley Partnership: September 8, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. @ LST
- Parks & Recreation: September 13, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m. @ Steel City Park
- Township Council: September 15, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Landfill Committee: September 16, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.
- Planning Commission: September 23, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission: September 27, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. @ HB
- Zoning Hearing Board: September 27, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

I. OPENING

CALL TO ORDER: The General Business & Developer meeting of Lower Saucon Township Council was called to order on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 6:35 p.m. with Mrs. Sandra Yerger, presiding.

ROLL CALL: Sandra Yerger, President; Jason Banonis, Vice President; Thomas Carocci, Kristen Stauffer and Priscilla deLeon, Council Members; Township Solicitor Linc Treadwell; Township Manager Leslie Huhn; Director of Finance Cathy Gorman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPLICABLE) – Mrs. Yerger said Council did meet in Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining. Mrs. Yerger said we'll move on to public comment. Attorney Treadwell said we will need a motion from the Executive Session.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to ratify and affirm the September 1, 2021 letter sent to the Police Association by the Township's employment lawyer Mike Miller related to contract arbitration.

SECOND BY: Ms. deLeon

ROLL CALL: 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURE

Mrs. Yerger said we do welcome input from everybody but we ask that you keep your comments to three minutes per item. If you want to speak, please raise your hand.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ONLY – 3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS – None

III. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS

A. INTRODUCTION OF JUNIOR COUNCIL PERSONS FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Mrs. Yerger said six students who are interested in participating in the Jr. Council Person Program, are being recommended to Council for appointments to the various boards:

- Avia Weber, Senior and Kennedy Pacchioli, Sophomore @ Saucon Valley HS – Council
- Bela Silverman, Senior @ Saucon Valley HS – Environmental Advisory Council
- Mason Simms, Senior @ Saucon Valley HS & Colin Griffith, Junior @ Notre Dame – Parks & Rec. Board
- Kyla Ferguson, Sophomore @ Saucon Valley High School – Planning Commission

Mrs. Yerger said some of them are here, and asked if any of them would like to say anything. Avia Weber said we'd just like to thank you for this opportunity. Ms. deLeon said if there's anything you'd like to report and report for wherever you're assigned to you can just give a report then. Mrs. Yerger said, yes. Mr. Carocci, said, yes, thank you all for participating. Ms. deLeon said this is a great opportunity I feel for you guys, it'll look great on your resume. Mrs. Yerger said, anything from anybody else?

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved to approve Avia Weber, Kennedy Pacchioli, Bela Silverman, Mason Simms, Colin Griffith, and Kyla Ferguson to serve as Junior Council Members on the various Councils, Commissions, and Boards for the 2021-2022 school year.

SECOND BY: Mr. Banonis

ROLL CALL: 5-0

B. PRESENTATION BY MCMAHON ASSOCIATES ON WALKWORKS GRANT

Mrs. Yerger said the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) Steering Committee has worked on the plan since January. The plan has been available for public review and comment on several occasions. Natasha Manbeck, Senior Project Manager from McMahon Associates, will present the final recommendations for Council's review and approval. Natasha Manbeck participated via conference phone presented the Active Transportation Plan via a slide presentation.

Ms. Manbeck said she is the senior project manager with McMahon Associates. I'm excited to be here this evening to present the final Active Transportation Plan (ATP). This builds on the Township's efforts over the previous year and it's really the culmination of an 8-month planning

process. I'd like to thank and recognize Council member Jason Banonis, key staff members Leslie and Cathy, as well as the members of the Steering committee who helped to pull the plan together.

Ms. Manbeck said what is active transportation? The term is used to describe human-powered transportation, like walking, hiking, jogging and biking. The ATP identifies strategies to better accommodate walking and biking. The strategies often include capital improvements such as sidewalks and trails, but it also includes policies and programs to help encourage walking and biking in the community. The Township received grant funding to develop this plan. The Township has been working on a variety of plans and projects to improve walking and biking for many years, particularly the Saucon Rail Trail (SRT).

Ms. Manbeck said the purpose of this plan was to think comprehensively about active transportation and developing a connected network in the Township. The Township identified 4 focus areas and they are reflected in the goals for the project, one was to create a consistent cohesive trail along Route 378. Another was focused on the SRT and particularly providing multi-modal connections, both to the 412 corridor, as well as the Polk Valley corridor and area. Another goal was to connect residential neighbors to the SRT and other commercial corridors. Finally, to establish policies that support expansion of Lower Saucon Township's active transportation network. The draft ATP was posted online in August for public comments and the final plan is being presented this evening.

Ms. Manbeck said it includes five chapters and tonight I will be focusing primarily on Chapter 5 which is the Implementation Plan since that was not covered in previous Council presentations, but I will say this presentation is just a snapshot, and I encourage everyone to check out all the details that are included in the full plan. The next slide is a map which shows the overall active transportation network within the focused areas of the Township. It includes proposed sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, crossings and other improvements. It shows how the network extends beyond the Township's borders and the importance of regional connection. The next slide shows the plan which includes more detailed information for each focus area. This is an example of the Rail Trail connection and you can see it highlights some of the priority improvements such as sidewalks along Route 412, a trail or other accommodations along Meadows Road, as well as bike lanes along Skibo Road. The next slide shows achieving the vision for a connected network, it will not happen overnight and it will likely occur in phases.

Ms. Manbeck said many of the proposed connections will require additional evaluation, design, permitting, coordination with PennDOT, coordination with property owners and securing funds. While some improvements will take time, the Township does have a head start on some projects that are already underway. One of those projects is the replacement of the Meadows Road Bridge above the Saucon Creek. This is a key connection to provide connection to the SRT with Route 412 and the Giant shopping Center and the Township has already started coordinating with PennDOT and Northampton County regarding the design of the replacement of the bridge and continuing that coordination is a priority action item. The next slide shows the Township has already formed a Route 378 corridor Economic Development Task Force and this group is well set up to take the lead on figuring out the further evaluation of bicycle and pedestrian improvements along the corridor as well as initiating coordination with PennDOT regarding potential safety improvements. The next slide the plan identifies several early action items, which can be taken on and underway in the near term. The plan identifies some updates to Township policies as well as continuing programs to support walking and biking, including the Townships adopt-a-road program, as well as the bike ride with the police event. In addition to plans and policies there are four early action capital improvements projects that are listed. These are improvements that can be done in the near term. They have few feasibility concerns and have generally low to moderate costs. This includes sidewalks on Route 412 to connect the Hellertown and the Giant shopping center, bike lanes on Skibo Road and share-the-road treatment for Meadows to connect residential areas with the SRT and an improved pedestrian crossing on Hickory Hill Road.

Ms. Manbeck said the plan includes several other priority projects, where more time is needed to implement them due to feasibility issues and other concerns and considerations. It is important as even though these are long-term projects to start work now and the plan identifies short, medium and long-term action items for each of these projects. As the Township already knows one of the keys of successful implementation of this plan is continuing to collaborate with partners. The plan identifies that working with partners will help to provide opportunities to implementing projects and some of these partners neighboring technical resources or even funding and financial resources to make the plan a reality. This is the end of the active transportation planning process and it is really a continuation of the Township's great work to improve walking and biking in the Township and beyond. She opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Banonis said, I just want to thank you again, I know I thanked you previously, for your hard work on this, it's been a pleasure working with you to put together this plan. I think this is really a gem for the Township and I'm optimistic that we'll follow this plan and secure the funding and resources needed to implement it. It'll really change the dynamics of the community and make us a much more accessible and healthier more recreational, recreationally oriented community. So, thank you again for that, it was a pleasure working with you and all the other members of the committee.

Ms. Manbeck said thanks Jason, likewise. Your leadership was really instrumental in keeping the plan moving. Mrs. Yerger, is there any other questions or comments from Council? Ms. deLeon said, no, I just want to thank you also. Mrs. Yerger said yes, I think we all appreciate all of your hard work.

Mrs. Stauffer said I have a quick question, I guess the Bingen Road trail and the Black River Road trail are sidewalk options. I know they're listed under other priority projects but I was just curious about these cause I saw the diagram mentions to maintain the existing configuration of Bingen Road which is a little narrow in some ways and it mentions a ten foot multi-use trail with a buffer along the side. Mrs. Stauffer said I guess I was curious with your experience how has that happened before on roads like this and how have you seen that come into reality?

Ms. Manbeck said the Bingen Road trail that's identified in the plan was identified to go along and follow an existing sewer easement in that area and so one of the key next steps in the plan is coordinating with the authority to determine whether or not that might be feasible to utilize that existing easement and alignment. That particular project in the idea of a trail on Bingen Road received a lot of public support but it will require additional feasibility evaluation before it can be implemented. Mrs. Stauffer thank you.

Mr. Banonis said just to add to that Natasha, for anybody who may be interested specifically in the Bingen Road portion of this, when you drive on Bingen Road and if you're heading towards Seidersville Road, on your right side, you'll see a number of elevated manhole covers. That would be the easement line and that's the area we identified as potential target for the easement for use because as it is now it's only used for the water authority and what better to co-use that line to provide access toward Hellertown. When you look at this plan if it comes to fruition where all parts of it are connected you can go from Hellertown Reservoir trails to the Giant Shopping Center to the school district, to the SRT, all the way through the Township to get to Route 378. There are a lot of people that live in those communities and I think there would be tremendous use of the trail system by them to get around the community. I also think it would reduce our motor vehicle traffic and I think it would create a much healthier lifestyle. Mrs. Yerger asked if there are any questions from the audience with regards to this issue?

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval of the Active Transportation Plan as presented by Natasha Manbeck of McMahan Associates.
- SECOND BY:** Ms. deLeon
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Mr. Banonis said before we change topics on this just a few housekeeping matters with regard to the plan. I'm wondering do we need a motion...and what I ask is that Leslie and Cathy pursue funding to bring this to fruition. I know in the past the Township has come up with plans and reports but often times they get cast aside and what's proposed never comes to fruition, so I want to keep this on the front burner and not allow it to get on the back burner. I'm hoping that Leslie and Cathy can pursue funding resources to support and implement the plan. I would also ask if Leslie could coordinate with Public Works because a lot of the things that are proposed in this plan do not require major infrastructural changes. There are things that Public Works may have the resources and ability and time to do and look at future capital projects and see how and what we're proposing could be implemented into those. The third thing I would ask for is to have a meeting with PennDOT and the various stakeholders on 378. I know we have State Representative Milou Mackenzie here with us and I'm sure she would be very willing to assist us with our efforts with PennDOT to really look at that corridor for some infrastructural improvements that can be done in conjunction with what's proposed here in the plan. I don't know what that may be, but I think we may need to hear that from the stakeholders. I think the corridor is underutilized from a commercial standpoint and we really need to create that as our mainstream. We had talked about this early on when I first got onto council last year and then got sidetracked with COVID, but I'd like to put some of this back on the front burner so that we can bring these different aspects of the plan to a reality. You know the residents need this or at least they deserve it and I think we have the resources to get it done.

Ms. deLeon said yes and I think it's a good idea to get the Public Works department to look at this plan and come up with a 5-year review or implementation and it should be part of this budget for next year. Mr. Banonis agreed. Ms. deLeon said so can I have, or do we need a motion to ask Leslie to put that in the budget, like a line of what we can look forward to see happening next year and the years after that? Mrs. Huhn said I think we could put the phasing together and as Natasha said the 1st phase we could look at and associate some costs with it and see what Public Works is capable of doing and starting there. As Jason said, we can look for funding, so we can try and put some dollar amounts to it and earmark something in the budget for each stage as we get to it. Ms. deLeon said I just don't want this collecting dust on a shelf somewhere. Ms. Huhn said I think it's important as Jason said to meet with PennDOT and the stakeholders on Route 378.

Mr. Banonis said the other request I would make is you know Leslie from being at the SVP meetings that we're close to having a finalized Comprehensive Plan for Hellertown, Lower Saucon and the school district and one of the things they were waiting for before finalizing that was our approval of the ATP, so I would ask if you could ASAP get this to our consultant and the other stakeholders in the partnership when we meet the next time. I think it's for the 2nd Wednesday in October that they have it and it could be part of that approval. Mrs. Huhn said, yes, I'll work on that tomorrow.

Mrs. Yerger said we also may want to take a look at the other potential partners we have that were listed in here and provide them a copy too, it wouldn't hurt. Mr. Banonis said yes, we talked about that at the partnership and the need for that because they too are working on some improvements in Hellertown. When I mentioned this to them at the SVP meeting, they were impressed with it and they thought it would be really good to have a copy of it so they could share it with their consultants.

Mrs. Huhn said, we'll share it and we'll also share it on the website. Ms. deLeon said can we send this out to the residents that we approved this tonight, maybe one of the constant email things and put it on the website and Facebook. Ms. Huhn said sure, we can put it on Facebook and direct them to the website where we'll post it. Mr. Banonis said I know there was a solicitation for topics for the newsletter, is it too late? Mrs. Huhn said, no it can be put in the newsletter. Mrs. Yerger said, yes, that's a good idea Jason. Mrs. Yerger said is there anything else or anything the audience wants to add?

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS – None

V. **TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **PRESENTATION AND REVIEW OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2022 - 2026**

Mrs. Yerger said the Director of Finance has prepared a draft of the 5-year Capital Plan for Council's review and discussion.

Mrs. Gorman said in your packet is the Capital Plan for the next 5 years. We've identified certain items in there that were approved at the last budget. There are items that will be carried over into next year, specifically some of the vehicles items that were approved in the 2021 budget due to the economy and COVID. The harsh reality is that not everything that was ordered in this year will materialize this year. It might actually take quite longer as we're rotating that into the next year. The backhoe has been ordered and one of the police cruisers, I believe is intending to be ordered. We're moving the rest of the items into next year so the Police Department is looking to add another couple vehicles and Public Works is asking for a replacement of truck 16 which is now 15 years old. On the other items that were future planning for infrastructure improvements, we have money set aside for the interior modifications of Seidersville, which we did receive a grant for. The funding we are putting in for the Police Department would be the records management system, LPR systems, some other infrastructure improvements, such as the Active Transportation Plan which I have phased into a 3-year period in the anticipation of filing grants and having funding to match. That was our goal to begin with. In the beginning phases, we'll have to be doing more Engineering and Legal before we get to that point, but we'll start working on that right away. Other than that, the park equipment for the parks we're looking at the pervious trail replacement, which we did receive the funding for that. We'll be working on bids and getting that repaired for next year as well. Some of the items on this list in park improvements was recommendations from our Public Works Department so if there's anything in there that Council does not wish to entertain or something you wish to entertain, we can encompass that into this plan and do what we always do, plan out when we can do it and solicit grant funding. Mrs. Yerger said Cathy is there any way when you look at Parks and Rec., the different parks, would this cover a 5-year plan. I'd like to know Steel City Park or Polk Valley Park what other things are planned for out there, so that would be nice to have. Mrs. Gorman said, on the page related to parks on the chart you'll see they are spread out.

Ms. deLeon said what page is that? Ms. Gorman said if you go to the chart, I'm not sure what page that is, it's probably page 9. We do have phased in some improvements for Town Hall Park, the SRT additions, and Steel City. We do not have any recommendations as of yet, if you'd like to add we can add that too. Some of the items, such as Town Hall Park, Roger and I were out there today with the contractors to install the handicapped play equipment at the two parks and at previous meetings our sales rep. had discussed with us that the tot lot at Town Hall park is pretty much obsolete at this point and we're not going to be able to find replacement parts, so we've added that into the infrastructure improvements. At some point we may want to discuss replacing some of those items. That might also entail Steel City at some point. When those things come up we'll be looking for grants. Ms. deLeon said I just happened to pick that park because it came first to my mind but we have how many 7 or 8? Mrs. Gorman said, Steel City Park was the last that was renovated. Obviously there are some other things that need to be done there. Ms. deLeon said the fence isn't as shiny as it used to be, long story. Mrs. Gorman said all of these items will be in your Capital Plan budget next week. Mrs. Yerger asked if there were any other questions or comments for Cathy, anyone from the audience. Mrs. Gorman said if there are any considerations that Council might have please let me know and we'll add it.

B. **REVIEW OF INVESTMENT OPTIONS**

Mrs. Yerger said Fulton Bank has notified the Township of several cash management options available to the Township to avoid impending fees to be assessed. The Director of Finance will provide the information given and update Council on the impact of our current investments.

Mrs. Gorman said our bank that we use for our general operating and cash flow has advised us that due to the enormous amount of Federal funding that they are receiving into their bank accounts, they

are trying to put us in a banking investment that would maximize the investments that we have. It's basically keeping us at the level we're at. The money market accounts that we have now, their Corporate Executives have decided that they're going to charge us 12 cents per \$1,000 invested to cover their expenses. Linc had reviewed the documents and Fulton is recommending that we go into a money market fund sweep service which should have no effect on our transactions, except for that fact that it's going to be a treasury obligated fund that will be handled by Goldman Sacs and the funding will always be there. If we need it, we can draw down from it. It's not anything that's going to impede our day-to-day operations, it's more on their end and they're recommending it so that we do not incur any costs.

Mrs. Gorman said the other option was we can enter into a CRIM account which is a Cash Reserve Investment Management portfolio where you're actually paying an investor to invest into cash treasuries and that is with a fee. They are estimating they can get us at .14% interest and they would charge us .05% with a net yield of .09%, right now we're at .01%. We started the year at 0.13% and now we're at 0.01%. We had invested some of our funds in CD's and two years ago we received over \$100,000 in interest. This year we're down to \$65,000. I'm not projecting to get much more than that at this point. The CD's we rolled over, I was trying to hedge our bets and hope that the economy would get better and things would loosen up a little but, we're at a .25% at another financial institution with our CD's. Our investment policy says that Leslie, myself and the Controller would review different investment options when it comes to CD's so, we'll sit down and see if there are any unencumbered funds we could put in to a secure and better interest rate. For the time being for the amount for what we have the financial institution is recommending that we go into the Sweep account for the funds we have with Fulton. Linc had requested for me to advise you that our interest rate projections for next year is not going to be like they were in the past two years.

Attorney Treadwell said is the interest earned on the Sweep account more or less than the interest earned the way our money is invested now. Mrs. Gorman said we'll get what we're getting now, we're just not going to incur any fees. Attorney Treadwell said it's because they're charging new fees that they didn't charge last year. Mrs. Gorman said yes, that's right. It'll be a wash in the transaction for that. Attorney Treadwell said and is the CRIM a higher investment rate than the Sweep account? Mrs. Gorman said yes. They're projecting the CRIM at .09% and we're at .01%.

Mrs. Stauffer said why are they recommending the Sweep then vs. the CRIM? Mrs. Gorman said I'm not totally sure but this gentleman may be doing this on a day-to-day basis and he can invest in treasuries and if you feel comfortable with that we can go in that direction. I'm looking at it more like we should invest in CD's and the bank that giving us .25%. Our investment policy says I can invest funding that are idle up to two years. If we invest up to five years with some idle funding, I can get .4% instead of .9%. Attorney Treadwell said what your proposal is, I'm assuming the Sweep is less risky than the CRIM, even though they're both approved for government investment? Mrs. Gorman said they're approved for government investments. The CRIM's I haven't had a good experience with them. Attorney Treadwell said but the issue is now that Fulton Bank is going to start charging the 12 cents per 1,000. In the product we're using right now, if Council authorizes you to move it to the Sweep account in the short term, you'll continue to look at the possibility of CD's or something else? Mrs. Gorman said CD's or even CRIM. For the short term move it to the Sweeps so we can get out of the charging of our fees. Mrs. Stauffer had one more question, is it unusual for a Township to do both, the Sweep and the CRIM? I remember CRIM from some trainings? Mrs. Gorman said we can definitely do both, Northampton County does CRIM, it's not unusual and if you want me to investigate that further for options, I can do that as well. Mr. Carocci said tonight we need to do the Sweep account? Mrs. Huhn said we can change once we're in one and Mrs. Gorman will reach out to the bank for further information.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Carocci moved for approval of the Sweep account to avoid any the fees and for Council to revisit this later.
- SECOND BY:** Mr. Banonis
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0

C. SAUCON RAIL TRAIL EVENTS

1. **SAUCON RAIL TRAIL 10K – 9/6/21**
2. **HLSC BIKES AND BREWS: PEDAL FOR A PURPOSE – 9/9/21**
3. **ROBBINS REHABILITATION EAST RIDE FOR HUNTINGTON’S – 9/19/21**

Mrs. Yerger said there are three events that will take place on the Saucon Rail Trail in which Township Council has to approve. The Manager will discuss with Council.

Mrs. Huhn said these events are recommended from the SRT. One event had already occurred, the 10K was on the 6th. The Bikes and Brews which is this evening and Robbins Rehabilitation East Ride have been approved by SRT Oversight Committee and are being brought to Council for ratification and approval of No. 3. These were on for last week’s agenda but then the meeting got cancelled due to flooding issues. The motion is for the Robbins Rehabilitation East Ride. Ms. deLeon said can we just approve all of them and it would be retro? Mrs. Huhn said yes, they would all be retro except for the one. Mrs. Yerger said so we can just approve them all in one motion.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved for approval of the three Saucon Rail Trail Events as stated above.
SECOND BY: Mr. Banonis
ROLL CALL: 5-0

D. RESOLUTION #60-2021 – SPECIAL FIRE POLICE

Mrs. Yerger said based on the adoption of Ordinance No. 2021-02, Council should reconsider the appointment of the individuals for Special Fire Police.

Mrs. Huhn said you have in your packet Fire Police Resolutions that were done previously. They are done on an annual basis upon the recommendation of the names submitted to the Police Department, as this is overseen by the Lower Saucon Township Police Department. This resolution is based on the adoption of Ordinance No. 2021-02 and we’re bringing this to Council to reconsider the appointment of the individuals. There is a draft Resolution #60-2021 in your packet which rescinds the previous resolutions and creates the new one. Attorney Treadwell said it’s a similar resolution, you used to do two a year. Steel City Fire Company would recommend individuals to Fire Police and what’s now known as LSFR would recommend individuals to Fire Police. Since LSFR is now the sole provider of fire services we thought we’d bring it back to Council to see if you’d want to revise these resolutions. Ms. deLeon said there’s only four people that are Fire Police? Mrs. Huhn said, yes, at this time. Mr. Carocci said they can always have more and Ms. deLeon said she knew that she was just saying there’s only four. Mrs. Stauffer pointed out a typo on Resolution #05-2020, it is missing a zero. Mrs. Huhn said she’ll have that changed.

MOTION BY: Mr. Carocci moved for approval Resolution #60-2021 for the appointments of Robert Gearhart, Robert Buki, James Petrowski and Jason Mingora for Special Fire Police.
SECOND BY: Mrs. Stauffer
ROLL CALL: 5-0

Mrs. Yerger asked if there were any comments from the audience. Kevin Kalman, Steel City Fire Company Vice President and Fire Police Captain said thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak with you today. I do have a question and you’re not obligated to answer, but if you do it would be much appreciated. Do the Council folks here know why this resolution was brought up tonight? Ms. deLeon said the Administration prepares most of the agenda items.

Mr. Carocci said I think it was clear, Linc stated it needed to be revisited because of the Ordinance that was passed designating LSFR as the sole provider of fire services for the Township. I think he was clear about that. Mr. Kalman said did any of the Council members receive the email correspondence to Police Chief Barndt and Township Manager Leslie Huhn? Mrs. Huhn said I did not forward it to Council. I believe you asked to receive the resolution which I responded and sent it to you. Mr. Kalman said I have an email here that was sent August 24th to the Police Chief. I also had a phone call into the Township office, the phone call was not returned. Mr. Kalman said, Priscilla I remember you discussing in the past about you not getting all the information when you have

resolutions and ordinances set before you. I thought about that and was curious to see if any of you have received any of the correspondences that I have sent? There have been multiple correspondence that have been sent. Mrs. Huhn said I viewed them as internal questions of staff and we normally do not put emails in Council's packet. We provide them with the information such as the resolution and the ordinance and the back-up of documentation regarding that. Mr. Kalman said now last week at the original meeting this was going to be identified as a Fire Police review, a review of Special Fire Police resolutions. Mrs. Huhn said that's correct. Mr. Kalman said now it's been converted into a resolution tonight that was not posted online for public review until I emailed you this morning. Mrs. Huhn said that's correct that was an oversight on our part, the entire packet was not on the website it was just the front sheet from last Wednesday. Mrs. Huhn said, he is correct, this Resolution was then subsequently posted on the website and a copy was provided to Mr. Kalman. Mr. Kalman said for your information Council, I had the opportunity to sit down and digest everything that has happened, and have taken into consideration everything on all sides of the fence. Everyone here is a valued stakeholder in the provision of Emergency Services for Lower Saucon Township. You folks, LSFR, Steel City Fire Company and even the residents in their community are all stakeholders. I did receive conflicting information as to what happened. I would speak for myself, should I be integrated in the organization. I have spoken with their Fire Police Captain at several training instances and the Fire Police Captain had stated that I would be on border as a Fire Police Lieutenant with the specific function of a training officer based on my background and credentials. However, at our last meeting between the two fire companies Deputy Chief Evans has stated that he was not interested as having me on as a Fire Police period, yet alone a Fire Police Lieutenant. More so, President Krycia will verify that LSFR has a stipulation in their By-Laws that you cannot be a member of more than one fire company, and President Krycia has said I would have to relinquish my 25 years of service and life membership at Bethlehem Township Fire Company. I could tell you one of the greatest challenges as a volunteer is time. It requires an incredible amount of time management and planning to participate in the various activities that we do participate in. I looked at my badge here and it doesn't say Steel City Fire Company, it doesn't say LSFR, it says Lower Saucon Township, and if there was anyway possible I was able to continue my services here in this community, I would welcome the opportunity to do so. When I read the ordinance that was passed in the month of July, I saw that it specifically stated firefighting, it did not reference rescue, it did not reference fire police or any of those things. When I emailed Chief Barndt who was also a Fire Chief, he would also have an understanding of both sides of the fence. I shared with him what the ordinance said, the fire police law out of Title 35 and explained this is the situation. We are still active as Fire Police, we are still covered under W/C and what are your wishes? I wanted to go to him as he would be the direct report for operation response, a Fire Police can be activated directly by the municipality and by the Police Department, bypassing the fire department, so there was still an opportunity to serve in the appropriate capacity and I was hoping to have a dialogue with Chief Barndt as well as the stakeholders as well as the Council members to discuss if this was indeed an option. As this stands, with this resolution which just passed, we have now definitely lost volunteers, which was an objective we did not want to accomplish, because there's no room for me at LSFR. I can still serve as Fire Police for the municipality in that mechanism I had described in that email that had been sent. Now, I have to respect your wishes that you are o.k. with losing volunteers. I have to respect that. My big concern and I'll finish this up Mr. Carocci, is was there going to be an adverse impact on emergency response in this community with this change. I'm sad to say that happened. Freemansburg police have specifically requested Steel City Fire Company to bring their water rescue for one of the severe weather events we had and we had to cancel because we did not have W/C coverage, which was considered as soon as the ordinance was passed. There are other Fire Companies that still have us on mutual aid, but we cannot respond until we resolve the W/C issue. Remember I said in the previous meeting that I am only one, but I am understanding that the leadership of Steel City wanted to explore the opportunities acquired through W/C that is all being discussed internally. I'm here because I have been tasked with taking care of the Fire Police if we have an option to move forward. Fire Police to go ahead investigate, see what the Council says and come back. Now what I do want to add in conclusion is with the removal of Steel City nominated members Fire Police which would actually prohibit us from responding as mutual aid, because we

have to have that authorization from the municipality. I do have a work-around with that which goes through the Council of governments and I plan to do a presentation with the Saucon Valley Partnership but I have all three political entities that we could solve on a regional basis with the staffing of these four Fire Police but even then that would require Lower Saucon's participation, blessing, otherwise it would just be to the benefit of Hellertown Borough and the Saucon Valley Schools. I just wanted to share this all with you.

Mr. Carocci said thank you for your comments, I think if you're interested in becoming a Fire Police of LSFR you should send them an application and I'm sure they'll look at it and get back to you. Thank you for your service in the past and I think your three minutes are up, thank you very much.

Ms. deLeon said didn't he say that he did apply, did you apply? Mr. Carocci said not for fire, you applied for fire services, didn't you? You stated you applied to be with fire services with Lower Saucon and not as a Fire Police, is that correct? Mr. Kalman said forgive me, I did not understand. Mr. Carocci said, you said you applied to LSFR? Mr. Kalman said, I did not. I know you had asked that question at the last meeting with President Nocek, I did not submit an application because I would not be able to meet the prerequisites of terminating my membership at the other fire company. Ms. deLeon said is that ruling in the By-Laws that you have to do that? Mr. Carocci said, yes and I would prefer it personally because our volunteer fire fighters are provided with equipment and training and our taxpayers pay for the equipment and training. That's fine when Steel City hadn't had some volunteers that ran with other people and that's not how LSFR does it and LSFR is their fire services provider now and I tend to agree it's a good policy. They are under our W/C, so we pay for their training, the equipment and I think they should be sole members of LSFR. Bethlehem and Freemansburg can always call LSFR for mutual aid should they need their assistance and they go, that happens all the time, Hellertown as well, that happens all the time. There's no need for them to be members of two departments, no need whatsoever. Thank you for you service, both in Lower Saucon Township and Bethlehem, we appreciate it.

Mr. Kalman said, I just want to reiterate Councilman, I'm also an instructor. The training service we provide does not cost the municipalities anything. If we are paying for training it is most likely through Bucks County, through a subscription program which costs several thousands of dollars. We had the opportunity and all of my training has been done directly through the State or through Bethlehem Township. Steel City or Lower Saucon Township did not have to pay anything. In fact, I provided training, State accredited training, traffic incident management, and basic fire police and advanced fire police, both at Steel City Fire Company and Freemansburg Fire Company, both obviously local companies, no one from LSFR attended. It was free training held locally. Mr. Carocci said I don't doubt your credentials and your abilities, I think you should, if you're interested fill out an application for Lower Saucon Fire and Rescue. We'll see what happens, but I think that's your next step if you want to serve the Township, which we'll appreciate.

Mr. Banonis said Mr. Kalman I have a question for you, I just want to probe you on one of the things you mentioned earlier, that you had said that at last week's storm and the remnants of Hurricane Ida, that a request was made for Steel City to provide water rescue services? Where was that request made from? Mr. Kalman said Freemansburg police. I do not believe it was Ida, I do believe it was a previous water event, we were still getting alerts through our active 911 app for a multitude of calls since the ordinance was passed. Mr. Banonis said okay you answered my question. My next question I have for you is if Steel City Fire Rescue wants to service other communities other than Lower Saucon Township, is there anything that prevents Steel City from going out and getting its own W/C insurance or, falling under the purview of another department or community W/C? Mr. Kalman said, absolutely not, they do have the opportunity to get W/C; however, as fire police we would not be able to do so because we could only have approval through the municipality and you are in charge of fire police. Mr. Banonis said, fair enough, and along those lines, since this Council voted to no longer have Steel City as providing emergency services for Lower Saucon Township resident's, has Steel City done anything to get its own W/C insurance, or to fall under the umbrella of another

community's W/C insurance? Mr. Kalman said, we are working on that, we have to collect...Mr. Banonis said, my question was, have you done it? I know you're working on it, but have you done it? Mr. Kalman said yes. Mr. Banonis said well have you secured that W/C insurance. Mr. Kalman said we have not secured it yet. There have been prerequisites to securing that, which includes the copies of mutual agreements, which we are in the process of obtaining, with volunteers this doesn't happen overnight. Mr. Banonis said it was fairly clear to me over the dealings of many months by this Township what the outcome was going to be. What, if anything, did Steel City Fire Rescue do before this Council voted back on August 18th, to make arrangements to have that W/C insurance available and ready to go should in fact what happened did happen? In other words, this Council voted as it did to no longer utilize the services of Steel City? Was anything done before that vote to try to sure it up and get ready to have W/C insurance? Mr. Kalman said you can't ask before the ordinance was passed. Mr. Banonis said I know you can ask and you can anticipate. It sounds like none of that was ever done. Am I accurate? Mr. Kalman said we have certain members that are tasked with carrying out the responsibilities, I was tasked with handling the fire police end. Perhaps you should direct your questions related to the fire police, I wish I could answer thoroughly. The issues that were brought to my attention I have addressed. Everything from the ISO, so I don't understand. Mr. Banonis said, so let me get this straight. Mr. Kalman said you are asking questions that I cannot answer because I have not been tasked with that. LSFR will say we're not going to ask questions of their members that are not tasked with that responsibility. Mr. Banonis said, what's your position with Steel City Fire? Mr. Kalman said Fire Police Captain. Mr. Banonis said, alright, thank you, that's all I have.

Ms. deLeon said it's my understanding that in order to become a LSFR person, you have to be recommended by the fire company and they have to approve them and you have to be a member? Mr. Carocci said I can let Scott Krycia address that real quickly, Scott if you have a second, but they have to fill out an application, they're subject to a background. Attorney Treadwell said I think Priscilla's talking about, in order to be fire police the way that the Township has consistently, historically handled it is the fire company makes a recommendation to the Township and generally the Township follows that recommendation. I can't remember a time when we said no, that person that was recommended by one of the fire companies cannot be a fire police. At one point we had four different companies making the recommendation, correct. Mr. Carocci said, alright then I'll make a motion to pass the ordinance. Attorney Treadwell said resolution. Mrs. Huhn said I think we had a motion, we just didn't vote. Mrs. Yerger said, we didn't vote, we asked for comment from the public. So, roll call please.

ROLL CALL: 5-0

E. RESOLUTION #58-2021 – NORCO GRANT SUBMISSION – PUBLIC WORKS STORAGE BUILDING

Mrs. Yerger said Resolution #58-2021 has been prepared to authorize the submission of a second 2021 Grow NORCO Grant Round 2 application for the purchase and installation of a pole building to house Public Works and Police Department equipment. The grant is a matching fund grant.

Mrs. Huhn said we're bringing this to you for your consideration. The NORCO Grow Grant program allows for multiple submissions. At the last meeting we brought to you the Police signage that we are submitting for the road closed signs and speed trailer signs and that type of thing. We thought it would be beneficial to apply for the pole building which would house these signs, the radar signs and a lot of the Public Works signs. We have a lot of signs that we use out on the roads during storms, when the roads are closed, and of course, when they're working on it, and need a place to store them. We would like to ask for consideration to submit this grant as well. I spoke with Northampton County and they asked that we prioritize which grant we would prefer should they not approve one of them. Our first one with the Police speed trailer signs would be our first choice. If you would like to have us consider submitting this, it's due tomorrow so we would have to put some narrative together once you approve it. If you would rather we wait until another round of the NORCO grant funding we can do that as well. Ms. deLeon said, no, I think we should go for whatever we can go

for. Mrs. Huhn said yes since they allow us to the opportunity. Mrs. Yerger said, is that a motion. Ms. deLeon said I'll make that motion. Mrs. Yerger said motion to approve Resolution #58-2021 for the NORCO Grant Submission – Public Works Storage Building. Ms. deLeon said as stated by our President.

- MOTION BY:** Ms. deLeon moved for approval of Resolution #58-2021 for the NORCO Grant Submission – Public Works Storage Building, as stated by Mrs. Yerger.
- SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0

F. RESOLUTION #59-2021 – ESTABLISHING TOWNSHIP-WIDE POLICY TO PURCHASE PRODUCTS MADE IN THE U.S.

Mrs. Yerger said Council member Jason Banonis would like to request Council adopt a policy for the purchasing of products made in the United States, whenever possible.

Mrs. Yerger said, do you want to elaborate a little on this Jason? Mr. Banonis said yes, I was reading an article about a water authority and I'm not suggesting Lower Saucon Water Authority does this, but, there was mention of this water authority using Chinese chemicals and specifically fluoride. I considered the impact of that and I have no idea what we do here but it caused me to question the safety and efficacy of using Chinese made products in water supply that could put the public in peril and it caused me consider more about the general reputation news reports you read about substandard Chinese made products. China is stealing American technology and ideas, the lack of transparency China has had for quite some time and even more recently in health environment and health violations and then more importantly the affect on American businesses and the workers and jobs. We just have the latest dismal jobs reports that came out a few days ago that reinforces it. I recognize it may cost a little more for us to purchase American made products and it may also be a little more burdensome for the Township staff to investigate that, but I think it's an important initiative for us to do. We certainly can't change the world economy by ourselves here in Lower Saucon, but I think if we can do our part and at least try, then maybe other communities may get on board and do something similar, that we can advance American interest. I think we owe it to ourselves and to our future to try to do that. Mrs. Yerger said, I just want to point out that it is in one of the sections which does state that if that product is not manufactured in the United States and the only source is out of the country then, yes, we would then look at a foreign product. Mr. Banonis said, yes, this does not mean we would forego that product if it's not available from American made sources or another national source, just that it would put a precedence on American made first and other countries with democratic societies similar to what we are. Mrs. Yerger said, we're not going to forego anything just because it's not made in the United States. Mr. Banonis said no, that's not at all suggested. Mrs. Yerger said, I just want to make sure that was on the record. Is there any discussion by Council?

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval of Resolution #59-2021 for establishing a Township-wide policy to purchase products made in the U.S.
- SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0

G. DISCUSSION REGARDING MASK MANDATE IN THE TOWNSHIP

Mrs. Yerger said Council member Priscilla deLeon would like to discuss a mask mandate with Council.

Ms. deLeon said, I asked Leslie to put this on the agenda. I feel that we can talk about this. I don't want to talk about this until 1:00 in the morning, just to let everybody know. I do want to say that I think this is important that we mandate in the public building, the State does it, the County does it, all State buildings require masks. You can't walk into a hospital, you can't go for physical therapy. There's a lot of places that whether you're vaccinated or not, they're suggesting that you wear a mask and I just wanted to put it on the agenda because I feel it's very important that we should follow suit because we're public property. I don't know how anyone else on Council feels, I just want to do this.

Mr. Banonis said my position on this is people have gotten vaccinated so they don't have to wear a mask, those that want to wear a mask can certainly wear one. If I look out here in the audience, I know some people have left so far, there's a total of one person wearing a mask out of eleven who has a mask on. I think by just the public presence tonight that there's an endorsement to not be required to wear a mask at our meetings. Ms. deLeon said I'm not just talking about meetings, I'm talking about the County, can you walk into Lehigh or Northampton County building and not have a mask on? I don't think you can, they require it. You can't go to court proceedings without wearing a mask, you can't walk into any hospital without wearing a mask. I just feel that in the best interest, we just got done talking about buying products in the United States and not from China. We're trying to protect our residents and I'm vaccinated and people who are vaccinated can still get COVID. I just feel that we're putting our employees at risk and I'm not saying that Leslie has to sit in her office all day with a mask on, but I think there's a contact between someone walking in the building with the employees sitting out at the windows and just to protect the people. That's all, I was in the medical field and so I'm used to wearing masks. To me I can't, I don't understand the breathing and all that stuff so I wouldn't want a surgeon operating on me without a mask on. I don't want to talk about this forever, but I feel, I really feel that it's important to protect out residents.

Mr. Carocci said I hope Township employees that want to wear a mask feel free to wear a mask and they should. I'm not sure about the public coming into the building because they're behind the plexiglass there. So, are you making a motion? Ms. deLeon said, yes, I'd like to make a motion to mandate wearing masks on public property in the building, including meetings. Mr. Banonis said does that include parks as well? Ms. deLeon said, no, not outside, indoors. I meant indoors I'm sorry if I misconstrued that.

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved to mandate wearing masks on public property in the building, including meetings.

Mrs. Stauffer said, I think in these trying times that most of us wants to protect our loved ones and our colleagues because it's our civic duty to care about one another. I'm just going to read the CDC guidelines; if you're fully vaccinated to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others wearing a mask indoors and public or if you're in a hot area of substantial or high transmission. I do think Northampton County is a high transmission area right now, we are. Mrs. Yerger said what? I can't hear you. Mrs. Stauffer said, Northampton County is a high transmission right now. We don't necessarily know the vaccination status of anyone's who's here. We can ask but, I think it's just an opportunity to kind of fall in line with what's happening on a more national level, on a county level and a local level. Mr. Carocci said, Ms. deLeon made a motion is there a second? Mrs. Stauffer said I'll second.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Stauffer

Mrs. Yerger said, I have a motion and a second is there any comment from the audience? Council? Mrs. Yerger said one other thing I would say is what I have seen some of them do is Kristen, and I understand what you have read but you can show, if you don't want to wear a mask, you have to carry your card with you, you should be anyway, then if you show your card, then it's vaccines or mask that's exactly the way I've seen it on public buildings. Mrs. Stauffer said, do you think that would be appropriate for us to do? As a follow up motion here, Mrs. Yerger said, I think that's an option we want to think about. I mean you don't want to do it tonight, do you want to think about it? Mrs. Stauffer said, I'd love to do it tonight because I think that as we head into fall, as we head indoors. Mrs. Yerger said that would be, again I don't know. Mr. Banonis said are we in violation of the Sunshine Laws because our agenda does not identify that? The agenda items talk about discussion regarding mask mandate in the Township, it says nothing about mandating showing vaccination cards. Mrs. Yerger said so then we can do that next time or on another agenda? Mrs. Stauffer said, can we vote to amend the agenda? And then post it tomorrow? Tonight? Mrs. Huhn said that's the option. Ms. deLeon said wait a minute, if somebody wants something on the agenda and it's in between meetings you can just call to have it on the agenda like before? Mrs. Yerger said that's what I'm saying. Mrs. Huhn said if you want to discuss it tonight? Mrs. Yerger said, this night it's only a week away. Ms. deLeon said we can take this thing we'd like to discuss a mask mandate very broadly and talk and do what Kristen suggested.

Attorney Treadwell said my suggestion, before you vote on the vaccination or mask issue, you may want to consider how you're going to enforce that. Mrs. Huhn said, I was going to ask that as well. Do you want the office staff to say "show me your card if you're not wearing a mask"? Ms. deLeon said you can take their temperature? Attorney Treadwell said how are we going to do it at a public meeting? Are we going to have someone standing at the door and we're not going to let you in if you don't have a vaccination or a mask, then all of a sudden it's a public meeting but you can't come in because we created rules that say you can't.

Mr. Carocci said there's a privacy issue. Mrs. Yerger said that's why I don't think it should be done tonight, please don't misunderstand me. Ms. deLeon said that's why there's a priority in taking the Zoom meetings and making that a priority, that way if someone wanted to stay home because they didn't want to wear a mask they could stay home, but that's somehow is not happening fast enough. Mrs. Huhn said we just got a quote today. I can't bring the quote to you if we don't have it. Ms. deLeon said when COVID started and on our very first Zoom meeting, very early on in the Zoom process, we talked about when we were coming to do open meetings we would have Zoom. You had a year and months to plan this. Mrs. Huhn said no, I understand, we started right away, I understand. Ms. deLeon said that upsets me that it's been on the back burner for over a year. Mrs. Huhn said okay. Ms. deLeon said okay and I'm not happy that it's not happening tonight that we're not being Zoomed in or whatever the technology is.

Mr. Banonis said I don't think there was ever any instruction given to the Township Manager or the Township staff when this was started to investigate that specific issue. I think that came up at our last meeting and that's when we sort of got it. Mrs. Huhn said we tried to get cameras at the very beginning of COVID but we just couldn't, there was not a camera on the shelf. They were flying off the shelves. Mrs. Stauffer said that's true, there was a webcam shortage at the beginning of the pandemic because every employer went remote. Mrs. Stauffer said let's get to the issue at hand, which was the mask mandate and whether or not we should adjust.

Donna Louder said if you're going to mandate masks would you be supplying the surgical masks because those are the only masks that work, the cloth masks do not work. You can go on the CDC and look up cloth masks and see that they don't work. Mr. Banonis said do you mean the N95 masks? Ms. Louder said no, just the surgical masks. When worn properly they will work and they have to be the 3-ply. I recently was in a doctor's office and they said you have to wear my mask and not yours and I had a cloth mask. Mr. Banonis said, for the record, who are you? We know you, but Mrs. Yerger said, just for the record please state your name. Donna Louder, Steel City, sorry, I'm just saying. The other thing is I respect your choice to wear a mask, I choose not to wear a mask and I was also vaccinated. I also became very ill from that vaccination and trust me, I won't wear a mask, I paid my dues with the needle.

Mr. Dave Boulin, Alice Drive said I agree with you, you can wear a mask if you want it but please don't make me carry around a card that says I am vaccinated because the next thing I'll have to do is carry around a card saying I vote and I am registered to vote, which we don't have to do and I'll have to show a card that says I got my flu shot or on and on and on that I don't have these other diseases. So, let's not go that way. I would also just ask that if this Council wants to really have a discussion on this thing it should really be open to the public, full blown because that's where I can see it headed for, right. I feel passionate about this, but I'm not going to do it now. Thanks very much. Mrs. Yerger said, is there anyone else?

ROLL CALL: 2-3 (Mrs. Yerger, Mr. Banonis, Mr. Carocci – No – Motion fails)

VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF JULY 21, 2021 COUNCIL MINUTES

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved for approval of the July 21, 2021 Council minutes, with corrections.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger

ROLL CALL: 5-0

VII. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

A. MANAGER – Mrs. Huhn

- She had an update on the Meadows Road Bridge. We did not see any more damage from this last storm, which was Ida, which is good. Mike McGuire from Gannett Fleming the company who is working on the design has indicated that they are looking to start dismantling it shortly. They are looking at signage, which they'll share with the Township because they'll be changing the road closure signs and asking us to be involved in that because there might be different signage there that they'll put up once the bridge is no longer there. I'll report back on that update once I have more information.

B. COUNCIL

Mr. Carocci

- The Landfill Committee meeting is September 16th at 1:00 p.m. I'd like Bryan Evans to come up to the podium as our LSFR received a \$153,000 FEMA grant, was it for equipment, this past week. If you could just explain that to the public, the details of that. Mr. Evans said sure, officially the award date was August 27th, but there's been a lot of other things going on with fire services in LST that had a lot of our attention. We were awarded through FEMA the Fire Assistance Grant, totaling \$153,333.00 to help us upgrade our self-contained breathing apparatus, our air packs, which will allow us to breathe safe conditions. Mrs. Yerger said congratulations. Mr. Evans said we appreciate the support for that. That's a fund from the Federal Government, it's always kind of comes forth at the 11th hour and ends up getting funding. It sounds like there is movement to be able to increase some of that and he thinks it might have been some of the Recovery Act funding and to secure that for a number of years and that's really essential to help us replace equipment and update this technology and safety changes. That's what that grant focuses on, safety and operation to fire fighters. One point for the Fire Services in response to Hurricane Ida, they responded to 28 calls for service, none of them were in the Steel City district of the municipality. Everything happened to be concentrated at the western portion of the Township, so the 378 corridor through Bingen Road into Leithsville seemed to have the impacts. Even the normal places out in the Wassergass area that we typically had problems with over the years. It even extended to Upper Saucon. Mr. Carocci said there was no need for water rescue in LST that night? Mr. Evans said there were multipole water rescues performed using the equipment of LSFR. Mr. Carocci said the rafts and boats that Steel City has? Mr. Evans said no not at that time. Mr. Banonis said thank you for doing that. He was out driving in that from Philadelphia and you guys did a fantastic job shutting down the roadways. Leslie, you and Chief did a great job as well as Public Works. It's pretty remarkable the minimal damage the Township infrastructure suffered other than probably than Reading Drive that is being reconstructed. It's a testament to you and the Emergency Responses and the handling of it so well. Mr. Evans said if he takes off the fire hat and puts on the Emergency Management hat, we need to do an after action summary for that, but it really did work well together. We had some planning calls. The Police Department and Chief Barndt, they did a lot of proactive work. Officers were sent out and we worked with some residents in normally high impacted areas in order to evacuate some people ahead of time or at least have an understanding of what their plan was knowing that we may not be able to evacuate them. There's a lot of work put in ahead of time that made things go a lot easier. He hopes at a future meeting, we'll have more details to bring back. Council thanked Brien.

Mr. Banonis

- The Pension Committee met this week and I'm pleased to report that we are very well funded. Cathy was there and Cathy can probably give us some additional details as well. Mrs. Gorman said yes, with the actuarial evaluations complete, they were routed or will be routed to Council shortly. The MMO's will be presented next week are based on that evaluation, which I know you are concerned with. Our plan is very healthy, we're having a good investment returns this year as well. Hopefully it'll continue to do so for the next evaluation. Mr. Banonis said, one of the things I should've brought up earlier in conjunction

with the Active Transportation Plan with regard to the implementation and oversight of that system, is should we place that responsibility or at least input with Parks and Recreation committee? Mrs. Huhn said, I think we can. Mr. Banonis said do we need to make a motion to do that or we can just give them direction? Mrs. Yerger said, give them direction. Ms. deLeon said, I don't know now what we're directing. Attorney Treadwell said make a motion if you want to officially tell Park and Rec to look at it and work on it, then I think you should make a motion. Ms. deLeon said but we can't make a motion because it's not an agenda item, so now we're back at that. Mrs. Gorman said isn't it noted in the plan? Ms. deLeon said we have a Representative here, you see how hard this is? Mr. Banonis said I thought we had noted it in the plan because we had a discussion with Natasha as to who would have oversight or at least have input. Mrs. Huhn said, we did, so I can put this on next week's agenda. The Park and Rec agenda had already gone out and again with the Sunshine Law we can put it on for their October and ask them to plan on reviewing it. Mr. Banonis said, let's do that. Mrs. Yerger say that again. Mrs. Huhn said, next week I'll put it on the agenda. Ms. deLeon said, she'll put it on the agenda next week because we have to be consistent with this new law. Attorney Treadwell said okay just so everybody knows what the new Sunshine Act is, it allows you to make motions on matters that are de minimis in nature and do not involve the expenditures of funds or entering into a contract or agreement by the agency. So sending something to Park and Rec to implement is not going to be a violation of the Sunshine Law. Mr. Carocci said, it's de minimis, it's just sending a letter. Ms. deLeon said, let's just do it then. Mr. Carocci said, let's just do it. Mrs. Yerger said, okay so we do need a motion. Attorney Treadwell said, yes.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to provide a copy of the Active Transportation Plan to the Parks & Recreation Board for their review and consideration with the understanding that ultimately, oversight or at least input for the end product for the ATP, to fall within their purview.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger

ROLL CALL: 5-0

Ms. deLeon

- We talked a little about installing the remote system, so Leslie said it's going to be on the agenda next meeting. Mrs. Huhn said yes. Ms. deLeon appreciates that.
- The Chamber on September 29th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Pint for a Purpose at Lost Tavern. September 16th there is a ribbon cutting at House and Land Real Estate and the fun continues at Lost Tavern Brewing. There's a Hops for Hope on October 16th which is a fundraiser for pediatric cancer. All that information is on the Chamber's website. We got an email from Lower Nazareth Township about the development laws, are we going to address that tonight. Mrs. Huhn said it was just distributed to Council, and it's pretty involved that it probably should be an agenda item. We should review it and discuss it at staff level and bring something back to Council and also discuss it with the Zoning Department. Ms. deLeon said she'd like to be on that committee after you review it.

Mrs. Stauffer

- The Saucon Valley Conservancy is hoping to plan an event on October 9th at 7:00 p.m., a pumpkin painting for children, at the Heller Homestead and the paperwork is in process right now for the event. Ms. deLeon said we have a meeting before that don't we Kristen? Mrs. Stauffer said yes we do.

Mrs. Yerger – No report

C. SOLICITOR – No report

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – NON-RESIDENTS ONLY

- Donna Louder said she wants to reiterate the gentleman that was speaking earlier about the fire company. She wants you to know that there have been two or three residents in Steel City who have already gone and joined LSFR and their training is starting the last week of September. She believes those people are interested in being the Fire Police. We didn't lose anything, we gained. Mr. Carocci said we certainly gained in quality of service and they are going to have a recruiting event. The old Steel City roster only had one Steel City resident, and we've tripled that already and the services have

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improved there every day and will improve every month and every year since this ordinance has passed. Thank you. Your husband was one of them, thank him to be willing to volunteer.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved for adjournment. The time was 7:59 p.m.

SECOND BY: Mr. Banonis

ROLL CALL: 5-0

Submitted by:

Leslie Huhn
Township Manager

Sandra B. Yerger
Council President