

City Council Meeting May 18, 2020

City Council met in regular session on Monday May 18, 2020, over video conference call, in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, and streamed over YouTube and Facebook Live. 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 Barbara Masorti, William Mincer, Richard Morris, Steve Stevenson, and Mayor Joel Long. Absent were Council Members Douglas Byerly and Richard Council. Also, in attendance were City Manager Gregory Wilson, City Planner and Development Coordinator Abigail Roberts, and Director of Community Life Kasey Campbell. Members of the public that joined the call were Christopher Long, Lou Bernard, and Bo Miller.

COUNCIL MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Mincer, seconded by Mr. Morris and carried unanimously, the minutes of the April 20, 2020 special meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mincer shared a letter from Chris Darwin, owner of the Main Street Grill and Saloon, asking Council to temporarily close Main Street for sidewalk sales and outdoor dining. The letter stated support by other Downtown Businesses for the closure. The City Manager explained that City Staff has been working on a plan to accommodate businesses downtown once Clinton County enters the Green Phase, which would include closing Main Street from Jay to Main Street, as well as Grove Street from Water to Church Street. This plan is similar to the suggestions made by other merchants and restaurant owners, but would also accommodate concerts and festivals as well, while meeting the guidelines set by the Department of Health. This plan would be dependent on PennDOT approval.

CORRESPONDENCE

The City Manager read a letter from the Mill Hall Borough Department of Public Works thanking the city for the use of the city's ladder truck to fix a flagpole.

The City Manager read a letter sent to Rep. Borowicz asking for support of the extension of the payment period for the solvency fee for unemployment compensation. The federal government is providing funds to local government entities as reimbursement for unemployment cost. The extension of the solvency fee payment period would provide the city 100% federal reimbursement for unemployment paid, but without the extension the city will only receive 50%

federal reimbursement. The City Manager explained that he has not yet heard back from Rep. Borowicz on this issue.

The City Manager read a letter sent to Rep. Borowicz asking for support of the amendment to HB2172 to halt the bill from preempting municipality authority over PASSHE property and facilities. Under HB2172, City ordinances would not apply on the University's property including rental inspection requirements, open container laws, and all other provisions including charging fees for use and services. The City Manager reported that he had not heard back from Rep. Borowicz as of the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council considered Resolution No. 1378 requesting that Keystone Central School District return the parcel of land gifted to it by the City which has been used as the Tiger Den Playground for the Robb Elementary School. The City Manager explained that this parcel of land was operating as a park for many years prior to gifting it to the school district. Members of the public spoke to Council in support of maintaining the Tiger Den. Members who spoke in support of Council requesting the return were resident Lou Bernard, resident Christopher Long, and Bo Miller, President of the Keystone Central School District Board of Education. Christopher Long relayed to Council that he had begun a petition that was signed by 1,200 individuals, urging the City to keep the Tiger Den and provide it for the children of the city. **On a motion made by Mr. Mincer and seconded by Ms. Masorti, the resolution was adopted.**

The City Planner and Development Coordinator discussed the Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 Response Allocation. The City Planner explained that there is a short application to apply for the funds, and before the next council meeting on June 1, there will be a public hearing broadcast on Facebook Live at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the CDBG-CV funds and answer questions in real time. The second public hearing will take place at 6:30 p.m. on June 15, 2020. City Council was provided a schedule of the program, which is also posted on the City Website.

The Director of Public Works gave an update on the E Church Street streetscape construction project. The City of Lock Haven received funding provided by the Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Program (TAP) and will be used to fund the E Church Street Streetscape Project. The total cost of the project is \$1,131,136.00, and the low bidder, M & B Services from Clarion, PA will be handling the project, with inspection being done by the EADS Group, in the amount of \$103,065.00.

NEW BUSINESS

The Director of Community Life announced that after consulting with the Parks and Recreation Committee, and referring to the guidelines set by the PA Department of Health for the "Yellow" and "Green" phase of COVID-19 reopening plans, the City Beach will be closed for the summer. The Director of Community Life and City Manager explained that while the Green Phase states that beaches and marinas can be open, it would be very difficult to hire staff that late in the

season, and it would be difficult to properly regulate the social-distancing required and other intensive requirements required to ensure public safety. For the foreseeable future, the playground and play equipment will be closed until at least the green phase, while city staff develops a plan for sanitizing equipment.

The City Manager announced the City's plans to provide support to the Central Business District during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City will be providing two signs to restaurants in the district that will reserve parking for curbside pick-up. If any other business is interested in a sign, they are instructed to contact the City Manager. The City also has put together a plan to turn the E Main Street parking lot into a temporary outdoor dining area. This dining area would be for patrons of downtown restaurants to sit and enjoy their take-out dinner. The Director of Community Life also outlined the plan for festivals in the downtown, as well as a plan for closing Main Street.

Council considered Resolution No. 1380, requesting approval to submit a permit application to PennDOT for the closure of Main Street from Jay to Vesper Street, every Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., from June 5 to September 26, 2020. This would allow restaurants and businesses to have outdoor dining and street sales. This would also give opportunity to increase foot traffic, as well as provide a venue to hold summer concerts, while following the protocols laid out in the Green Phase. **On a motion made by Ms. Masorti, seconded by Mr. Stevenson, the resolution carried.**

The City Manager explained to Council that out of the \$5.6 million general fund budget, DCED has asked all municipalities to reexamine their budget and make changes. At a time where significant revenue has been lost, the City is also being asked to cut more expenditures. The City Manager explained that he will be working on these numbers and will provide information to Council at its June 1 regular meeting.

OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Stevenson announced that members of council attended the online meeting with the City's auditors, and that information will be provided soon.

Mr. Stevenson thanked all EMS workers in honor of EMS Week.

Mr. Mincer thanked the city staff for their work in providing creative solutions to problems presented by COVID-19. Mr. Mincer also asked if minutes posted on the website could be condensed to make them more user friendly.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Morris, at 8:35 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor
