

City Council Meeting March 1, 2021

City Council met virtually in regular session on Monday March 1, 2021, over Zoom conference call, and streamed live over YouTube and Facebook, 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, William Mincer, Richard Morris, Steve Stevenson, Mayor Joel Long. Absent from the meeting was Barbara Masorti. Also, in attendance was City Manager Gregory Wilson, Director of Public Works Anthony Stopper, City Planner and Development Coordinator Abigail Roberts, and the Director of Community Life Kasey Campbell. Guests in attendance were Dr. Peter Campbell and Dr. Matthew Girton representing LHU-APSCUF, and Louis Anastos, owner of Stella A's Bar and Grill.

COUNCIL MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Byerly, seconded by Mr. Morris and carried unanimously, the minutes of the February 15, 2021 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Campbell addressed Council Members to provide updates regarding the merger of the Lock Haven, Mansfield, and Bloomsburg universities proposed by the PASSHE Chancellor. Dr. Campbell expressed concerns with the proposed 25% reduction of faculty members, and the outsourcing of AFSCME employees. The economic impact of the University on the City of Lock Haven was stressed, and Dr. Campbell encouraged Council Members to get involved with local LHU management and accept Dr. Pignatello's offer to participate in integration discussions. A copy of Dr. Campbell's comments were provided to City Council prior to the meeting.

Mr. Mincer asked Dr. Campbell if it has been confirmed that a merger will be happening, and Dr. Campbell explained that there will be a presentation in April to the Board of Governors, who will conduct a vote, followed by a 60 day comment period for citizens to express their concerns or support, and a final vote by the Board of Governors, before the merger is finalized.

Dr. Girton invited members of Council and the public to attend a rally on March 20, 2021 hosted by AFSCME at 10:00 a.m.

The City Manager further explained the financial impact of LHU on the community, with \$5 million going directly to residents of the City of Lock Haven, and the City receives \$25,490

of earned income tax per year. Lock Haven University is the 4th largest employer of City residents.

CORRESPONDENCE

City Council considered two requests for the use of Zindel Park for weddings on April 10, 2021, and October 7-8, 2022. **On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Stevenson, and carried unanimously, the requests were approved.**

The City Manager notified Council of the 64% voter turnout for the November 2020 election.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Council considered a request from Stella A's Bar and Grill for the temporary closure of Sarah's Alley (located between Stella A's and Strouse Law for its use as a private outdoor dining area. The City Manager explained that according to Section 380-5 of the City Code, Council can approve the temporary closure, for a maximum period of 90 days. Mr. Anastos addressed Council and provided his proposed use of the closure, with explanation of approval from PLCB and neighboring landlords. At the end of the 90-day period, Council can adopt the resolution for another 90 days. The City Manager explained that at the end of the 90 days Council could also decide to vacate the alley. The Chief of Police, the Fire Department, and the Code Enforcement Officer will review the plan for final approval. **On a motion made by Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Byerly, and carried unanimously, Council requested a resolution be presented at the March 15, 2021 meeting for the closure of Sarah's Alley.**

Council considered the approval of a donation to the Lock Haven Area Flood Protection Authority in the amount of \$2,000.00 for general administration expenses for 2021. Mr. Stevenson expressed concerns over the increase from \$1,000.00 that was budgeted for 2021, and made a motion approving the donation for the budgeted amount, and if more is needed, it can be revisited at a later time. **The motion, made by Mr. Stevenson, was seconded by Mr. Mincer, and carried by a vote of 5-2, with Mr. Conklin and Mr. Morris voting in opposition.**

Council considered the appointment of Mark Stern to the Lock Haven Area Flood Protection Authority. Mr. Stern is eligible for the appointment because he is a property owner in the city and is registered to vote in Lock Haven. Council also considered the appointment of Angelic Hardy, Director of Workforce Development and Continuing Education, to fill the term of the previous director on the Commercial Loan Committee. **On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Mincer, and carried unanimously, Mr. Stern and Ms. Hardy were appointed.**

Council considered approval to solicit bids for sewer sludge hauling for the term of May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022. **On a motion made by Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Conklin, and carried unanimously, the approval was granted to solicit bids.**

Council considered the authorization to enter into a sales agreement for the purchase of 9.81 acres of land to be realized upon the successful drilling of permitting of a supplemental water well in Wayne Township. This would enable the reconstruction of the Keller Dam Spillway. **On a motion made by Mr. Conklin, seconded by Mr. Byerly, and carried unanimously, Council resolved to enter into the sales agreement.**

Council considered the 2021 Capital Improvement Program budget, which includes requests for investments in equipment and vehicles, as well as improvements to infrastructure. The recommendation from the City Manager will be provided to Council later in the week. The Director of Public Works and City Manager explained the use of funds and projects, as well as a timeline of the projects. The final Capital Improvement Plan will be acted upon by Council at its regular meeting on March 15, 2021, and Council was encouraged to bring forward any other requests prior to this meeting.

OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Morris, at 8:20 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk