

**City Council Meeting
September 23, 2019**

City Council met in regular session on Monday, September 23, 2019 in Council Chambers, City Hall, Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM Vice President Joel Long who opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll was called and present were Council Members Douglas Byerly, Richard Conklin, Joel Long, William Mincer, Richard Morris, and Steve Stevenson. Mayor William Baney. Also, in attendance were City Manager Gregory Wilson, Human Resource Specialist Ivana Trader, Laura Jameson with The Express, Scott Johnson and John Lipez with The Record, Police Chief Kristin Smith, City Planner & Development Coordinator Abigail Roberts. SEDA-COG representative Linda Sterling. Lock Haven residents William Crowell, Rona Houser, Stephen Poorman, Trent & Sue Rudy, Pat Letterman, Cathi & Ron Houser, Robert & Kathleen Clark, Cindy Ryan, Nathan & Stephanie Reeder, and Robert Steven as well as PennDOT representatives Eric Murnyack & Jim Roman and Gibbon-Thomas engineer Tim Bolden.

COUNCIL MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Conklin, seconded by Mr. Byerly and carried unanimously, the minutes of the September 9, 2019, 2019 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

City resident Steven Poorman brought before Council his concerns over the enforcement of the property maintenance code in the City, and encouraged Council to hire additional personnel in Code Enforcement to address properties often described as blighted in the community. Mr. Poorman also expressed his interest in having E Church and E Main Streets converted to two-way traffic rather than one-way traffic. Mr. Poorman also stated that he would provide a donation toward one-half of a trash receptacle for the downtown as part of the City's matching program. The City Manager explained that Council set aside \$10,000 in the 2019 budget to use as matching grants to purchase new trash receptacles in the downtown, noting that this will need to be a multi-year program in order to complete the project with limited resources while encouraging nonprofit organizations to make donations to help achieve the downtown beautification project.

City residents Kathy Clark, Nathan Reeder, and Rona Houser expressed their interest in having the traffic signal at E Main and Hanna Streets repaired and retained, expressing concern with pedestrian safety and vehicle speed if the signal were to be removed.

City resident, William Crowell advocated for the retaining of the traffic signal at E Water and Grove Streets, expressing his concern with pedestrian safety if the signal were to be removed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council considered Resolution No. 1348 to approve the installation of a banner on E Main Street from October 14 to November 2 for the Susqueview 5K run. **On a motion made by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Mincer and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 1348 was adopted.**

The Woman's Center requested the use of Triangle Park on October 24, 2019 from 2-p.m. for a domestic violence prevention awareness vigil. **On a motion made by Mr. Stevenson seconded by Mr. Long and carried unanimously, the requested was approved.**

Great Island Presbyterian Church requested the use of the floating stage at Coreman amphitheater on Saturday, August 8, 2020 for a music concerts by the friends of the pipes. It was confirmed that since the request is for a Saturday, there should be no conflict with the 2020 summer concert schedule. **On a motion made by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Byerly and carried unanimously, the requested was approved.**

Council considered the use Zindel park for two weddings, one on June 20, 2020 from 7-5 for the Hill family and the other on September 12, 2020 from 9-4 for the Maggs family. Full details of the events will be retained by the Director of Community Life. **On a motion made by Mr. Long seconded by Mr. Byerly and carried unanimously, the request was approved.**

The City Manager notified Council of the receipt of State aid to support the City's pension plans for 2019 in the amount of \$232,294.27 which is about \$30,000.00 over budget.

The City Manager informed Council of the receipt of the 2019 Fireman's Relief funding from the State Auditor General in the amount of \$37,208.16. These funds are then distributed to the Lock Haven Fireman Relief Association.

The City Manager provided council information for the schedule for appeals before the Assessment Board with the Fallon Hotel's reduction in value request on October 1 and UPMC Susquehanna's request for tax exemption on October 7.

The City Manager reported that Wings over Williamsport provided a donation of \$100.00 to the City for use of the airport for their 2019 Wings Over Piper event.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council welcomed representative from PennDOT and their contracted engineer from Gibbon-Thomas to discuss the Traffic Signal Removal Analysis Engineering and Traffic Study reports for the traffic lights at E. Main & Hanna, and E. Water & Grove Streets. Representing Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, project manager, Eric Murnyack stated that the

reports were developed and provided to Council to help Council determine if they the City should retain or remove the signals at those intersections. If Council chooses to retain the signaled intersection at one or both sites, PennDOT would replace the signals and poles during its project to be completed in 2021. Mr. Stevenson inquired if it would be possible to accelerate the installation; however, Mr. Murnyack stated that was not possible as PennDOT still needed to finalized engineering and then provide time for utility work. In order to retain the signaled intersection at E. Main and Hanna Street, it will require repairs be done to make the signal functional again and a quote from Lecce Electric, Inc. was obtained by the Department of Public Works to make the temporary repairs a cost of \$4,750.00 before labor. **On a motion made by Mr. Long, seconded Mr. Mincer and carried unanimously, Council approved the purchase of equipment from Lecce for the repair of the E. Main and Hanna traffic signal and to retain the traffic lights at E. Main and Hanna Streets and at E. Water and Grove Streets.**

Council considered resolution No. 1349 adopting the funding of projects with the 2019 CDBG allocation. After discussion regarding the funding of a project requested by the Clinton County Housing Coalition, the Coalition will instead come back in 2020 for funding from a future CDBG allocation for a more significant project for the benefit of the Coalition and the community. Council then considered that the funds be allocated with \$53,731 toward program administration and planning (18% maximum) for SEDA-COG's administration of the program, \$33,235 toward safe-fall surface at Piper-Harmon playground, and \$211,538 toward the completion of the East Water Street paving project from Grant Street to the City line. **On a motion made by Mr. Stevenson, seconded Mr. Long and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 1349 was adopted.**

Council considered the entering into an agreement with Cohen Law Group for the negotiation of the franchise renewal with Comcast (\$8,010) and for the performance of a franchise fee audit (\$4,860) of the existing agreement at a total not to exceed \$12,870.00. **On a motion made by Mr. Conklin, seconded by Mr. Morris and carried unanimously, the request was approved.**

Council Considered the award to the lowest bidder for construction of improvements to Hammermill Playground to Mid-State Construction, Inc in the amount not to exceed \$156,786.00. According to City Planner Robert, improvements are to be completed by the end of 2019, weather permitting. **On a motion made by Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Mincer and carried unanimously, the requested was approved.**

The City Manager provided Members of Council with a copy of the original Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) agreement between Clinton County and the Clinton County Housing Authority which is still in effect. According to the original agreement, the Authority shall pay to the County the equivalent of 10 percent of rents from the previous year. The County then is obligated to distribute the funds based on the percent-to-total of taxes due if the Authority's property were not exempt from real estate tax.

NEW BUSINESS

Council considered first reading of Ordinance No. 2019-06 amending the bylaws of the Annie Halenbake Ross Library. Amendments include adding Renovo and Friendship library branches by name and changing the number of Board Member committees from 6 to 4, and a change of the date of the regular monthly meeting. The ordinance will be required to taken up by Council again at its regular meeting on October 7, 2019 and, if adopted, will become effective twenty days after its adoption. **On a motion made by Mr. Conklin, seconded by Mr. Byerly and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 2019-06 amending the bylaws of the Annie Halenbake Ross Library was adopted on first reading.**

The City Manager informed Council that the contractor for the repairs on the Tidlow Dam will begin to lower the water level in the Susquehanna River by breaking out sections of the existing dam on September 26, 2019. The drawdown should be complete to within ten days, weather permitting, after which the contract can begin to address the contracted repairs. Fireworks planned for Lock Haven University's Homecoming celebration will not be effected by the work.

OTHER MATTERS

Council Member Mr. Stevenson questioned the hours of speed patrol by the Lock Haven City Police only 12 hours out of 300. Chief Smith responded that having seen those numbers as well, she had already addressed the issue with her patrol officers who will increase enforcement.

Council Members requested that the City Manager find a city-owned location where the Downtown Lock Haven stage could be stored when not in use by the organization. The City Manager stated that he would speak with the Director of Public Works to find a suitable location for storage of the stage.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Byerly, seconded by Mr. Conklin, at 8:40 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk