

City Council Meeting June 7, 2021

City Council met virtually in regular session on Monday June 7, 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, Barbara Masorti, Richard Morris, Steve Stevenson, Mayor Joel Long. Also, in attendance was City Manager Gregory Wilson, Director of Public Works Anthony Stopper and the Director of Community Life Kasey Campbell. Guests in attendance were Mr. Terry Banfill, Ms. Carmen Banfill, Mr. Bill Crowell, Mr. Jeff Brinker, Mr. Alexander Di Costanzo, Mr. Nathan Kownacki, and Mr. William McGill.

COUNCIL MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Byerly, seconded by Mr. Morris and carried unanimously, the minutes of the May 17, 2021 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The City Manager read an email and a postcard sent to City Hall regarding the rainbow flag installation on Grove and Vesper Streets, both correspondences thanked Council and the City for this installation and for making the city a welcoming community.

Woodward Township resident Mr. Terry Banfill addressed Council to request the permanent installation of a wooden flag over E Main Street (State Route 150 S). This request would be in place of the Resolution No. 1281, made on September 11, 2017, for the installation of a flag to commemorate Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Patriot Day, and POW/MIA Recognition Day. The City Manager explained that the first step for Council would be to direct city staff to clarify with PennDOT that the wooden flag would be approved, and if the placement of a second banner at the Mill Street Intersection would be acceptable. If this is acceptable to PennDOT, then the request will come back in the form of a Resolution for Council to pass. Mr. Stevenson expressed concern about the liability of the wooden flag, weighing 15 lbs and measuring 10" by 20". Mr. Banfill requested that if the banner cannot be installed permanently, to have additional dates added to the resolution. Mr. Stevenson requested the list be paired down from 21, as that would be 42 times city staff would need to go up and down on the ladder truck. **On a motion made by Mr. Conklin, seconded by Mr. Byerly, and carried unanimously, the request for City Staff to contact PennDOT was passed.**

Mr. Crowell presented an idea to Council for the 2021 Little League World Series taking place in Williamsport in August. Mr. Crowell suggested adopting one of the teams traveling to the area for the series, and ceremoniously naming the town after the team, and serve as a hometown away from home, to encourage spectators traveling to stay in Lock Haven, and provide transportation to and from the series. The Little League World Series brings in over 30 million dollars to the local economy in the Williamsport Area, and by adopting a team from out of state, this has potential to support the local economy of Lock Haven. The city could paint the streets in the team colors, do promotions throughout town to welcome them to the area, and showcase Lock Haven. The City Manager suggested the Director of Community Life setup a time to meet with Mr. Crowell to discuss the idea further. The idea was received positively by Council.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER

Council considered the appointment of a resident elector to the vacant seat on City Council for the term ending January 3, 2022.

The following candidates were presented to Council:

Mr. Jeff Brinker of 317 W Main Street

Mr. Alexander Di Costanzo of 731 Bellefonte Avenue

Mr. Nathan Kownacki of 114 Second Street

Mr. William McGill of 542 E Water Street

Each member was asked the disqualifying questions to hold public office under the Constitution of the Commonwealth, and each candidate responded in a way that enabled them to be eligible to hold office. Each candidate was then provided an opportunity to respond to questions from the Members of Council.

On a motion made by Mr. Conklin, seconded by Mr. Morris, and carried unanimously, Mr. Di Costanzo was elected to Council.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council considered the temporary closure of select city streets for the Rally to Recovery 5k on August 28, 2021. The Director of Community Life will work with the organizers and the Chief of Police to ensure the safety of all residents and participants, and the Chief of Police has been contacted regarding the event. **On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Byerly, and carried unanimously, the request was approved.**

Council considered Resolution No. 2021-21, requesting the installation of a banner on E Main Street for the Relay for Life of Clinton County, from July 12 to August 1, 2021. The Director of Community Life will send the Resolution to PennDOT for approval and notify Tyler Wooding of the installation once approved.

The City Manager notified Council of the Clinton County Economic Partnership Time-Out at Sentimental Journey Fly-In June 23 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The City Manager notified Council of the HOME grant award letter of \$500,000 to the city to provide for improvements to owner-occupied homes of low- to moderate-low income earners. This will be administered by SEDA-COG, and is aimed for improvements to help lower energy bill costs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council considered of the rejection of all bids for the 2021 landscaping projects. The Director of Public Works explained that due to the formerly contracted landscaper going out of business, they were approved to request bids for landscaping services, but all bids that were returned were higher than what was budgeted for services. The Director of Public Works recommended that city staff take over landscaping the parks, and revisit bidding services at a later time. **On a motion made by Mr. Conklin, seconded by Mr. Byerly, and carried unanimously, the rejection of the bids was passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

Council considered Ordinance No. 2021-03 clarifying the collection procedures for sewer and water utilities. The City Manager explained this is to clarify processes for residents and was written by the city solicitor. **On a motion made by Ms. Masorti, seconded by Mr. Conklin, and carried unanimously, the ordinance was adopted on first reading.** Second reading of the ordinance will be on July 12, 2021.

Council considered the authorization to bid the utility (water, sewer, stormwater) street patching project within the City of Lock Haven, Castanea Township, and Wayne Township. **On a motion made by Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Conklin, and carried unanimously, the authorization to bid was granted.**

Council considered entering into an agreement with FireHouse Grants for the application and administration of a FEMA grant to cover 95% of the cost of the replacements of the city's three hose companies SCBA units (city share \$2,379.00 application fee and \$18,900.00 local match). The City Manager explained that this grant would save approximately \$358,000 of city funds budgeted for replacing SCBA units, and open those funds to be used elsewhere for the city. The grant writer for the County would be writing the grant, and they have a 75% success rate. **On a motion made by Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Byerly, and carried unanimously, the agreement was approved.**

OTHER MATTERS

The City Manager announced that two employees were hired in the Public Works Department, and interviews will be held this week to fill the vacancy of Operator 1. Mr. Stevenson inquired about the amount of cuts required in the landscaping contract, and the Director of Public Works explained

that the contract calls for once a week unless directed otherwise. Mr. Conklin complimented the Public Works Department on their hard work on keeping the city beautiful.

Mr. Conklin inquired about the pollination gardens with PennDOT, and the Director of Public Works explained that the project was put on hold by PennDOT due to COVID, but he is in contact with them to start the process again.

Mr. Morris encouraged residents to make an appointment with local pharmacies to get the COVID-19 Vaccination, to bring the county hire than the 36% of currently vaccinated residents.

Mr. Morris inquired about Resolution No. 2021-09 in opposition of the Integration of Lock Haven University with Bloomsburg and Mansfield University, and if it needed to be updated to express Council's continued opposition on the matter. It was determined that the resolution does not need to be rewritten, as the position has not changed.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Morris, at 8:38 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk