

City Council Meeting December 11, 2023

City Council met in person for regular session on Monday December 11, 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 Licensing and Permits Cyndi Walker, Property Manager Caleb Rogers, Administrative Secretary Wendi Spicher, and Director of Community Life Kasey Campbell. Guest in attendance were Tami Brannan, Bre Reynolds, Heather Alexander, Alan Uhler, Ronald Dremel, Nils Mantzoros, Holly Wilson, Wilson Riccardo, Brian Kindergen, Robert Neff, Matt Rogers, Phileshia Dombroski, Josh Hudson, and Tammy Garrison.

COUNCIL MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Byerly, seconded by Mr. Morris, and carried unanimously, the minutes from the December 4, 2023 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE

Nils Mantzoros read a statement from Paul Schuck regarding the budget rent figures for the airport provided by the airport clerk. The City Manager explained that the city has its figures audited every year by law.

Allen Uhler and Bob Larson addressed Council in support of adding the purchase of fuel to the budget for 2024.

Bob Larson asked for clarification with parts of the airport budget regarding debt service. The City Manager explained that in order for the city to pay for the local share of capital improvements at the airport, the city has to borrow the money, which is shown as the debt service in the fund budget.

Matt Rogers, Treasurer of Hope Hose Fire Company, presented a letter to Council regarding the Ordinance amending City Code Chapter 59 "Fire Department," and addressed the concerns that were raised at the December 4 meeting by Citizens Hose Fire Company, encouraging Council to adopt the ordinance as approved by the Fire Advisory Board.

Michael Rickard, President of Hand-in-Hand Hose Company, addressed Council regarding the Ordinance amending City Code Chapter 59, and the concerns that were raised by Citizens Hose Fire Company. President Rickard encouraged Council to adopt the ordinance as approved by the Fire Advisory Board.

Mr. Stevenson requested that the Fire Advisory Board provide clarification for the language of parts of the amended code before bringing it back before Council.

Brian Kindergen, owner of the parcels under review for condemnation, addressed Council and stated that he would be willing to meet with Council regarding the issue.

Joan Multz addressed Council regarding the feral cats in her neighborhood. Robert Neff added that it is a problem in most of the areas of that neighborhood. City Council asked that the City Manager set up a meeting with the SPCA to discuss this issue.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Council considered authorization to enter into temporary easement agreements with property owners affected by the infrastructure required for the emergency water supply wells in Wayne Township. **On a motion made by Mr. Conklin, seconded by Ms. Masorti, and carried unanimously, the authorization was granted.**

Council was presented with a letter regarding Parcel Nos. 02-01-0034, 02-01-0035-001 and 02-01-0030/Control Nos. 35-17469, 35-27381, and 35-17457, and agreed to meet in executive session following the meeting regarding the issue.

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.

Tammy Garrison, representing the Ross Library, presented to Council regarding the 2024 budget donation allocation.

Holly Wilson, representing Downtown Lock Haven, Inc., presented to Council regarding the 2024 budget donation allocation.

Council received a letter from the SPCA requesting their consideration for a donation allocation in the 2024 budget.

Council received a letter from the Clinton County Historical Society requesting their consideration for a donation allocation in the 2024 budget.

Council received a letter from Roads to Peace requesting their consideration for a donation allocation in the 2024 budget.

Council received updated packets with the budget, including updates to Ordinance No. 2023-12 and 2023-13 setting the 2024 real estate millage. The City Manager explained all of the changes made to the draft of the budget for Council to review. Mr. Morris commented that the city should consider raising the rent of the hangar, as well as applying to the Tourism grant to help offset costs to the airport. Council continued the discussion regarding the water rate and millage increase. Dr. Brinker suggested that if taxes are already being raised, Council should consider buying all of the fuel for the airport instead of just half. Allen Uhler and Bob Larson provided comments regarding the airport budget.

OTHER MATTERS

Council was given Ohl Phase I updates.

The City Manager provided an update on the Water Emergency and once again urged residents to reduce water consumption.

Mr. Conklin addressed Council and everyone in attendance, explaining the role of Council according to Third Class City Code, and explaining the role of the City Manager according to the Third Class City Code. He emphasized that our City Manager came under the recommendation of the former Mayor of Lock Haven Rick Vilello and is the first manager that Lock Haven has municipal administration credentials. Mr. Conklin asked that taxpayers and residents understand that the City Manager acts under the direction of City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Morris, at 8:36 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.