

City Council Meeting December 4, 2023

City Council met in person for regular session on Monday December 4, 2023, in Council Chambers, 20 E Church St, and streamed live over YouTube and Facebook, 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 Douglas Byerly, Richard Conklin, Steve Stevenson, Barbara Masorti, Jeffrey Brinker, Richard Morris, and Mayor Joel Long.

Also in attendance was City Manager Gregory Wilson, Director of Public Works Tony Stopper, Devon Bechdel, Dave Sorgen, Director of Licensing and Permits Cyndi Walker, Property Manager Caleb Rogers, Fire Chief Tyler Wooding, and Director of Community Life Kasey Campbell. Guests in attendance were Tami Brannan, Bre Reynolds, Heather Alexander, Alan Uhler, Ronald Dremel, Wilson Riccardo, J.L. Sanders III, Barbara Elling, Tom Elling Michelle Spedding, Jeff Lombardi, Carl Houtz, Norm Wolfrom, Marcus Kohl, Joan Moltz, Bill Bailey, Sasha Sheridan, and Nils Mantzoros.

COUNCIL MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Byerly, seconded by Mr. Morris, and carried unanimously, the minutes from the November 27, 2023 meeting were approved pending one correction.

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE

Bill Bailey from Citizens Hose voiced concerns of that Hose Company to the amendments to Chapter 59 of the City Code that were recommended by the Fire Advisory Board. Mr. Bailey noted that while the Fire Advisory Board had voted to move the ordinance before Council, Citizens Hose still has objections to the amended ordinance.

Joan Moltz of South Jones Street addressed Council regarding issues in her neighborhood where numerous feral cats live. Ms. Moltz has contacted the SPCA but did not receive the help she was hoping for in having the cats removed from the neighborhood. Council informed Ms. Moltz that the SPCA has been invited to attend the December 11 meeting of Council and can address her concerns with them at that time.

Ron Dremel, president of the Piper Aviation Museum, presented a letter to Council addressing concerns regarding the budget for the Airport Fund, specifically the lack of dedicated funds to purchase fuel. Nils Mantzoros and Bob Larson also addressed Council to ask questions regarding the Airport budget and offer their comments and concerns.

Michelle Spedding of South Fairview Street addressed Council with questions regarding the Police Department. The City Manager clarified that the Police Department has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding and will begin to work two 12-hour shifts per day, providing 24-hour police coverage with the same number of officers currently on the force.

Council considered a request for the use of Triangle Park on December 17, 2023 from Covenant United Methodist Church, for a special Christmas Service. **On a motion made by Dr. Brinker, seconded by Mr. Conklin, and carried unanimously, the request was approved.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council considered Ordinance No. 2023-12, amending the City Code (Fire Department). Council discussed the concerns mentioned by Citizens Hose Fire Company, and Mr. Stevenson recommended the ordinance go back to the Fire Advisory Board for further discussion. **On a motion made by Mr. Byerly, seconded by Dr. Brinker, and passing with a vote of 6 to 1, with Mr. Conklin voting in opposition, Council requested the ordinance go back to the Fire Advisory Board for further discussion.**

Council was notified of the award of additional CDBG-CV funding to cover additional expenses related to the skatepark, in the amount of \$121,190.00.

NEW BUSINESS

Council considered the acceptance of the resignation of Relief Driver Brian Brungard, effective December 11, 2023. **On a motion made by Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Morris, and carried unanimously, the resignation was accepted, with thanks to Mr. Brungard for his years of service to the city.**

Council was notified of the PILOT payment from Clinton County Housing Authority in the amount of \$27,006.79, an increase from the previous years payment.

Council was notified of the receipt of the local share of State Police Fines, in the amount of \$1,658.67.

Council was notified of the 2021 Judicial Sale properties in the city.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mayor Long stated that the purpose of the hearing is to afford the public an opportunity to comment and make observations on the recommended budget reflected in Ordinances 2023-13 and 2023-14.

The Fire Chief discussed the accomplishments in 2023 for the Fire Department, and presented the goals of the Fire Department for 2024. Council and the public were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the Fire Department budget.

The Director of Codes and Licensing discussed the accomplishments in 2023 for the Code Enforcement and Property Maintenance Department and presented the goals of the department for 2024. Council and the public were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the Codes Department budget.

The Director of Public Works discussed the accomplishments in 2023 for the Public Works Department and presented the goals of the department for 2024. Council and the public were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the Public Works Department budget.

The Wastewater Plant Chief Operator discussed the accomplishments in 2023 for the Wastewater Department and presented the goals of the department for 2024. Council and the public were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the department budget.

The Sewer Collection Foreman discussed the accomplishments in 2023 for the Sewer Department, and presented the goals of the department for 2024. Council and the public were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the department budget.

OTHER MATTERS

Council was given Ohl Phase I updates, 2021 Judicial Sale notice, notice of Comcast price changes, an invitation to the Piper Aviation Museum Open House, and an invitation to the Oath of Office Ceremony on December 29.

Dr. Brinker read a message from Brian Brungard stating his intent to be an auxiliary driver for the Fire Department, and it will come to council when the Fire Advisory Board gives their recommendation.

Dr. Brinker mentioned the grand opening of the Pregnancy Resource Center and stated that it will be a great resource for the community.

The City Manager announced that at the December 11, 2023 meeting of Council, charitable organizations have been invited to attend in person or in writing to make requests to council for donations to their organization.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Morris, at 8:44 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.