



Wednesday, June 5, 2024
Lower Saucon Township Council Agenda

6:30 PM
Lower Saucon Township
General Business and Developer
3700 Old Philadelphia Pike
Bethlehem, PA 18015

1. OPENING

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

2. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS - NONE

3. DEVELOPER ITEMS -NONE

4. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Discussion and Possible Action for Indemnification and Defense from CNA Insurance under insurance policy and/or any other Professional Liability Insurance and/or Assets of Steven Goudsouzian, Esquire, Providing Coverage for Acts and/or Omissions in Legal Services to Lower Saucon Township as Claimed in Litigation Docketed in Northampton County Court of Common Pleas Docket at No. CP-48-CV-2024-04292
- B. Update on Hellertown Litigation
- C. Update on Landfill Litigation - Motion to Ratify
- D. Discussion and Possible Action on Ending the Joint Defense Agreement Entered into between Lower Saucon Township and the Bethlehem Landfill
- E. Obtain Council's Authorization to Sign Loan Documents for Lower Saucon Fire Rescue
- F. EAC Annual Events
- G. Disposition of Township Property
- H. Township Policy #01-2024 to Require Proof of Valid Insurance for Anyone Doing Work on Behalf of the Township
- I. Lease Agreements for Usage Municipal Properties

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Approval of May 1, 2024 Council Minutes

6. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

A. Acting Township Manager, Cathy Gorman

B. Council

C. Solicitor

D. Engineer

7. PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS - 5-MINUTE TIME LIMIT

8. ADJOURNMENT

A. Move to Adjourn

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

A. Environmental Advisory Council: June 11, 2024

B. Council Meeting: June 19, 2024

C. Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission: June 24, 2024

D. Zoning Hearing Board: June 24, 2024

E. Planning Commission: June 27, 2024

F. Landfill Committee Meeting: July 18, 2024

G. Parks and Recreation Board: August 5, 2024

1. **OPENING**

A. **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. deLeon said okay, so are we ready? Are we all on? And technically we're all here. Okay, I'd like to call to order the Lower Saucon Township Council meeting. Today's date is June 5th, and the time is 6:45 p.m. We apologize for the delay due to an executive session.

B. **ROLL CALL:** Ms. deLeon said may we have a roll call please. Ms. deLeon here. Mr. Banonis, I'm here. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro here. Ms. Ray here. Mr. Carocci absent. Ms. deLeon said right, would you like to explain to him? We tried calling? Mrs. Gorman said we tried to call Mr. Carocci several times, so he does have my cell phone number if he does call in, I'll be able to see it and patch him in. Ms. deLeon said okay.

C. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. deLeon said okay, can we stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPLICABLE)**

Ms. deLeon said okay, we'd like to announce that we had an executive session prior to tonight's meeting, and I'd like to turn that over to the solicitor because we had several things to talk about.

Mr. Goudsouzian said that's correct. So, in the executive session that took place, there were four members of Council present, three in person, and one via phone. Mr. Carocci was not present. There were three separate real estate matters that were discussed. No official action has been suggested to be taken on those matters, but they were discussed. With regard to litigation matters, they were also discussed, including a complaint that was recently filed in the United States District Court, court file number 24-2350, and there was a, that may be subject to some action momentarily. Separately, there was some discussion with regard to potential or existing litigation with Hellertown Borough. That is an agenda item that will be addressed at the, at the appropriate time on the agenda. So that's what was discussed.

E. **POTENTIAL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ISSUES (IF APPLICABLE)**

Mr. Goudsouzian said with regard to the Verizon matter, which is the case that was just filed, if someone is inclined to make a motion, one could make a motion to turn the matter over to the insurance carrier, and in the alternative, if there's no coverage, or the insurance carrier can't handle it, then have special counsel, Hoffman and Hlavac, serve as lead counsel with regard to the litigation, and under all aspects to authorize the Township and its representatives, including the solicitor to pursue all avenues of defense whenever necessary with regard to the sanction.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said I'll make a motion.

MOTION BY: Ms. Opthof moved to turn the matter over to the insurance carrier, and in the alternative, if there's no coverage, or the insurance carrier can't handle it, then have special counsel, Hoffman and Hlavac, serve as lead counsel with regard to the litigation, and under all aspects that, to authorize the Township and its representatives, including the solicitor to pursue all avenues of defense whenever necessary with regard to the sanction.

Mr. Banonis said I'll make a motion to have the solicitor turn this over to his malpractice carrier. He brought this litigation upon the Township for bad legal advice. We knew that this was going to happen. Ms. deLeon said you aren't being recognized Jason. Mr. Banonis said this is another example of individuals on Township Council using the Township's resources to fund their own personal litigation. Ms. deLeon said Jason, there's already a motion on the floor. Mr. Banonis said Priscilla's done it with regard to the cell phone tower. Ms. deLeon said there's already a motion on the floor. Mr. Banonis said Victoria's done it with regard to the landfill, so I think it's only appropriate that the solicitor turns this over...Ms. Ray said is there a second. Yes. Mr. Banonis said rather than have the taxpayer bear the burden of this and if these individuals want to have their own litigation, then go pay for it, don't use the taxpayer money to pay for it.

Ms. deLeon said okay, so there's already a motion on the floor, Jason, Victoria made a motion. Mr. Banonis said do I have a second on my motion? Ms. deLeon said no, no, your motion, it was too late. You, there was already a motion on the floor. You can't have two motions. Mr. Banonis said it was a motion made by the solicitor, he's not, he can't make the motion. He's not the member Council. Ms. deLeon said the solicitor

did not make the motion. Victoria made the motion. Mr. Goudsouzian said and it was seconded by Laura. Ms. deLeon said it was seconded by Laura. Mr. Goudsouzian said that's what's before you, right now. Ms. deLeon said and that is what's before us right now.

Ms. deLeon said so for discussion. Jason, would you like to discuss the motion?

Mr. Banonis said yeah, I think it's absurd. The solicitor should be the one turning this over to his malpractice carrier. We shouldn't be paying for this. He did not provide proper legal advice to Council. I'm the one who told Council that you were going to get sued. And lo and behold, you got sued. So, I don't understand why the taxpayer should be bearing this. I think the individuals that were responsible for it should be, especially when the actions that were undertaken here were designed to benefit a single member of Council who, who refused to recuse herself from this, from the vote on this until she was actually called out and embarrassed by her prior recusal. So, it makes no sense to me.

Ms. deLeon said okay, Tom has not called in yet. Okay, I guess I have to abstain on this one, right, because of the...Mr. Goudsouzian said you should abstain for this. Mr. Banonis said oh, wow, alleluia.

Ms. deLeon said Victoria? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said yeah, I made the motion. So, I'm in favor of it. I just also think as, as time proceeds, it should be important to recognize the events that took place, which led to the Township dictating three sentence or two sentence memorandum, indicating what the Township had voted for with regard to the cell tower and how those events transpired, but I am obviously in favor of the motion, and I don't agree with the contentions made by Mr. Banonis. Mr. Banonis said of course you don't.

Ms. deLeon said okay, Laura. Ms. Ray said yes, I'm going to agree with Victoria on, on and take the advice of our counsel, our solicitor.

Public Comment:

Ms. deLeon said okay, public comment five-minute time limit.

Mr. David Boulin said I'm not sure what Opthof-Cordaro said, it was sort of spaghetti soup, but I've noticed the pattern here that you have these hearings, and then you turn to your attorney. He says something and you immediately say, I make a motion and she says second. Alright, it's like its practiced. It's getting to be a little annoying. No thought goes into it or any anything else. Nobody else can talk. I noticed the way you just shut down Mr. Banonis. So, I think that's unfortunate. Now, what I'd like, what I'd like to see is a list of these cases because they're obviously growing, and it's very difficult. You talked a little bit, I'm sorry, Mr. Goudsouzian, are you listening to me or are you just doing something else? Mr. Goudsouzian said I'm listening to you sir. Mr. Boulin said well, look at me perhaps, because I noticed the last time Ms. Victoria Opthof-Cordaro accused Jason of making something up and yet it took you the whole eight hours to make two, two, right, proposals. So, to me, yeah, he's sharp as a tack, and you don't listen to people, and I find that really annoying. All right. And that's why we have to do all these RTK. Yes, Laura, RTK, and by the way, that's another thing. One of the rules that you were reading about is when the President can't run the meeting, it will be the Vice President, but that already was blatantly taken care of when she, meaning Priscilla, handed the gavel to Mr. Goudsouzian to run nothing other than the cell tower meeting. Okay, that's what I call it, a.k.a. Verizon. So, I think maybe there's a lot of problems here, and they're really legal. And I'm not sure whether Priscilla has recused herself or not because she's in the back room with everybody else. And yet I hear one minute, she's not, the next minute she is, perhaps the attorney can make it clear, if he can get off whatever he's doing, to tell us that, public, are you watching this? This is unbelievable. These things are really important. The last suit was \$1.1 million. Well, we're just starting to get into that, gosh only knows what this Verizon suit is going to be. Obviously, we don't know anything, and we're going to have to go do RTK in a federal court level to get it. If that's my understanding, when I called the federal court system, in order to get a, yeah, ID so I can get hold of the documents to understand them. Because otherwise, I have to go through hoops here and pay all sorts of money, and yada, yada, yada. So, it's not the kind of thing that I find to be the American way where things are open and honest. They're all swept under the rug. They're done immediately. Gavel down and then move on, and I find that discouraging. Now, as far as this meeting, I think, I am not sure what went on, but I certainly saw somebody that appeared to be in there that should

have recused herself, but hasn't. So, I'd like a clarification on that. If she attended that meeting, there's another Sunshine potentially problem. The preceding one that we were talking about, the preceding Executive Session, everybody was in that while they were being served. That wasn't out in front of the public, and that hasn't been talked about yet. I think it was, it was 3:45 in the morning, and I specifically asked Priscilla deLeon, if she would tell me whether it was going to continue on, and she just sort of said, well, we'll have to see. Well, that's a Pelosi answer, and walked in the back room, and I know, it's really tough, Priscilla, when people say the truth. Ms. deLeon said no, I can't answer something I don't know. Mr. Boulin said so the bottom line...but you do know? You know why, because when you have an executive meeting, yeah, I had to go read it, after the executive meeting, then you have an open meeting to announce what it was or do it in the next, so yes, and it was only nine minutes. And the only person that was here, two actually, three actually, policemen, attorney for the landfill and some other person, alright. So yes, you did and I really find that, that's terrible. You stayed here for eight hours and you're told well, we're going to executive action, like you're going to be gone forever. Nine minutes later, you pop out. You could have had that executive meeting right there at the beginning for nine minutes just like you did here. But you chose not to. I find that's really abusive.

Ms. deLeon said anyone else?

Donna Louder said with all these litigations going on, can somebody please tell me how it's going to affect the taxpayer. I don't need the details on how the lawyers are going to play. What I need, the details are, is how it's going to affect the taxpayer, the elderly who are living on incomes that are low, and families who are already being squeezed. Can somebody answer me that, how this is going to play out for the taxpayer?

Mr. Goudsouzian said normally, we've explained before public comment is public comment, and you're free to tell us whatever you want, it's not a question and answer. That's a question that can't be answered today. Even if there's no way to be able to answer.

Ms. Louder said it's a \$1.1 million lawsuit. That's lawsuit number one. Lawsuit number two is the Verizon lawsuit. Yet we're paying legal fees for the Hellertown litigations. There are so many litigations going on, the only people who are benefiting are attorneys. What about the taxpayer?

Ms. deLeon said your comments have to be limited to the Verizon motion that was made tonight.

Ms. Louder said it is litigation. I'm talking about the litigation for Verizon. How is that going to affect the taxpayer?

Ms. deLeon said this is the first time you mentioned the word Verizon.

Ms. Louder said I said litigation. Ms. deLeon said right, and there's a lot of litigation.

Ms. Louder said you are involved in all the litigations. You've only, these people have only been up here six months. My fear is bankrupting the Township. In 2019, on April 1, this Township was debt free. I know that, because I sat on Council, and I was part of that. Now, where are we? What do the taxpayers have to look forward to after all of this? You know, ignorance has repercussions. So, folks, educate yourselves, please.

Ms. deLeon said would anyone else like to speak on this?

Ann Marie Slavick, Lower Saucon Township, said I agree with Donna and all she said, and I just pray that some of the taxpayers are listening to these meetings, because what seems to be happening is that people that became, that got into power, and there's like a few people probably in the room that apparently are maybe independently wealthy. I'm not really sure, landowners have a gripe with everything. Like we can't do this. We can't do that. We can't have this. We can't have that. We won't do this. We won't do that. I mean, legitimately people are saying in Lower Saucon Township, including legitimate people in agencies in the government is that we don't have enough, we don't have cell phone service, and we all know we don't. We all have a part in our houses that if we go from one side to the other, the cell phone doesn't work, and it's a

problem for security. It's a problem for first responders, they've said that. So, here's my question you got on the Council to fight everything. You want more rules, you want more regulations, you want the citizens not to be able to do this, you can't cut your trees down, you can't have that, you can't have that, you can't have this, you can't have things on your property, we're gonna fight you for this, we're gonna fight you for that. You can't have a cell phone tower; you can't have a landfill. What are you guys for? What are you all for? That's what I want to know, and where is the money coming from? Where, and the Township did have money before you girls got on the Township Council, and here's the question, I pray that when the Township is down and out and going into bankruptcy, I pray that all the logical thinking voters in our Township, remember exactly how it happened, and their not short, short-term memory. They don't have short term memory loss. I hope they all remember who exactly took it down. I'd like to know why, I'm sure there's a reason behind it.

Ms. deLeon said anybody else like to come and speak?

Hi Claudia Markellos. I agree with you dealing with the Verizon problem, the way you've chosen to deal with it, because there's quite a few citizens in our Township who are going to be affected by that tower. So, I think that it needs to be considered carefully before Steel City has yet another problem to deal with. It's a large Township and a lot of people are not going to feel any of the problems that come with that. And I would like to remember, there are people who live even closer than I do, that this is something that needs to be dealt with carefully, so.

Ms. deLeon said thank you next.

Someone said I think this litigation was actually set up. Ms. deLeon said Bob, your name for the record. Robert Blasko, Lower Saucon Township and I think this litigation was actually set up that this Council, like the people that were in power before tried to set this Council up for failure. There were people here speaking against this tower. There were people here trying to warn the Council about the health problems that have arisen from less powerful cell towers. Council wouldn't listen. The previous Council, the previous administration is the one that encouraged this and went ahead and did this anyway. So, if there's anybody to blame here, it's the people that were here before.

Ms. deLeon said okay, anyone else? Okay, I guess we're ready for a roll call.

Mrs. Gorman called the roll call. Ms. deLeon, she said she abstained. Mrs. Gorman said Mr. Banonis. Mr. Banonis? Ms. deLeon said did we lose him? Mrs. Gorman said I'm not sure. Ms. deLeon said Jason, are you there? Mrs. Gorman said Jason? Ms. deLeon said so what do we do? Try calling him? Sorry Cathy. Mrs. Gorman dialed Mr. Banonis again. Ms. deLeon said okay, I'd like the record to reflect that Cathy did try calling Jason and there was no answer. It didn't go through and the time is, what time is it? 7:04, so um...Mrs. Gorman said I will try to call back. Ms. Ophof-Cordaro? She said I vote yes for the motion. Mrs. Gorman said Mr. Carocci, not here. Mrs. Gorman said Ms. Ray? Ms. Ray said yes. Mrs. Gorman said motion passes, 2, one abstain, one not here. Mr. Goudsouzian said it does, correct.

ROLL CALL: 2-1-1 (Ms. deLeon abstained, Mr. Carocci – Absent)

Ms. deLeon said so where are we in our executive session list? Mr. Goudsouzian said we are done with the executive session list. Ms. deLeon said okay, so we took action on all the items except for the one at the end for Hellertown, which will do. Mr. Goudsouzian said correct. Ms. deLeon said okay, moving back to the regular agenda.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURE

Ms. deLeon said as you all know, we have a public comment procedure and Council has enacted rules that we ask that you follow and I'm not going to go over them tonight. I'm going to hope that my past comments were listened to and we know we can behave tonight, so that's on both sides. So, with that, I'm going to move on to, what's next? Mrs. Gorman said she will try Mr. Banonis again. Ms. deLeon asked is he calling

in? Mrs. Gorman said I tried. Ms. deLeon said oh, you just tried again to call him, okay. Mrs. Gorman said I did.

2. **PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS/ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS** – None

3. **DEVELOPER ITEMS** – None

4. **TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION FOR INDEMNIFICATION AND DEFENSE FROM CNA INSURANCE UNDER INSURANCE POLICY AND/OR ANY OTHER PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE AND/OR ASSETS OF STEVEN GOUDSOUZIAN, ESQUIRE, PROVIDING COVERAGE FOR ACTS AND/OR OMISSIONS IN LEGAL SERVICES TO LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP AS CLAIMED IN LITIGATION DOCKETED IN NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS DOCKET AT NO. CP-48-CV-2024-04292**

Ms. deLeon said so, who requested this to be on the agenda? Mrs. Gorman said Mr. Banonis and Mr. Carocci. Ms. deLeon said okay. Mrs. Gorman said unfortunately, I can't get a hold of either.

Ms. deLeon said so since neither of them are here...Mr. Goudsouzian said the question would be then is there somebody going to make a motion? If there's no motion being made, then no motion is made and then you move on to the next agenda item?

Ms. deLeon said is there anybody here like to make a motion? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said no. Ms. Ray said do we need a motion. Mr. Goudsouzian said you don't need a motion. So, what happens is if, so what has happened is there's an item on the agenda. That just because there's an item on the agenda means it's there to be discussed. The way it gets formally discussed, is somebody makes a motion and you have a second, and then you go through Council and the public and so on. There's no motion to be made, nothing happens. So, it, we just we move on. Ms. deLeon said we move on. Mr. Goudsouzian said so I think the record, I think we should make the record clear, no one has made a motion with regard to Township Business Item IV. A., and therefore, there's not a second. If there's no discussion or anything else, we move on to the next item.

Public Discussion:

(Mr. Boulin was not at the microphone) Mr. Boulin said public here. Can we be heard on this? Mr. Goudsouzian said there's no motion. Mr. Boulin said I'm sorry, sir, but it is on the agenda, and I spent considerable time looking at it sir. Mr. Goudsouzian said I'm not going to argue with your sir. There's not...Mr. Boulin said no, I don't understand you got the gavel. This is typically the way it works here...see that, see public? See how they shut you down?

B. **UPDATE ON HELLERTOWN LITIGATION**

Mr. Goudsouzian said next item. Ms. deLeon said okay, next item on the agenda is an update on the Hellertown litigation, Attorney Goudsouzian will provide an update, and if there's action needed.

Mr. Goudsouzian said there is no formal action needed; however, for the purposes of an update, there's been discussions with Hellertown Borough with regard to possible settlement. There have been documents that have gone at least from back and forth to an extent and there will be continued discussions, I anticipate there will be continued discussions between Lower Saucon and Hellertown. Once there, if and when there is a time when there is an actual agreement or official action to be taken, it will be brought before Borough Council, I'm sorry Township Council and addressed at that time, but there's nothing to...there's no motion before you or anything else at this point, but that's just the update.

Ms. deLeon said okay, so I don't have any other questions. Anybody have a question? Victoria, Laura? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said no, I don't have any questions, but I appreciate the update, and I appreciate the resident's patience as we work through this. There were a number of issues going on and I appreciate all of the parties involvement and the attorney's due diligence and attention to moving it forward.

C. UPDATE ON LANDFILL LITIGATION - MOTION TO RATIFY

Ms. deLeon said okay, moving on to the next agenda item number C., update on landfill litigation motion to ratify, Attorney Goudsouzian will provide an update, Steve.

Mr. Goudsouzian said with regard to the litigation that is between the landfill and various parties, including the declaratory action at 48-2003, -2023-6089, currently, there is a potential of a hearing scheduled for this coming Thursday. There has been some preliminary discussions. I'm not sure exactly where it stands, but there's some preliminary discussions with reaching an agreement with regard to that hearing. So, that's where we are in the standpoint of where the litigation stands. There is currently a motion to intervene, filed by the landfill. There's also currently preliminary objections filed by the plaintiffs to the preliminary objections to the Bethlehem landfills preliminary objection. So procedurally, there's a lot of things out there at this point, and as we all know, there's a separate lawsuit that's been filed by the landfill against the Township.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said thank you. I would like to make two motions with regard to this particular agenda item.

MOTION BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro moved to ratify the, again, the actions taken by the Township solicitor in joining the preliminary objections of St. Luke's Hospital, and the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and the plaintiffs in the declaratory judgment action at Northampton County docket number C48-CV-2023-6089, that's a declaratory action case. That's, that's the first part of a motion. And the second one, I guess, in light of the discussion, that there may be something that could happen with regard to the hearing next Thursday, I would make a motion to authorize the solicitor and the Township to join in a stipulation to resolve the motion for intervention and the preliminary objections of the plaintiffs to the preliminary objections of the Bethlehem landfill's preliminary objections if all the parties agree. So, it's a two-part motion. I can do it again or, you know.

Ms. deLeon said can we vote on both? Mr. Goudsouzian said yes. Ms. deLeon said one vote for both parts. Mr. Goudsouzian said you can. Ms. deLeon said okay.

SECOND BY: Ms. deLeon

Ms. deLeon said any other discussion? Laura? Ms. Ray said no, I don't think I want to try to touch that one. Ms. deLeon said a lot of legal stuff going on in there. Ms. Ray said very technical. So, I have nothing else to say.

Ms. deLeon said Victoria, did you want to add anything? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said no, I just, well, I should say that, no, I do want to add just so that the public understands, it was very wordy. Ms. deLeon said yes. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said the first part of the motion is basically doing exactly what we've done in two other times, but because everybody says that we didn't do it, we'll do it again, and just in case you didn't hear it was the first and second time, you can hear it the third time that, yes, we are, or I am wanting to join the preliminary objections of the plaintiffs against whatever the preliminary objections were of the landfill in the declaratory judgment case. That's part one. Part two is I heard from Mr. Goudsouzian that there was some discussions of some potential movement on the hearing that's supposed to happen next week. My understanding is the hearing that's supposed to happen next week is all about these preliminary objections that you're hearing about and somebody's preliminary objections to somebody else's preliminary objections. It's all a bunch of legal jockeying, but there is, it sounded like there was a potential for some movement on that, and so we're having a meeting this evening, from my perspective, so nobody questions what happens, moving forward, out of an abundance of caution, I would like to include, as part of the first motion, a direction to authorize the solicitor and the Township to join in any stipulation to resolve the outstanding motions for intervention and preliminary objections that are pending before the court with respect to the conservation easement case. So that's part one, part two...Ms. deLeon said okay, so I believe I seconded it, then. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said yeah.

Public Discussion:

Ms. deLeon said so okay, with that, then I'll open up to the floor. Anybody would like to speak on this, please come to the podium.

My name is Maryanne Garber and I represent the Bethlehem Landfill Company. I want to make a couple of points. First, I want the record to note my objection to this agenda item because it is completely ambiguous as to what the matter is regarding update on landfill litigation motion to ratify, obviously Ms. Ophof-Cordaro's motions were pretty detailed, and there's, there's no indication on the agenda as to what items are going to be discussed. I would also like to reiterate my objections to Ms. Ophof-Cordaro's participation in any discussions or actions taken with respect to any of this litigation involving the Bethlehem Landfill, and in fact, any matter involving the expansion of the Bethlehem Landfill for the reasons that I have detailed at length on numerous occasions here at public meetings on April 17th, on May 1st, on May 15th, and also those facts are detailed in a complaint that was filed on May 15th that's currently pending before the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas. So, I am reiterating our demand, Ms. Ophof-Cordaro that you recuse yourself from participating in this particular matter, and the third point I want to make, and perhaps Mr. Goudsouzian if you want to clarify this for your client, but the hearing that is scheduled for next week is not on the preliminary objections. In fact, it is only on Bethlehem Landfill Company's petition to intervene to defend against a claim that the Township is not defending against. So, if you want to clarify that for your client, so that there's no confusion as to what the topic of the hearing scheduled for next week is. Thank you.

Mr. Goudsouzian said thank you, before we do that, for clarification purposes, the hearing for Thursday is the landfill's petition to intervene, which then subsequently relates to the preliminary objection. So, from a limited standpoint, Ms. Garber, Attorney Garber is absolutely correct. It is limited to the intervention or demotion or petition to intervene, which then plays a role with regard to the preliminary objections, but thank you for that.

Ms. deLeon said okay, anyone else like to come to the podium?

So, my name is Lawrence Ophof...Ms. deLeon said talk in the microphone. My name is Lawrence Ophof. Both me and my wife had been subpoenaed to attend this meeting on the 13th, is it? And I guess we're supposed to tell, being questioned or testify to something, and I'm curious, how is it that I am being subpoenaed for this and if this is about preliminary objections, how did I get involved in this? Ms. deLeon said okay, you have to address the chair, we can't ask questions of the audience. So, I'm sorry about that.

Ms. deLeon said anyone else like to speak?

Someone said so here we go again, some really complex...Ms. deLeon said your name again for the record, please. Someone from the audience, said sure. It's the Dave Boulin, B-o-u-l-i-n, Boulin, here we go again. We already have a clarification made by our attorney and we have, what appears to be a conflict of interest. We've talked about this ad nauseam, and it's going to go ahead anyhow. And you people just continue on, you listen to this and keep going, and don't back off. It's good to see that you, Ms. deLeon, have finally recused yourself, if I understand correctly. I noticed you're not going to nod or say yes or no. Well, that certainly is something in the right direction, but as we just heard the attorney for the landfill, reemphasize, I don't know how many times she has to say it, but if you really feel that, Victoria Ophof-Cordaro is worthy of going forward, I suggest, as was done before, that she shared the burden, not the taxpayer of her own defense, and additionally, I'd like to see some of these motions, that if you're going to be making motions, and clearly we know that you were set up for this, that this motion that she just made, two of them, could have been on the agenda, put on the agenda, so the public can see it without having to try to figure out and she talks really fast about everything. What she's saying, all right. I know we're not super attorneys like she is but you know, we do have some brains and it would really be nice to see this for a change. It's bad enough that we have to tread all over the globe and pay more fees for RTK to get these things because if I want to know what she said, now, I can try to go to the web and understand it or I can probably pay for a RTK, another document, so yep, Laura Ray, there

you go. So much for the public wanting RTK, gee 900 of them. They're gonna be a lot more, I'll tell you. It's really bad when you sweep things under the rug.

Ms. deLeon said okay, anybody else like to speak? Okay, we have a motion on the floor. Can we have a roll call Cathy?

Mrs. Gorman called the roll. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro? She said I vote yes, I will, I just want to add to my clarification that number one, I do not believe there's any conflict of interest for myself or any of my family, with regard to any pecuniary interest or anything else with regard to this. I have full ability, and in fact, a duty to vote on these matters as an elected official, so I will continue to vote on those matters. I will also highlight that, in the event that anybody ever thought there was a conflict of interest, that, arguably the entire Council would have the same type of conflicts because of where they're either living or statements that they have made, and in addition, Mr. Banonis, Mr. Carocci's conduct and behavior from 2022 onward, as it relates to their positions and things that they have done. So that is my statement with regard to that, but I don't think there's any conflict. So, I'm voting, yes. Ms. deLeon said okay. Mrs. Gorman said Ms. Ray? She said yes. Mrs. Gorman said Ms. deLeon? She said yes.

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Carocci and Mr. Banonis – Absent) - Motion passes.

Ms. deLeon said right, nobody else called in. Okay, thank you, moving on to D.

D. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ENDING THE JOINT DEFENSE AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BETWEEN LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP AND THE BETHLEHEM LANDFILL

Ms. deLeon said this was requested by Victoria.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said thank you. I asked for this item to be placed on the agenda. As many of you know in 2023, there was at least, at least one, if not two, different times in which the Council considered joint defense with the Bethlehem Landfill as it related to cases that were pending in the court at that time. As you can see, as part of the addendum or the attachments to this agenda item, you'll see the minutes from the meeting that happened in September, October where the Council the last, the last Council, had approved a Joint Defense Agreement that covered various pieces of litigation. You also heard Ms. Garber, in fact, reiterate this evening that she is suing the current Council and members of this Council. So given that, that situation that we have, and the actions taken by Bethlehem Landfill in this case, in that case, it wouldn't be appropriate for us to continue in a Joint Defense Agreement on matters relating to the 2023 actions and litigation that that were commenced that, last year. So, I'm making a motion as follows:

MOTION BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro moved to end the joint defense agreements, any and all that may exist between LST and the Bethlehem Landfill with regard to any and all litigation or any and all matters that they had joined together in the past.

SECOND BY: Ms. deLeon

Ms. deLeon said Council discussion, Laura? Ms. Ray said yeah, obviously, it doesn't make any sense that we're in some sort of agreement for our defense. I've actually thought maybe we dissolved this earlier, and I found it interesting when I reread the agreement that it was made in September 20th, but effective the month prior August 14th, so that was just an observation. That's it.

Ms. deLeon said obviously, I'm in favor. I seconded it.

Ms. deLeon said Victoria, did you have anything else? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said no, I think it speaks for itself. We shouldn't be in a joint defense with anybody who's suing us in another case. Ms. deLeon said right?

Public Comment:

Ms. deLeon said public comment, five minutes.

Ms. deLeon said Maryanne, you don't have to raise your hand. Ms. Garber said I can't see if someone is standing behind me waiting to speak, so. Ms. deLeon said that was before when outside residents couldn't speak. Never mind. Ms. Garber said pardon me. Ms. deLeon said never mind. Ms. Garber said okay, I just again, for the record, I need to reiterate that we object to Ms. Opthof-Cordaro's participation in this for all of the reasons set forth in the complaint that's been filed and for the reasons articulated by me at prior Council meetings. It's inappropriate. It's troubling and I know you won't make clarifications from the dais, but what I heard was the reason for terminating this is because of the lawsuit that was filed on May 15th which doesn't have to have an impact on the Joint Defense Agreement. I'll just leave it at that. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon said okay, thank you. Anyone else like to speak? Okay, if not, we have a roll call please. Mrs. Gorman called the roll call. Ms. deLeon? She said yes. Mrs. Gorman said Ms. Opthof-Cordaro. She said yes, I incorporate the statements I made at the last vote just prior to this one, incorporate everything I said with regard to not having a conflict and not recusing myself and my position with regard to everybody's position on Council as it relates to this. So, yes, I vote yes. Ms. deLeon said Ms. Ray? She said yes.

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Carocci and Mr. Banonis – Absent) - Motion passes three zero.

E. OBTAIN COUNCIL'S AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN LOAN DOCUMENTS FOR LOWER SAUCON FIRE RESCUE

Ms. deLeon said Cathy you had asked for this, Lower Saucon Fire Rescue (LSFR) is requesting Council's authorization for the Secretary's signature for their loan. The Secretary signature only acknowledges LSFR is a designated servicing fire company for LST. LST is not accepting financial responsibility for the loan. So Cathy.

Mrs. Gorman said yes, we had been forwarded documents from LSFR requesting my signature, confirming the, what had been stated by you, that we will not have any financial obligation towards their loan and a bridge loan for a piece of apparatus that they are purchasing through a State-sponsored loan program. So, if Council is of the mind to approve, for me executing this, I can do that immediately. They held their public hearing, which was a requirement and we have done this before, but at the time we did it, it was with an adjacent loan agreement for the ladder truck because we were doing the loan for part of it, and they took out a loan as well.

Ms. deLeon said I know we have representatives here from the fire company, did you want to come up? Just state your name for the record in case we forgot.

Scott Krycia, President, LSFR. Ty Johnson, Fire Chief, LSFR. Mr. Krycia said so we're in the process of securing a loan to purchase an engine. This truck would replace the truck that's at the Steel City Fire Company. We're going to move some apparatus around, and what we're basically requesting here with the loan documents is just Council to certify that we are the fire company that provides service to LST, like it said, and in the agenda item, there is no financial commitment or responsibility on the Township end of the things. We just need this last signature and then I can send this loan packet off, and we're good to go.

Ms. deLeon said okay, Ty, did you want to say something or pretty much covered it?

Mr. Johnson said yeah, he pretty much covered it. It's pretty cut and dry.

Ms. deLeon said okay, I'll make a motion as follows:

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved to have the secretary sign the necessary paperwork for LSFR to secure their loan.
SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

Ms. deLeon said okay, and any other Council discussion, Victoria? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said I just want to say thank you. Um, it's another opportunity to say thank you for everything that you do, and I hope that you're successful in, in getting the loans that you need to do and I'm happy that we can execute this and get it done for you as soon as possible. Ms. deLeon said right, ditto.

Ms. deLeon said so, Laura, did you have anything else to say? Ms. Ray said I just wanted to thank both of you too, and Scott does an awesome job with juggling around these wheeling and dealing with getting replacement trucks in, looking for good deals. So, I really appreciate all the work that goes into that. Can you just tell me which truck number that is so I can update my little chart? Mr. Johnson said that we're replacing? We're replacing 1613. Ms. Ray said okay. Thank you. Ms. deLeon said okay. I just support it, so with that I'll open it up for public comment.

Public Comment:

Ms. deLeon said anyone in the audience like to speak on this issue? Please come up to the podium. I'm not seeing...

Someone from the audience came up and said okay, you guys are our heroes...Ms. deLeon said your name for the record every time because the person taking dictation doesn't see you, so.

Someone from the audience said I'm sorry. Excuse me. Can you start my clock over again there, please. Okay. I'm David Boulin, B-o-u-l-i-n. You guys are our heroes. No doubt about it. I hear you go by Alice Drive and running down 78, here and there, and on top of that, that 48-page document you have there, 48 pages, almost every page requires your signature at the bottom. So, that's heroic just in itself. The only question I have is, and I know that's for the loan company that does that. I wondered why it was after I got done with all of this because this motion specifically says Signature by the Secretary to verify that LSFR serves LS. It seems sort of obvious, but I was curious to know why they just didn't add that right at the bottom, you know, to have the secretary sign it right then and there.

Mr. Krycia said as far as I know, so the company that we use to do the loan for us is Volunteers Financing, and the bank is actually Kansas State Bank, so they handle just municipalities and nonprofits and stuff like that, and that's why they need verification. Funny thing about it is because this is a commercial loan, through that bank, they actually need the verification, but if we were to do this in the State of Pennsylvania, we wouldn't even need to involve the Township, because they already have that information. So, it's just more of a paperwork shuffle than anything. Mr. Boulin said no, that's great, and thank you. You, obviously, you people really work hard at this, and that includes all the paperwork. I wish some folks on the Council were more astute the way you guys are, and perhaps Kansas a little more conservative, they do watch their money. So, that's fine, extra paperwork to make sure things are good, and thank you for your service. Mr. Krycia said thank you.

Ms. deLeon said okay, anyone else in the audience? Seeing none, can we have a roll call Cathy, please? Mrs. Gorman said Ms. Ray? She said yes. Mrs. Gorman said Ms. deLeon? She said yes. Mrs. Gorman said Ms. Opthof-Cordaro? She said with pleasure, yes.

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Banonis and Mr. Carocci – Absent)

Ms. deLeon said thank you, and again, thank you for all you do for us. Mr. Johnson said sure, thank you. Ms. deLeon said okay. Okay, moving on,

F. EAC ANNUAL EVENTS

Ms. deLeon the EAC is actively working on programs available for residents. Laura since you are EAC, did you want to talk about this? Ms. Ray said sure, well, we are still kind of formulating things that we want to do, trying to put together, it's hard to put together a timeline, but some of the ideas would be to have an electronic recycling, which we normally do have one of those a year, and then we try to look for different, or I guess, Cathy looks for the different grants that can help cover those costs, so we'd like

to be doing one of those in the fall. Also, Kathy Pichel-McGovern is investigating having a possible tire recycling that we'd like to jointly do with Hellertown. I think it's a good benefit because you know, a lot of those tires that get tossed end up on our roadside. So, I think it behooves us to open it up to our neighbor there, and there would be a cost though involved, in dropping off the tires, to the residents. And also, let's see, I guess I can mention we are going to be having a speaker at our upcoming EAC meeting next Tuesday night. Amani Reed. She's the Eastern Regional Coordinator for DEP for the Office of Environmental Justice. So, she's going to be talking about that topic, environmental justice.

Ms. deLeon said okay, what is the date, actual date on that? Ms. Ray said it's June 11th. Ms. deLeon said June 11th. Ms. Ray said next Tuesday.

Ms. deLeon said okay, very good.

Mrs. Gorman said I would like to make mention that we did budget \$4,000.00 for EAC, and some of the recycling programs. So, in my memorandum, it does have a cost of \$5,500.00, so...Ms. deLeon said we don't have enough money in there. Mrs. Gorman said there isn't enough money in there to, but she can make a budget adjustment at the next meeting. Ms. deLeon said okay, so this has to wait until you do the budget adjustment. Mrs. Gorman said this, it's not until September. Ms. Ray said or do we wait, when do we know about the grant? Mrs. Gorman said the grant, we file with Northampton County. That's after the program. So last year, we received \$1,600.00 back from it. Ms. deLeon said better than better than nothing, right? Mrs. Gorman said exactly.

Ms. deLeon said okay, so you're going to hold this off to the next, till you do your budget transfer. Mrs. Gorman said we wanted to bring this to your attention. One, specifically that EAC was having conversations about these programs, and two, I wanted to give Council a heads up that a budget adjustment is going to be required to move forward with this. Ms. deLeon said so, as you prepare next year's budget, can you make sure that there's some...Mrs. Gorman said we'll add some more money to adjust for all these programs. Ms. deLeon said okay, very good.

Ms. deLeon said well, with that...Ms. Ophof-Cordaro said I just had a question for Cathy. Is there any advertising? I heard Laura indicate about there being a speaker from the DEP coming. Is the Township doing anything to notify the residents that aren't here tonight or aren't able to see the video that this is occurring, maybe Constant Contacts or something else? Mrs. Gorman said we can put it out on our social media and Constant Contact, things of those nature so residents are aware.

Ms. Ray said I think Carol's already doing that, though. I did see emails. So, I think she's putting it on Facebook anyway. I don't know if it's there yet, because I don't get to look at Facebook that much.

Ms. deLeon said okay, so we don't have a motion. So, with that, well thank you. You'll put that on the next agenda. We'll move on to the next agenda item.

G. DISPOSITION OF TOWNSHIP PROPERTY

Someone from the audience was speaking. Mr. Goudsouzian said not if there's a motion to this. The same rules apply to everybody. So, if there's no motion, there's no public discussion or anything else. You do have an opportunity when the time comes for public comment, you know, at the end, for example, to do so.

Ms. deLeon said okay.

Ms. deLeon said Disposition of Township Property requested by the Chief of Police. Motion to approve. I guess I'm a little ahead of myself. So, was there anything you wanted to add to that Cathy? Mrs. Gorman said no, the Chief of Police had requested that a, one of our old police vehicles, a 2013 Ford interceptor, nine universal computer mounts and a Thule four bike rack be placed on Municibid for auction and we will dispose of those properties, those properties if you approve this.

Ms. deLeon said okay, so I'll make a motion as follows:

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved to approve the disposition of surplus property identified in your memorandum dated May 30, 2024.

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Ms. deLeon said okay, any other discussion? Laura? Ms. Ray said no, sounds pretty straightforward.

Ms. deLeon said Victoria, did you have anything? Ms. deLeon said I don't have anything. Thank you, Cathy.

Public Comment:

Ms. deLeon said opening it up to the public. Anyone in the public like to speak on this issue? Okay, seeing, hearing none, and can we have a roll call?

Mrs. Gorman said Ms. deLeon? She said yes. Mrs. Gorman said Ms. Opthof-Cordaro. She said yes. Mrs. Gorman said Ms. Ray. She said yes.

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Banonis and Mr. Carocci – Absent)

Ms. deLeon said okay, moving on

H. TOWNSHIP POLICY #01-2024 TO REQUIRE PROOF OF VALID INSURANCE FOR ANYONE DOING WORK ON BEHALF OF THE TOWNSHIP

Ms. deLeon said this was requested by Mr. Banonis, and he's obviously not here, so.

Mrs. Gorman said I can speak to this if you'd like. At a previous Council meeting, we had discussions regarding insurance coverages for our consultants, and Mr. Banonis had asked for a policy to be drafted. I have done that. It's in your packet. It is, we will make sure that at the beginning of each year, or at least during the insurance cycles that we get updated insurance coverages for all of our consultants, including solicitor, engineer, actuary. It's a good standard practice.

Ms. deLeon said right? No, I think it's a good idea, and I don't think he needs to be here. I'll make a motion as follows:

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved to approve the policy. If he has any issues. He can always ask for an amendment.

SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

Ms. deLeon said alright, any other Council discussion? Victoria? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said no, I'm in agreement.

Public Comment:

Ms. deLeon said okay, public comment. Anyone in the audience like to speak on this? Okay, roll call, please.

Mrs. Gorman said Ms. Opthof-Cordaro. She said...Someone from the audience said excuse me, I only heard a partial list, Dave Boulin. Ms. deLeon said you only heard what? Mr. Boulin said partial list of what Cathy was saying, and I didn't get it all. So you said it's going to cover people that do business for us, and it will cover, I thought I heard the solicitor. Mrs. Gorman said solicitors, engineers, actuaries. Mr. Boulin said and that's it. Mrs. Gorman said well, whoever a Council appoints at the beginning of the year at Reorganization that has a professional capacity to represent the Township. Mr. Boulin said excellent. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon said okay, roll call please. Mrs. Gorman said Ms. Opthof-Cordaro? She said yes. Mrs. Gorman said Ms. Ray? She said yes. Mrs. Gorman said Ms. deLeon? She said yes.

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Banonis and Mr. Carocci – Absent)

I. LEASE AGREEMENTS FOR USAGE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES

Ms. deLeon said Council requested staff to draft a lease agreement for entities using Seidersville Hall. Attached is a draft copy of an agreement that will be provided for all users of the building. So, is there Council discussion regarding this? Mrs. Gorman said you would need a motion first.

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved to approve the lease agreement as written.

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said and I guess I did want Cathy to clarify. Are there some people that have already entered into this or what's the background of the, the lease contents? Mrs. Gorman said this document was prepared by the previous solicitor and executed previously by, for usage of Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse for the Historical Society, and for Heller Homestead for the Saucon Valley Conservancy. We just insert name here and tried to modify it a little bit based on the usage of utilities and expenses that the Township pays. So, if you execute this, then the practice that we had discussed at a previous meeting where I would present to Council at the beginning of the year, what the projected utility expenses would be for the year and you can make the consideration at that time whether or not you want to start billing for those expenses. We do not charge rent for our facilities, we never have. We're not supposed to but they do pay us a certain amount, typically, for the expenses incurred. Keystone Collections Group will continue to pay. This was brought to our attention when the Saucon Valley Water or Saucon Valley Watershed group wished to have their fee waived. The fee that we charge them, by semi-annually to cover those expenses. Ms. deLeon said who has to waive the fee, the watershed group? Mrs. Gorman said the watershed group. Ms. deLeon said not Keystone? Mrs. Gorman said not Keystone, No. Keystone we still charge on a quarterly basis? Ms. deLeon said right. That's a business. Mrs. Gorman said correct. Ms. deLeon said correct, okay, alright.

Ms. deLeon said Laura? She said so I did read through pretty much of this lease. It kept going on and on and on. So, I thought it was overfill. There's a lot in here, and then some of the details that are in here seemed a bit odd or off, specifically in Section 11, there's about damage to or destruction of improvements, and it specifically points out if, if so there's a fire, if the Township elects to proceed, Township shall restore the same at Townships expense and completion and complete restoration with within 240 days, and then it goes on some more. So, I was wondering, like, where did that ever come from, like 240 days to restore a burned down building.

Mr. Goudsouzian said so that that provision is somewhat standard in commercial leases. It would, it covers the idea that if the place burns down...Ms. Ray said or people living there? Mr. Goudsouzian said no, or the landlord either makes a decision to put it all back together or not, and then 240 days, I think it's a carryover from an old lease, but you normally have a set amount of time. You can't do it in 90 days. You don't want it to remain open for five years. So, it's an arbitrary amount, but it's no better or no worse than any other. It's just weird to you, because you don't see very often.

Ms. Ray said right. Well, I'm just, think that's pretty ambitious 240 days to have your building rebuilt if it burns down too. Mr. Goudsouzian said but it allows the Township to do it, if the Township decides not to do it, we don't. We don't have to do it. Ms. Ray said alright, good to know. That just jumped out at me as unusual, and like I said, it's it really goes on and on. It's kind of like you're in a house...Ms. deLeon said we did make the motion, but that doesn't mean we can't amend the motion if you want to change the length. Ms. Ray said I mean if it's normal. It seems like overkill though, that's all because I'm thinking these organizations would need to have a lawyer read this over to make sure there's nothing, you know, weird in there that commits them to something that they might not want to commit to, that's all. So, I don't know if there was a way to simplify. That was my only comment.

Ms. deLeon said okay, Victoria? She said I think in concept, I like the idea of simplifying, but I also heard that we have already people entered into this, the other nonprofit organizations that have already

entered into it. So, it kind of like opens up a whole new thing to make a different type of agreement with one of the nonprofit organizations that doesn't apply to the other nonprofit organizations. So that's like my, I would like to simplify, but it sounds like some have already entered into it and it would require then, we'd be treating one group differently than the other groups, and I didn't want to do that. So, I definitely understand Laura, and I agree with you on the idea of simplification, but I am worried right now, given the other people who have entered into it and what that would entail to change it for everybody. That's all.

Public Comment:

Ms. deLeon said okay, so if there's no other Council discussion, anyone in the public, in the audience would like to speak on this? Okay, hearing, seeing none, may we have a roll call please?

Mrs. Gorman said Ms. deLeon? She said yes. Mrs. Gorman said Ms. Opthof-Cordaro? She said yes. Mrs. Gorman said Ms. Ray? She said yes.

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Banonis and Mr. Carocci – Absent)

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF MAY 1, 2024 COUNCIL MINUTES

Ms. deLeon said okay, moving on. We have miscellaneous business items and I just would like to remind everybody that the time is 7:46.

We have approval of the May 1, 2024 Council minutes are ready for Councils review and approval.

Mrs. Gorman said I did get an email from Mr. Banonis and Mr. Carocci that they would like to have this tabled for their, for review again, and I would like to also state that Carol Schneider has been instrumental in trying to find a software to help transcribe these minutes...Ms. deLeon said what did we do with the one we had for Glenn? Remember we had that for Glenn? Mrs. Gorman said that, that one didn't work very well either, but we have looked at one. We're looking at it right now, this meeting will be a test, a pilot test for the software. So, hopefully it'll work and it'll give me a little bit more time. I'd like to review all these minutes again, myself.

Ms. deLeon said okay, so do we need a motion to table or just move on? Ms. Ray said motion to table. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said I'm happy to pass them. I don't know. I mean, I appreciate somebody emailing in to request a motion to table, but...Mr. Goudsouzian said if you want to make a motion, you can make a motion. If it's seconded, then you could vote on it, if that's what you want to do.

MOTION BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro moved for approval of the May 1, 2024 Council minutes.

SECOND BY: Ms. deLeon

Ms. deLeon said Laura, any comments? Ms. Ray said maybe not a comment, but then do we still have other older minutes that are still tabled. Mrs. Gorman said yes. Ms. Ray said as well. That's what I thought. What did we get any feedback on them? I mean, it's, I don't like to see out there that there's, you know, several minutes not available, because I know how annoying that is. Ms. deLeon said it is annoying because we don't publish draft minutes, so. Ms. Ray said I know. Ms. deLeon said right. Ms. Ray said I'm just saying, that's why I thought, it's like I thought we had tabled some other ones, but I didn't see them show up in here, as we have some corrections to look at. Mrs. Gorman said I wanted to look at them as well, so.

Ms. deLeon said alright, so there's a motion. Any other discussion before I open it up to the floor?

Public Comment:

Ms. deLeon said anyone in the audience like to speak on this? If not, can we have a roll call please? Mrs. Gorman said Ms. Opthof-Cordaro? She said yes. Mrs. Gorman said Ms. Ray? She said yes. Mrs. Gorman said Ms. deLeon? She said yes. Miss Opthof-Cordaro Yes. Ms. Ray. Yes, Ms. deLeon? Yes

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Banonis and Mr. Carocci – Absent)

6. COUNCIL AND STAFF REPORTS

A. ACTING TOWNSHIP MANAGER – Cathy Gorman

Mrs. Gorman said yes, I would like to advise Council that the Reading Drive culvert is officially open. We had final inspection, it was made by the Northampton County Conservation District this week, and we will be closing out the grant documents in the next couple of weeks. But as you can see, our guys did a wonderful job. Ms. deLeon said yes, please thank them, thank them, thank them. We really appreciate it. They work hard.

Mrs. Gorman said I would also, we had sent out to Council that we had received confirmation that we were awarded \$99,199.00 from the Commonwealth Finance Authority, local share account, Monroe County for the new playground equipment up at Southeastern Park. So, we will be working on that. Ms. deLeon said nice. Mrs. Gorman said probably in next year, but we'll start development stages and preplanning now. Ms. deLeon said okay, great.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said that's wonderful. I saw a few people asking about that park and wanting to know what happened with the approval for it. So, for those that are wondering, you know now we were waiting for the grant and the grant was approved. So now it's going to move forward, but it might take a while, it sounds like with the planning and then the installation. Mrs. Gorman said currently right now our Public Works Department is working also on the Town Hall Park rehabilitation, which would include both sites, so that's priority to close those out first, and then we'll move forward with doing what we need to do with that.

Mrs. Gorman said I also wanted to let everyone know that spring cleanup was on June 1st. We received, I believe, we issued 33 coupons, and 26 people attended and took advantage of the program.

Mrs. Gorman said the landfill also provided \$1,500.00 for the Eagle Scout project for the Gaga Pit which was installed and Public Works is now currently filling it in and doing the touch up work. Ms. deLeon said can't wait to go look at it.

Mrs. Gorman said I was also informed that the Bethlehem Landfill was also offering two scholarships for \$5,000.00 each to two graduating high school students in our community. Amanda Dettmar from Saucon Valley, who will be attending Schreyer Honors College at Penn State University for Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Eric Jian from Parkland High School and he will be attending Boston University for Earth and Environmental Sciences. Ms. deLeon said as part of their requirements for Harms Benefit Analysis.

Mrs. Gorman said oh, I'm sorry, and the Bethlehem Landfill also provided \$2,500.00 to Martin Zamora to rebuild a small bridge over the creek at Hellertown Borough. Someone in the audience who did not come to the microphone said that's Sebastian's twin brother, he's also going to for his Eagle Scout. Ms. deLeon said okay, we can't have conversations in the audience, sorry. Someone in the audience said can you please clarify that? Mrs. Gorman said sure. They donated for two Eagle Scout project, \$1,500.00 to Sebastian Zamora for the Gaga Pit construction and two benches at Polk Valley Park and \$2,500.00 to his twin brother, Martin Zamora, to rebuild a small bridge over the creek in Hellertown Borough. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said thank you very much. Thank you, Bethlehem Landfill for that, both donations.

Someone in the audience said there was one more item in that email, Cathy. Mrs. Gorman said oh, I'm sorry. Oh, yes. The Archaea Natural Gas Plant is running and operational and has received their certificate of occupancy last week, and they're going through the commissioning process, which may take a couple of weeks to get up to specification. During that commission, commissioning period, there may be times where the flare is running and visible. Ms. deLeon said well, good luck with that startup.

Ms. deLeon said okay, anything else? Mrs. Gorman said that would be for me?

B. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Banonis – Absent

Mr. Carocci – Absent

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Ms. deLeon said okay, Victoria. She said I think it would be nice to, I firstly want to appreciate number one, that we're at almost eight o'clock, and we're at Council reports. I know I had a concern just that our meetings have been so long. It's been hard to provide Council reports at, in the early in the morning, and I appreciate that the residents aren't here to hear the Council reports. So, I think one thing we can, I can say is that some of you may know I am on the Fire Services, I'm a liaison for that. So since I was installed on Council, we began meeting with the Fire Company monthly, and it's been wonderful to go to, we've been down to three different fire stations. We meet sometimes at one and sometimes at another, and it's nice to see the fire stations and how they've developed over the years. The different fire companies as many you know, were not all unified, they were all their little sections of the Township, and over the years, they have added on and tried to accommodate their fire trucks as they needed. So, it's really interesting to see the history in each of the fire stations that operate. I can say that the meetings have been very productive, learning both the history of the fire companies and how they merged and also the current needs of the fire company, and how much volunteer work that they all do, not just responding to fires, but the sophisticated technology they use to, to be notified when there is a fire and how they run and get their equipment. It's really a top-notch endeavor, and as you saw, at least with two of their representatives this evening, many of them spend a lot of extra time doing all the paperwork and the red tape and the behind-the-scenes information necessary to not only make sure that we have one of the best fire companies I know of, but also so they can obtain grants and obtain funding and do a lot of things for our community. So, I think that our meetings have been very productive, and we've been working very well together. So, I wanted the public to know that as part of my role, that's what I do.

I also serve on the Lower Saucon Authority, which you know, is a separate entity that handles your public water and public sewer. So, they meet also monthly. It's a separate meeting, separate agenda, run separately at the water authority, but I have been keeping very close track of their progress with their pumper update over by Leithsville Road, and by Giant, they are in the process of moving forward with adding additional capacity for the sewer, so that they can handle the necessary sewer that is there and also, most recently had agreed to an extended agreement with the Hellertown Borough Authority. So, Hellertown Authority has their own group but the two authorities are working together in a collaborative fashion in a very nice way so that they each can benefit from helping each other. So, right now we are getting the benefit of Hellertown's sewer lines to handle extra capacity while we're getting our own additional pumper in line. So, I wanted the community to know that as well.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said Planning Commission met, and they recently, that's another committee that I sit on. So, we recently had a Planning Commission meeting and they had the Sheetz project on their agenda, which is the Sheetz that would occur up here on 378 in the Revolutions or old Revolutions development. I know there's a lot of different Sheetz. There's a couple on, there's one that's on 412 already open, another one that Hellertown is considering, but this is a Sheetz in Lower Saucon on Route 378. So, stay tuned, because that will come before Council at some point, I suspect, and that's all my, my Council Report.

Ms. Ray

She said sure, yeah, like Victoria said, we usually kind of skip or make these real short because it's, it's way too late to even talk, but I also work with the Fire Services. I go with Victoria, we meet with them every month, we've been meeting with them to learn, to get up to speed on everything that goes on with the Fire Services. They do, do an awful lot of work, as you can see, just for the simple, you know, loan papers, they have miles and miles of paperwork to do for everything, everything they do. You mentioned the Sheetz development. Even something like that they look at the plans and try to determine, you know, safety issues and you know, things that should be taken in consideration so that they could properly

service it if there is an emergency. So, there's a lot of things that you just don't even think about that they do.

I did give the EAC update.

Also, I am on the Parks and Rec board as the liaison. We met Monday, and we were met out at Kingston Park, which is behind the Lutz-Franklin, and so when we got done with our meeting, actually, so one of the projects that the Parks and Rec is going to be working on, which will be kind of a long-term, probably multiple year project is to go through our different parks and do surveys of non-native invasive species that are in our parks and try to come up with a plan to get things removed that don't belong, and then hopefully replace with some good things that do belong in there. So, after the meeting, I stayed with my Maia Simon who's heading this up for us, and we went through Ella's Garden, which is a big native wildflower patch that's growing out there, and there's a lot of good species in there; however, but what we saw the whole one end of the, the wildflower garden is being overtaken by this lovely weed called Mugwort, which I never knew the name, but I have it at my house too. It's awful. So, the last couple of years, it just gets bigger and bigger and takes over more and more. So, we talked about it. We would like to come up with, she thinks we can get some Boy Scouts involved to help us to remove that, and then that gives room for the good natives that are out there to expand and develop more. We also noticed there's some poison Hemlock out there, so we need a special plan for removing that because it's, it's a, it's really bad. And also, Parks and Rec is interested in doing a resident survey because one hasn't been done for, I don't know over a decade. I don't remember when it was done last. Just to get a feel for things that we have a need for in our Township. Things that maybe we don't have a need for in our Township. Where we can make some improvements. What, what's on people's minds regarding our parks and open space. So, look for that coming up. We would like to start working on some questions, and we were thinking that we could publicize it in our newsletter and hopefully residents could just do a QR code and link up to the survey and answer questions. So, this would help us for long-term planning for Parks and Recs. So, those are the things I wanted to talk about. Ms. deLeon said okay, thank you.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said Priscilla, I'm sorry, I just remembered I forgot something. Can I say something now or would you prefer not? Ms. deLeon said go ahead. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said I, at the beginning of the meeting, there were a number of comments that people were concerned about the litigation because you heard of, we had an executive session and what not, and I just want to remind the community, I know there's concerns like, oh, if it doesn't happen, right now, we forget what happened. The Township is currently dealing with number of litigation with Hellertown Area Library. That was all in 2023 under the prior Council. There's a federal lawsuit with regard to that, that had special counsel appointed to handle that matter, in addition, to a local Northampton County RTK case that's still out there also. So, this Council is having to address with those matters. As you know, there's multiple cases with regard to the landfill that were filed. And those cases, as you know, are where they stand, but that all occurred in 2023. The cell phone tower case that we became aware of today, again, with something filed against us, but not only us, the Zoning Hearing Board. The Zoning Hearing Board heard the cell phone or was going to hear the cell phone tower matter in 2023. So, this isn't a matter of this Council, doing things or creating messes. What we're doing right now is we're cleaning up the problems that have happened in 2023. So, I, we appreciate the public's patience, but we want to make sure that you understand that, I think Hellertown, landfill litigation and the matters concerning the cell phone tower are all things that, that precipitated in the 2023 administration. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

I'd like to say that I attended Heritage Days, which was on Saturday, May 18th, and it was nicely attended. I was at the Heller Homestead. It rained a little bit, so it kind of dampened things a bit, but I think people that attended both the Grist Mill and the Homestead had a great day. So, I think, I hope they do it again.

I would just like to touch with the Manager search, if I can, might need help here. We hired a firm to do the search for us and interview applicants. They came up with 10, and they went through them and what's the word I want to, interviewed them. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said they interviewed all 10 of them. Ms. deLeon said they interviewed 10 and came up with three, and Victoria and I are on the Manager Search Committee, and we did interview the three candidates, and we're trying to set up a meeting now

with five Council members and two of the candidates. So, and then see what happens. So, that's kind of where we are in case anybody's wondering what's going on with the Manager search. So, don't know how much longer that's going to take, but we're actively working on that also, which I would have liked to report on previously, but the hours were really late.

Also, I'd like to make note of two DEP, one DEP, and one Hanover Engineering letter on the landfill. I'll start with the Hanover Engineering letter inspection conducted on May 2nd, and I just find it interesting how people could still confuse the wastewater treatment plant odor and the landfill gas odor. And you know, once you know the difference, you know the difference, but anyway, this letter was Scott Brown, and he's our HMI Inspector and No. 3 on the letter says "no wastewater treatment odor was detected along Applebutter Road. A landfill gas odor was detected along Applebutter Road from the landfill entrance to the storage units." That's a long, pretty long distance. "After the BL inspection an odor patrol was conducted along Skyline Drive and no landfill odors", and it goes on just a couple pages. What I like and Scott, I have to compliment him on this, that he does have action items at the bottom of his letter, and it says placement of the 12 or anticipating the 12 wells, vertical gas wells in the cap southern end of Cell SE-2 AB and that's in process, so I'm sure Maryanne can confirm that they're doing that. Then they have the removal of the sediment, sediment around the leachate storage tank has been completed. So that's good. Construction of the stormwater drainage channel north of the sediment pond 4 continues and repair the perimeter fence and remove tree along the northern landfill perimeter road as needed. So wanted to report on that.

Ms. deLeon said a lot to report on the April 17th DEP inspection and this inspector inquired about uncovered waste during the previous month's inspection. Mr. Lawson stated that the applicator for the foam ADC has had dispersal issues. The inspector inquired about uncompacted waste at the active phase during the previous month's inspection. Mr. Lawson stated that the compaction occurs on a continuous basis at the site. The inspector reminded Mr. Lawson that the final loads of waste need to be compacted prior to application of the ADC daily cover, which really, she commented on it, and it wasn't being done. Amy Faulch also reminded Mr. Lawson that the May 10, 2024 Notice of Violation request photos of daily cover application to be submitted to the department at the end of each working day. That tells me that it's not done. Roads leading to the upper deck were in acceptable conditions. Okay. Then it goes on. Strong landfill gas odors were detected along the eastern access road adjacent to the active face. Let's see, what else did I highlight. Since the April inspection was issued on May 6, 2024, BLC has received 48 odor complaints. Odor patrols were conducted by the department on May 13th, May 15th, May 16th, May 20th and May 22nd. So, that's very upsetting because I have to tell you that it's really rare for me to go to a store and run into somebody and "we smelled the landfill again last night", and you gotta keep calling, you gotta keep calling. And these are people that live in Bethlehem Township. They live on Easton Road. They live, you know, Ringhoffer, they live in a radius and the radius is growing. So, and I will end that is my report. Thank you for listening.

C. SOLICITOR

Ms. deLeon said solicitor. Mr. Goudsouzian said I do. In the litigation that was filed by the landfill recently, preliminary objections have been filed in that case and that's just where we are. Ms. deLeon said okay, that's the one that we got handed last, last meeting. Mr. Goudsouzian said that's correct.

D. ENGINEER – Not present

7. PUBLIC COMMENT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS – 5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT – OPEN TO EVERYONE

Maryanne Garber said I represent the Bethlehem Landfill Company, and I just want to note Ms. deLeon's assumption that the daily photographs are not being submitted is unfounded and incorrect and inappropriate. Ms. deLeon said okay, I'm just reading what she said, and if she would have, to me, I wouldn't mention something if I was receiving it. Ms. Garber said well, I think that assumption is inappropriate, and the inspection report speaks for itself and I can represent on behalf of the landfill that daily photos are being submitted to DEP. Ms. deLeon said and I'm glad I'm wrong.

Ms. deLeon said okay, who wants to go next?

Hi, my name is Kathy Pichel-McGovern. I just wanted to put a quick plug in for the EAC. We learned about the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission that they submitted a grant for \$115 million to beautify the roads, 33, 78, 309 and they are looking for support. The funding decisions will be made in July. So, it is my hope that I can have the EAC submit a recommendation to the Council so both the EAC and LST Council can support Lehigh Valley Planning Commission for beautifications of the roads. So, it's \$115 million. That's a chunk of change. Ms. deLeon said thank you, Kathy. Anyone else? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said just a question. If they have a meeting next week, and then we have another meeting in June, we could potentially act if the EAC did that, but you said the deadline was July? Ms. Pichel-McGovern said correct. Ms. deLeon said so it needs to be on the, we only have one more meeting in June. And then the next meeting in July is at the end of the month because we only have one more meeting in June, then the next meeting in July is at the end of the month because we only have one meeting in July and August. So, you might want to keep that in mind. Thank you for remembering that. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said we would want to get that before our next meeting.

Donna Louder, Steel City, said I read an article and Victoria, you are mentioned in it and it was about a whole bunch of landfill odor complaints. And Priscilla, you just said it was Bethlehem Township, Easton and everything else. Living in Steel City and walking daily, I see the trains, and I know the difference between the train boxes and the tanks and what's in the train boxes. So, I reached out to Norfolk Southern, and I asked them how many trains are going through Steel City and heading east, running along, excuse me, Williams Township, Bethlehem Township into Easton, coming from Allentown. They told me there are 28 trains that are running. So, then I questioned why do I see these trains stopped? And they said that could be for a multitude of reasons. As you all know, there were maybe four or five train cars that had trash in them stopped on the Norfolk Southern track, right by the Freemansburg Bridge, and they sat there for a good month. I don't know if you're familiar with that. Ms. deLeon said I remember seeing that. Ms. Louder said okay, just so you know. I am not defending the landfill. What I am doing is being factual and not making scare tactics for folks. We need to get our T's crossed and our I's dotted, so that when we tell people stuff, it is the truth, and right now, just saying that there were 48 odor complaints. Yes, there are 48 odor complaints. We also have Chrin. We also have Norfolk Southern. We also have other entities in Freemansburg that have odor complaints. So again, I am not defending the landfill. They can do that on their own. But I want, what I am asking for is if this Council is going to make comments about the landfill, and have articles written by reporters, please give the reporters the facts. Let them tell the public the truth. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon said anyone else like to speak?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said I just want to point of clarification because she referenced something. Number one, I don't know which newspaper article it was, but certainly I am not providing any information about landfill, to newspapers, whatever they report, I don't know where they get it from, but it's not for me. Ms. Louder said it was a Willie or...Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said let me just finish my clarification, and number two, I didn't give the report, but it sounded to me that Ms. deLeon was reading from a DEP inspection report. So, she wasn't...Ms. Louder said I understand what she's saying but I'm talking about the article that I just. It was a Morning Call article, a Lehigh Valley Live article that you were mentioned and you were the one who was feeding the reporter. Ms. deLeon said Donna, you're out of order. Victoria. Ms. Louder said wait a minute, Victoria you were the one who gave the recorded information, you are the one who gave the recorded information, his name is Will. He has long blonde hair. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said I would like to be, so I am having a point of clarification with a comment a resident made. I am not engaging in a debate or a back-and-forth question with the commenter. I'm simply clarifying things because my name was mentioned. So, I just want to put that out there. I appreciate the comments you made; however, I do take, I do take exception to an allegation that I'm providing information for the landfill or anything to reporters at this point in time. So, I don't know when, what article was being referenced, when it was published, or who published it. Ms. Louder said it was published about two weeks ago. Ms. deLeon said Donna, you are out of order that. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said I'm just indicating that I have not communicated with members of the press and tried to provide negative comments about the landfill. That's all I have to say in my clarification, but I don't want to engage in any, any...Ms. Louder said I'll bring you the article the next meeting. I have a second comment. Well, I had two minutes when I walked away. I had two minutes and 14 seconds left. Ms. deLeon said okay. I wasn't watching the clock. Ms. Louder said thank you. One more question. Who is defending you, and you and you and you? Who's defending you? Is it Township money defending you? Ms. deLeon said this isn't question...Mr. Goudsouzian

said this is not question, answer time. Ms. deLeon said right. Ms. Louder said as a taxpayer I think I have a right to know who's paying for the attorneys to cover you because if it's Township money, it's landfill money. And you know what? I look out my kitchen window and see a landfill and I don't get any benefits from it. Why should you? Pay for your own freaking attorneys?

Ms. deLeo said okay, anybody else?

Dave Boulin said okay. That was absolutely wonderful, Victoria, just wonderful. You just shouted down a public person making a comment, and you just couldn't hold on to it. That's really pathetic. And when is Mr. Goudsouzian, when are we going to have a question-and-answer session? Because every time we ask questions, it's crickets, and as far as the landfill, I want to tell you, Priscilla, you keep going, and you keep, you keep reading these reports. If you want to have a discussion about it, please put it on the agenda because I rather get tired of seeing things that don't happen, and then whether it's, it's three o'clock in the morning sessions, because we don't know where they're coming back after the executive committee or not. Yeah, you do. You do know, and you should say. And as far as this odor stuff, that's a laugh. I know how these people get cranked up, you know, dump the dump. You think everybody's dumb. I don't believe that for a second. Anytime anything comes up about the landfill. Oh, all of a sudden, everybody smells everything, and we have engineers from Lehigh are going to go out there and they're gonna test the, test this and they're gonna go test that. Well, it turns out that engineer was a social science engineer. Yeah, I know. You don't. Victoria, I'll send it to you privately because you wouldn't know him. I mean, he has a little bob on the back of his head and he lives right down the street from Priscilla. Alright, he's the one that's the engineer that showed us the tower. We just cut and pasted it in the film. You know that, those are the kinds of non-facts that make you really look terrible, and it's just like this...Ms. deLeon said I'm going to rule you out of order because you're being defamatory to...Mr. Boulin said I'm being somewhat...Ms. deLeon said you are out of order. Mr. Boulin said who deserve it. Ms. deLeon said change your...Mr. Boulin said sorry, stop the clock, go ahead, I'll listen. Ms. deLeon said you're being, you're making defamatory comments, and you're not allowed to do that. So, you either change your tactics and use other words, and not do that or you can't speak. Mr. Boulin said right. Can I start now? Because it seems to me everybody seems to be getting cut off from this Council here. Ms. deLeon said that's your opinion. Mr. Boulin said it is my opinion and that's why I'm here to express it. Ms. deLeon said that's right, exactly. Mr. Boulin said and I have a very difficult time doing that because things get hidden, swept under the rug. I noticed that when you gave Mr. Goudsouzian, nobody seemed to pick this up. He's got carte blanche to do whatever he wants, with how much money he needs, and I noticed he's not looking at me again. That's how much respect I get, and yet you never gavel him, and yet he's being paid by the taxpayer, and he's got as much money, can hire who he wants and everything else, and whatever. And nobody says boo about it. It's just he says something. You make the motion, and Victoria, who's on her TV over there is, see? There you go. There's respect for you. How about that public? Ms. deLeon said wait a minute. She is looking at BoardDocs. Mr. Boulin said oh, you know what she's looking at? Ms. deLeon said I can tell because I know what...Mr. Boulin said this is just a farce here. It's a farce. Ms. deLeon said do you know what BoardDocs look like? Mr. Boulin said I don't want to know. I don't want to know. Ms. deLeon said okay. Mr. Boulin said you're just ridiculous.

Jim Rostkowski from Steel City said I just want everybody here to know that the last Council that we had, we had one, one chance to talk, and that was before. Ms. deLeon said you know what, turn your mic so we can hear you. Mr. Roskowski said that's, that's the only, only chance we had to talk was before everything was discussed. We had no discussion. So, thank you for letting us speak. Ms. deLeon said right.

Robert Blasko, LST resident said I'm not going to complain to those on Council who attended the meeting tonight about how long the meetings have been taking, because that would be preaching to the choir, because those that have been causing that travesty, didn't even bother to show up this evening. Thank you for running an efficient meeting.

Ms. deLeon said thank you, anyone else?

Someone in the audience said the article was in Lehigh Valley News, and it was May 24th, and it was by Will Oliver. Ms. deLeon said you have to say your name for the record for the transcriptionist. I'm sorry, sorry. Ms. deLeon said only because of the transcriptionist. She said I got it, I'm sorry. I'm afraid my cell phone is

going to cut out. So, I'm trying to, Ann Marie Slavick, LST. "Residents Raise a Stink as Bethlehem Landfill's Odor Complaints Mount", and this is May 24, 2024, and it's an article in lehighvalleynews.com, and it is by Will Oliver and that's the article that she was referring to. There are a lot of quotes in here. There is a lot of information in reference to the DEP, the report, the inspector, it does also include the fact that complaints are more now than they have ever been in the past, or at least in the current past. So, there are a lot of people calling about complaints, which is, I don't know, kind of telling, I guess for the situation that's going on currently in the Township. I just want to say one thing. I actually want to just say one, two things really quick. I just have a quick question. I know you guys can't really answer technically, but when we do these days of recycling, I'm just curious. I didn't realize that the Township pays for these things when you do like the day and people come and bring their recycling, that there's actually a cost, and I'm assuming there's a cost to like people coming out, bringing trucks from companies that are doing the recycling. Is that what normally you pay for? Okay, I didn't realize that, because they still have to pay for the recycling, and it seems like the same prices, as far as I can tell, because I just called for somebody, a friend of mine, that they do charge for recycling electronics, and it doesn't seem like people are getting a deal. It's the same price that if you would take it up to Allentown, you're going to pay the same price. So, you're not getting a deal by bringing it to your recycling day. It's just probably a convenience. So one of the things I just want to say is, and I understand that long meetings are an inconvenience to everybody. I'm sure that the employees of the Township that are here, and the police officers also agree with that. I appreciate that the meeting is short tonight. We can all get other things done. However, I will make a comment since Councilmen Carocci and Banonis are not here. It's great that they weren't here. You know, I'm sure that you all think you know, they're not here. They're not arguing with everything. But again, I just want to reiterate that in free countries, because there aren't a lot of free countries in the world, in free countries where there might be two people opposing each other, there are arguments, there are debates, and that's what makes America what we are. It's not a dictatorship. So, everybody up there, and when there's questioning going on, there's questioning for a reason. We want to make sure that the municipality, Township, borough, city is running as it should, that local governments function efficiently for a lot of different reasons, because you're using the taxpayer money to operate. If somebody has an objection to something like that, then I think it's their right. Maybe the meeting doesn't have to go for seven hours, maybe the meeting can go for four hours, but I don't think that it's an objection to a lot of people that there's somebody fighting against maybe an opposing view, that maybe there's a different view. There might be different goals. There might be different priorities, and I think that one of the priorities of Council people should be to make sure that the government is running efficiently, that the taxpayer dollars are used efficiently, but not only against, think, people can't all just be against things, they have to be for things. So, the question is this, if you're all going to be against any kind of big company that comes into the area and creates economic, maybe some economic well-being, maybe some jobs, some tax money, some revenue to the Township, then if we're going to be against every single thing like that, where are we getting the money to pay for everything? See, that's one of the things that the agenda right now in the country I think is missing, where we're not allowed to use things anymore. That people are against using fossil fuels. People are against using gas. People are against drilling. People are against, everything seems to be against everything except for, if you, if you have a windmill, then it's okay. But anyway, I just wanted to say that just because Jason and Tom aren't here, and you all think it's running efficiently. You guys acted kind of like dictators tonight. Thanks.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said can I just have a point of clarification? Ms. deLeon said sure. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said thank you. Again, there's all this discussion about an article. So, thank you for the clarification on one, the date of the article was, so I'm able to look it up in it. Just for the public's assurance, the article references the April 30th Landfill Committee meeting. So, it appears that the, whoever wrote, whoever the journalist is, he was reporting about what happened at the Landfill Committee meeting. As many of you know, I sit on the Landfill Committee meeting, so certainly would have participated and commented, and so there's no, so there's no question in anybody's mind about what exactly is stated in this article. It quotes, it says "Lower Saucon Councilwoman Victoria Opthof-Cordaro said at the April 30th Landfill Committee meeting, that she hoped to see progress on the matter and an end to the odors once the wells are drilled. She said the landfill has been proactive in attempting to mitigate the odors and that the process can take time. It's the nature of the business that we have to contend with when we have a landfill, Opthof-Cordaro said and I wish there was a different way to deal with it, but unfortunately, we can't". That is the quote from me. So, certainly I am not disparaging the landfill or discussing anything in there. That is a quote that I do remember saying during the Landfill Committee meeting. So, I just want to make that that that record clear. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon said okay, thank you. Okay, sorry, your name for the record.

Deborah Esposito, LST, as far as Jason and Tom not being here, and it's fine yet that you have opposing views. That's fine. What's not fine is the way they bully.

Ms. deLeon said okay, anybody else? Anyone else like to come speak.

Claudia Markellos, LST, said I just wanted to thank you for bringing up all of the litigation that came from 2023. And I was at quite a few meetings and heard what the litigation was about, and how it was against certain things, and for certain things, and you guys now have to deal with it. So, in six months, I'm not going to be judging you over that. I know it's going to be a long haul to figure things out. And thank you, Mr. Goudsouzian for your help in that area. I also wanted to say Cathy, I'm sure you've been applauded for everything that you've been doing. I just wanted to add mine to it. Because you, you are you give clarification and you answer questions and thanks. Mrs. Gorman said you're welcome. Ms. deLeon said yes, kudos.

Mark Ozimek said, unfortunately, I still live in LST. Number one, landfills smell. I call when I walk out of the house and walk Vicki to her car every morning to go to work and it smells and I ask her, Vicki, do you smell a landfill? She says yep. When she leaves, I go back in the house, and I call, so that to me, and as far as anybody wants to sit there and say that it's her imagination, or you know, they think it's make believe, why don't you give me your phone number, and right after I'm done with the DEP, I'll call you and you can come over and smell it yourself. So that's that. The second thing is I'd like to know if Council has a way to contact the State because Redington Road I believe is a state road. My beef with the state road is that when I take my dog for a walk up and down the street, she comes back with about 10 ticks on her. The ticks out there are horrendous this year, and not everybody has chickens. Everybody should get chickens and let them run loose because then they eat up the ticks. So, if anybody on Council has an idea or comes up with a plan where they might be able to come up with something, they call the State and say hey, can you go out there and spray for ticks and bugs? I'd appreciate it. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said Cathy, can you look into that? Ms. Ray said do they spray anything? I'm curious because it is a problem. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said I just asked Cathy if she could look into this seeing if there was any way, any, any program or anything we can ask from the State to help with the bug problem on state roads, including Redington Road, sorry.

Ms. deLeon said okay, anybody else in the audience? Okay. With that.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved to adjourn the meeting. The time was 8:32 p.m.

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Banonis and Mr. Carocci – Absent)

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- A. Environmental Advisory Council: June 11, 2024
- B. Council Meeting: June 19, 2024
- C. Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission: June 24, 2024
- D. Zoning Hearing Board: June 24, 2024
- E. Planning Commission: June 27, 2024
- F. Landfill Committee Meeting: July 18, 2024
- G. Parks and Recreation Board: August 5, 2024

Submitted by:

Cathy Gorman
Acting Township Manager

Priscilla deLeon
Council President