

## City Council Meeting November 18, 2024

City Council met in person for regular session on Monday November 18, 2024, 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 Heather Alexander, Tami Brannan, Jeffrey Brinker, Barbara Masorti, Steve Stevenson, and Mayor Joel Long. Absent was Council Member Rick Conklin.

Also in attendance was City Manager Gregory Wilson, City Planner and Development Coordinator Abbey Roberts, Planner I Carter Simcox, and Director of Community Life Kasey Campbell. Guests in attendance were Joshua Hudson, Joyce Bucknor, Gilbert Stull, Mariah Sortman, Lara Dale, Shaun Dale, Micah Clausen, Emily Wright, and Tyler Barth.

### COUNCIL MINUTES

**On a motion made by Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Dr. Brinker, and carried unanimously, the minutes from the November 4, and November 6, 2024 meetings were approved.**

### PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Shaun Dale asked Council if requests are permitted to be submitted while council is in discussion regarding street closures, and submitted his street closure request to the Director of Community Life.

Gilbert Stull addressed Council, requesting a letter from Council giving permission to breed skunks and raccoons. At the direction of Council, City Manager agreed to take the information to the City Solicitor to review.

Joyce Bucknor addressed Council with concerns regarding the decorating of Triangle Park, and explained that last year, Downtown Lock Haven had requested a nativity scene, and the Clinton County Ministerium raised funds to build the nativity scene and displayed it in Triangle Park. Ms. Bucknor then explained that Downtown Lock Haven does not intend on having the nativity in Triangle Park this year, but suggested other locations, such as the lawn at St. Paul's. Ms. Bucknor inquired what could be done to have the nativity displayed. Council suggested employees discuss with Downtown Lock Haven the location of the nativity for this year, to see if a location can be found in the park, and encouraged Ms. Bucknor to make a request to Council for the next meeting.

Mr. Stevenson asked Mr. Stull for clarification regarding the breeding of exotic animals, and Mr. Stull explained that it is not for profit, and he has no intention of making it a business, simply wants to breed them for friends.

Council considered a request from Tyler Barth for the closure of the E Main Street Parking lot on December 13 for the Robb Elementary Holiday Concert. **On a motion made by Dr. Brinker, seconded by Ms. Alexander, and carried unanimously, the request was approved.**

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council considered Ordinance No. 2024-05, setting the 2025 wages for nonunion employees. **On a motion made by Ms. Masorti, seconded by Ms. Brannan, and carried unanimously, the ordinance was adopted on second reading to become effective January 1, 2025.**

Council considered the rules and regulations for street closure requests made to the City. The Director of Community Life presented the updated policy to Council, based on suggestions made by members of Council. Council further discussed the rules, specifically the limits on how many times an entity can make requests. Micah Clausen addressed Council in favor of adding fees for use of garbage cans and barricades, and Shaun Dale addressed Council and explained that being limited to once per month would make the return on investment more difficult. Dr. Brinker suggested that businesses be limited to four requests per year, while Ms. Brannan preferred once every 30 days. Mr. Stevenson suggested that the limit start at twice per month, and revisit the policy if needed. **On a motion made by Ms. Brannan, seconded by Mr. Stevenson, and passed by a vote of 5 to 1, with Dr. Brinker voting in opposition, the policy was approved, with the rules presented, with streets only being closed twice per month per entity requesting, and a fee for use of garbage cans and barricades determined by cost of labor.**

Council considered the award of the construction contract for the SR 150/Second Ave/Barton St signal improvement to M&B Services for \$413,894.93. The City Planner and Development Coordinator answered questions from Council regarding the project, as well as the Green Light Go grant funding. **On a motion made by Ms. Masorti, seconded by Ms. Brannan, and carried unanimously, the contract was awarded to M&B Services.**

Council was notified of the Water Department application to PUC, suspending the rate increase up to July 28, 2025 to continue mediation with the actual date subject to PUC mediation.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Council considered Resolution No. 2024-31 applying to the LSA for funding for a new aerial vehicle for the Fire Department. **On a motion made by Dr. Brinker, seconded by Ms. Brannan, and carried unanimously, the resolution passed.**

Council was notified of two changes to liquor licenses from the PA Liquor Control Board: the transfer of License No. G55718 Good Neighbor Craft House LLC into the city limits, and the change of ownership for License No. ID3928 BT Enterprise LLC from Bald Eagle Distributors, Inc.

Council was notified of the quarter three Comcast franchise fee in the amount of \$22,079.41.

Council was presented with the 2023 Housing Authority PILOT in the amount of \$10,512.11.

#### 2025 ANNUAL BUDGET

The City Manager presented Council with the 2025 Budget Schedule, with November 25 discussing streets and stormwater, public property, and water, December 2 discussing the airport and sewer departments, December 9 discussing public safety with police fire and codes, and December 16 is the adoption of the 2025 budget. The City Manager informed Council that they will be receiving the Budget Book later in the week, pending mediation with the PUC. The City Manager explained Millage Rates, and that the first reading of the budget and millage rates will take place at the November 25 meeting.

The City Planner and Development Coordinator presented Council with an update to the Comprehensive Plan, and the goals and action items that have been accomplished by City employees in 2024, and answered questions from council regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

#### OTHER MATTERS

Ms. Masorti provided Council with an update from the Airport Committee and their meeting with commissioners.

#### FYI & REPORTS

Council received the minutes of the November 7 Town/Gown meeting, a response from Castanea Township regarding fire hydrant upgrade request, a thank you from the Lock Haven Fire Department, and a flyer from the PA Department of Health pregnancy resource.

The Director of Community Life notified Council and the public of the walk with Council taking place on November 23 at 9:00 a.m. at Piper Harmon Playground.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Upon motion by Ms. Alexander, at 8:17 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.**