

City Council Meeting August 23, 2021

City Council met in person for a special session on Monday August 23, 2021, 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, Alex Di Constanzo, Barbara Masorti, Richard Morris, Steve Stevenson, and Mayor Joel Long. Also, in attendance was City Manager Gregory Wilson, City Planner and Development Coordinator Abbey Roberts, Director of Public Works Anthony Stopper, Director of Permits and Licensing Cyndi Walker, Fire Chief Robert Neff, and the Director of Community Life Kasey Campbell.

COUNCIL MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Ms. Masorti and carried unanimously, the minutes of the August 16, 2021, meeting were approved, pending the removal of “virtually” from the first paragraph.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Morris made a motion to ask the unmasked members of Council to remove themselves from the meeting, or wear a mask, as per the rules of business at City Hall, while in the high rate of transmission, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Conklin. Mr. Stevenson expressed that the emergency declaration previously passed by Council has expired, and it was not renewed or extended, and the state of emergency by the Governor is no longer in effect, and since everyone is vaccinated there is not a need to be masked. Mr. Stevenson stated that until Council passes a regulation then it is up to the individual to decide if they would like to wear a mask. Ms. Masorti explained that there is a mask mandate for all members of staff and visitors of city hall, and Council falls under that mask mandate. Mr. Stevenson argued that the City Manager can issue the direction he did for staff and visitors, but cannot order Council to do so, unless Council orders themselves to follow the mandate. Mr. Stevenson explained that he would be in support of wearing a mask but will only do so if Council makes the regulation. He also argued that if the current situation were bad enough, that Council should be meeting virtually and not in person. Mayor Long reminded Council that they are not able to meet remotely under the law because that ability was repealed when the legislature failed to renew the Declaration of the Emergency. Mr. Byerly supported Mr. Stevenson’s comments and expressed that he is opposed to mask mandates if everyone is vaccinated. Mr. Byerly further expressed concern that one individual in our city can have the authority to tell Council to wear a mask. Mayor Long asked for clarification on the motion, stating that Council follows the same mandates for visitors and staff in City Hall. Mr. Conklin explained that at this time, even vaccinated individuals can carry and transmit the disease, and masks will further prevent the spread. **On a vote of 6 to 1, with**

Mr. Byerly voting in opposition, the motion to follow the City Hall rules for mask mandates while the city is in the high rate of transmission was passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

The City Manager notified Council of the Clinton County Economic Partnership Annual Meeting to be held on September 15, 2021, at the Piper Building. Mr. Stevenson announced that he is up for re-election and encouraged members of council to attend the meeting to keep city representation on the board.

The City Manager notified Council of the CCEP Time Out at Wayne Twp Landfill September 16, from 5-7PM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The City Manager provided Council the Optional Third-Class City Charter Law to review.

Members of City staff discussed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and the methods used when prioritizing the use of funds. The City Manager explained the qualifications required for projects to be considered under the Act, and that while these are not the only projects that have to be considered by Council, they were provided to give options before city staff settled on priorities of Council. The City Manager also stated that the opportunity was given to Council to make suggestions for potential projects, and if it was a qualified project, city staff would look into the costs of the project.

Ms. Masorti asked for clarification if the funds could be used to reimburse hazard pay, and the City Manager explained that those funds have all been reimbursed through the County's CARES Act, and that eligible under this act would be the loss of business privilege tax from 2019 to 2020, and the loss of earned income tax along with other qualified uses that pertain to reimbursing the city, but those are the two that are most effective for the city.

Mr. Byerly requested that Council consider the renovation of Pickle Ball courts as a potential project for the funds. In discussions with the Pickle Ball organization, they would be willing to raise the money for half of the funds for the renovation of Hoberman's tennis courts, and the cost to the city would be \$20,000. The staff discussed the qualifications of the project and if it would benefit low income and socially vulnerable communities that experienced the most severe health impacts and refurbish outdoor spaces regularly used by these communities. Ms. Masorti suggested looking into making the space useable for several purposes, including pickleball, to reach a greater number of people.

Members of staff were given the opportunity to speak for the top five projects that were ranked in order of priority. Staff members explained the importance of projects and referred to the 2021 Comprehensive Plan "Destination Lock Haven," and the goals and priorities outlined in the plan, as well as referring similar projects being done County wide. Staff members answered questions regarding each project to members of Council.

The City Manager explained that the estimated costs of the projects listed are not definite and can be adjusted based on the priorities of Council. Mayor Long requested that Members of Council once again rank the projects, or any additional projects, based on what they feel would be the best use of funds and turn those lists back into the City Manager. After this is completed again, then that will permit city staff members to have a better understanding of what the wishes of Council are in order to know where to devote their time into further exploration of the true costs and feasibility of the top priority projects.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters brought before Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Morris, at 8:06 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk