

City Council Meeting
April 20, 2020

City Council met in regular session on Monday April 20, 2020, over video conference call, in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor 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, Barbara Masorti, William Mincer, Richard Morris, Steve Stevenson, and Mayor Joel Long. Also, in attendance were City Manager Gregory Wilson, , and Director of Community Life Kasey Campbell.

COUNCIL MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Mincer, seconded by Mr. Morris and carried unanimously, the minutes of the April 1, 2020 special meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mincer mentioned that there were several questions addressed to him from members of the public regarding Comcast and First Quality delivery trucks, but that the City Manager had addressed those issues privately and through media outlets.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council considered a request from the Lock Haven Area YMCA for the use of the City Beach and parking area, for their Fill the Bus Event, held on August 15. The Director of Community Life explained that this is an event that is free for the public. **On a motion made by Mr. Mincer and seconded by Mr. Byerly, and carried unanimously, the request was approved.**

Council considered a request from Wings of Williamsport RC Model Club to use Piper Airport on July 31 to August 2 for their 18th Annual Wings over Piper RC Event. Mayor Long commented that this annual event has always been well received, and a great event for the area. **On a motion made by Mr. Conklin, seconded by Mr. Byerly and carried unanimously, the request was approved.**

The City Manager provided Council Members with a letter from Joe Waltz, introducing himself and announcing his campaign for Pennsylvania State Representative for the 76th District.

The City Manager notified City Council of correspondence from the City of Easton, announcing the results of the Voting Award Contest, in which the City of Monessen was number one, with a voter turn-out of 41.82%, compared to the City of Lock Haven's most recent voter turn-out of 29%.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The City Manager requested that Council appoint two Council Members to work with City Staff to help organize a new Airport Advisory Committee. Ms. Masorti and Mr. Stevenson expressed interest in being on the committee. **On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Conklin and carried unanimously, the Ms. Masorti and Mr. Stevenson were appointed to the committee.**

NEW BUSINESS

Council considered the award of the 2020 Summer Concert Series Sound Contract to GP Audio at \$550 per concert. The Director of Community Life explained that there were three proposals received by the City, and GP Audio came in at the lowest price, and this would be the 9th year working with GP Audio. Mr. Morris asked how the State of Emergency would affect the Summer Concert Series, and Mayor Long explained that the committee has been in discussion on how to move forward with the series, but this contract would take that in consideration. **On a motion made by Mr. Byerly, seconded by Mr. Mincer and carried unanimously, the contract was awarded.**

Council considered a resolution to provide additional temporary compensation and essential and life-sustaining employees during the COVID-19 Infectious Disease Emergency. There was discussion on when the start date would begin for the compensation, as well as the amount of compensation. Mr. Morris expressed concern with the wording of parts of the resolution, and requested the language be included to note that certain City operations require employees to forego the supposed protection of the stay-at-home order. There was further discussion on whether this resolution would apply to all employees, or only employees that are not in senior leadership positions. On a motion made by Mr. Mincer and seconded by Ms. Masorti, the resolution stating all employees would be compensated \$2.00 an hour for all hourly employees for their time spent in City Hall, beginning March 17, 2020, and salaried employees beginning April 20, 2020, and ending the day City facilities are open to the public, was passed with six votes in the affirmative and Mr. Byerly voting “no.”

The City Manager thanked all members of Council for engaging the topic of offering essential workers compensation during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. The City Manager announced that all facilities will remain closed until May 8 due to the extending of the State of Emergency by Governor Wolf.

The City Manager announced that under Chapter 116 of the City Code, Article 2, Matthew Rickard was appointed as Auxiliary Police Officer to temporarily fill a vacancy in the police lineup during the state of emergency.

The City Manager also notified that Council that three public works employees were brought back from furlough; however, the spouse of one of those employees has tested positive for COVID-19, and following the guidelines provided by the Department of Health, that employee is quarantined. Two employees that were found to have been in “close contact” with the employee under the guidelines set by the CDC were each sent home for seven days, and must show no temperature for 72 hours nor any other symptoms before they can return to work. The fire department has the resources to sanitize any equipment and surface that the employee had been in contact with. All employees are required to wear a facemask while in City facilities and follow all other workplace rules enacted to curtail exposure to COVID-19.

OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Mincer asked Members of Council to consider developing a Land Bank with one of the City’s neighboring municipalities. The City Manager noted that members of the City’s administration have been working with a neighboring municipality for two years to explore that municipality enabling the Redevelopment Authority to operate within that jurisdiction as well. If approved, that would cover enough resident to meet the Land Bank criteria. Mr. Mincer offered his support if any help is needed as the City continue to pursue this option to address blight.

Mr. Mincer expressed concern in regard to the social demonstration in Harrisburg, protesting COVID-19 stay at home restriction, and asked the community to be vigilant in social-distancing and following guidelines set by the City and State.

Mr. Stevenson announced that the City response rate for the United States Census was at 46%, and expressed the importance of responding to Census questionnaires.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Morris, at 8:13 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk