

City Council Meeting April 17, 2023

City Council met in person for regular session on Monday April 17, 2023 at the Hand-in-Hand Hose Company, and streamed live over YouTube, in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Long who opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll was called and present were Council Members, Richard Conklin, Steve Stevenson, Barbara Masorti, Jeffrey Brinker, Richard Morris, and Mayor Joel Long. Absent was Council Member Douglas Byerly.

Also in attendance was City Manager Greg Wilson, Director of Community Life Kasey Campbell, City Planner and Development Coordinator Abigail Roberts, Director of Permitting and Codes Cyndi Walker, Fire Chief Robert Neff, Fire Chief Tyler Wooding, Fire Chief Eric Brungard, and Director of Public Works Anthony Stopper.

Guest in attendance were Tami Brannan, Bre Reynolds, Rita O'Brien, Terry Sheridan, Corporal McDermott of the PA State Police, Amanda Pease, Lacey Miller, Anjelica Casper, Kevin and Dana Zeigmann, Wend and Syris Butler, Sasha Sheridan, Michelle Whitney, and Robert Everett, Allen Neville, and Megan Lucas.

COUNCIL MINUTES

On a motion made by Ms. Masorti, seconded by Mr. Conklin, and carried unanimously, the minutes from the April 3, 2023 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE

Council heard from Rita O'Brien regarding a water main break at her residence in Castanea Township, with pooling water causing damage to her yard. The Director of Public Works informed Council that the Water crew has been using its leak detection instruments to attempt to locate where a leak in the city's line may be causing an issue but has not yet found one. The city also sent the water for testing but did not find evidence that it was treated water from a city line. The city has ordered additional equipment in order to continue investigating the source of the water infiltration at Ms. O'Brien's property. The Director of Public Works also addressed an issue regarding a fire hydrant replacement in Castanea Township and explained that it should be replaced within a few weeks.

Council considered a request from Kevin and Dana Zeigmann, of Wings Over Piper, for the use of the Airport on August 3-5, for the annual Wings Over Piper event. **On a motion made by Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Conklin, and carried unanimously, the event was approved.**

Council considered a request from the Clinton County Men's Sunday Softball League, for the use of Peddie Park from April to September for their Sunday League. **On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Stevenson, and carried unanimously, request was approved.**

Council heard from Greg Mayes of the Suburban Lock Haven Water Authority, who addressed Council regarding the subcommittee meeting to discuss Sunset Pines. Mr. Mayes explained that the Suburban Water Authority is not willing to pay for the relocation of the water line and requested that Council instead pay for the majority of the cost of the relocation. Mr. Mayes also requested that the Suburban Lock Haven Water Authority be exempted from paying the permit fee required when performing an excavation in the city's right-of-way. For lack of a motion, Council did not consider the issue of waving fees to Suburban.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council considered Resolution No. 2023-13, adopting the PennDOT agility agreement. **On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Ms. Masorti, and carried unanimously, the resolution was adopted.**

Council considered the award of aviation engineering services to McFarlan Johnson. **On a motion made by Dr. Brinker, seconded by Mr. Conklin, and carried unanimously, the award was granted.**

Council considered the award of Hoberman Phase 2 engineering services to Gwin Dobson and Foreman. **On a motion made by Ms. Masorti, seconded by Mr. Morris, and carried unanimously, the bid was awarded.**

The City Manager notified Council of the letter that was sent to Karen Robbins regarding the request for the Christian Flag to be displayed at Triangle Park and explained the policy regarding banner/flag requests made by non-residents. Dr. Brinker thanked the City Manager for explaining the policy.

NEW BUSINESS

Council considered Resolution No. 2023-14, regarding a policy for secondary flags in Triangle Park. The City Manager presented a list of secondary flags that are flown at the U.S. Federal Courts, and recognized by the Federal Government, as options to be installed for the period of one month. Dr. Brinker presented his opposition to the resolution, stating that there are too many groups that will want recognition. Dr. Brinker made a motion to hang only one flag at Triangle Park and eliminate a second flag. The motion died for lack of a second. Council discussed the resolution, with Ms. Masorti and Mr. Conklin stating that this encourages groups in our community that want to be recognized to do so and will strengthen the diversity and inclusivity of the community. Mr. Morris expressed that it may be difficult for Council to determine which groups can or cannot hang a flag and would rather the resolution be that only the flags listed in the resolution be allowed to be installed. Mr. Morris advocated that doing so would remove Council from future value judgements on what is or is not an appropriate flag to be flown. Members of the public spoke regarding the issue. Bre Reynolds expressed that she found the process to request a

flag to be flow was very easy for an organization or individual to make a request to Council by filing out the form provided by the Director of Community Life's office. Wenda Butler asked Council if residents or an organization can come in and make a request to have a flag installed, and the Mayor explained that the policy states that individual residents or organizations can present their request to council, and council will evaluate the request. **On a motion made by Mr. Conklin, seconded by Ms. Masorti, and carried by a vote of 4 to 6 with Dr. Brinker and Mr. Morris voting in opposition, the resolution was adopted.**

Council considered a request to solicit for bids for the 2023 A & B notes. Mr. Mayes from Suburban Water Authority asked Council if this was part of the cost sharing agreement. The City Manager explained that the 2023B Note it is and that Suburban Lock Haven Water Authority has been notified, and these are for projects specifically listed in the approved cost sharing agreement. **On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Stevenson, and carried unanimously, the authorization was granted.**

The City Manager notified Council that the authorization to enter an agreement with BWA/LexShares/Legalist has been postponed until the next meeting.

The City Manager notified Council of the promotion of Devon Bechdel to the position of Sewer Collection Foreman, Hunter Stover to the Water Foreman position, Brian Shirk to a semiskilled laborer position in wastewater collections. The City Manager explained that there will be an open position for the pipe fitter with the Department of Public Works, and will be advertised in the newspaper.

OTHER MATTERS

The City Manager presented Council with reports of the authorities, boards, commissions and committees, as well as a correspondence from the Clinton County Economic Partnership and the Clinton County Housing Authority.

Mr. Morris addressed a correspondence from the Clinton County Economic Partnership, stating that the operating board is opposed to the proposal of the Housing Authority buying property at 426 Bellefonte Ave. Mr. Morris stated that it seems when the Housing Authority proposes alleviating the housing situation, they are met with opposition, and encouraged the community to remember that we have "haven" in our name, and should live up to the name. Mr. Stevenson stated that the opposition was in reference to the businesses along the area, and other reasons, and not anti-housing.

Mr. Stevenson asked staff to look into the yellow blinking light at S Jones Street and Bald Eagle Street and if it is necessary or can be eliminated.

Mr. Stevenson notified residents of the Spaghetti Dinner at the Dunnstown Fire Company for the Kiwanis Club.

Amanda Pease addressed Council in opposition of the possible changing of hours for the police from 24 hour coverage to 20 hour coverage.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Morris, at 8:27 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.