

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by President Hall at 18:32 Hrs. In light of the Coronavirus Emergency Declarations issued by the Borough of Mount Joy, the Governor of Pennsylvania and the President of the United States, this public meeting was held as a virtual meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present were: President Hall, Councilor Fahndrich, Councilor Eichler, Councilor Castaldi, Councilor Deering, Councilor Ruschke, Councilor Ginder, Councilor Reese, Councilor Youngerman, Public Works Director Nissley, Mayor Bradley and Chief Williams. Also present was Borough Manager Sulkosky.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

President Hall started the discussion regarding the Mayor's Declaration of the State of Emergency under Title 8 being valid for up to seven days. Council can extend it under Title 35 or adopt Resolution 10-20, Mayor's powers under Section 10. Councilor Youngerman made a motion to adopt Resolution 10-20; seconded by Councilor Ruschke. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

At 19:54 Hrs a motion to approve the Agenda was made by Councilor Eichler, seconded by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion to adopt the Agenda carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes for the Public Safety Committee meeting held on February 24, 2020 was made by Councilor Castaldi, seconded by Councilor Eichler. Motion to approve Minutes carried unanimously.

FDMJ REPORT

FDMJ Chief Gohn was not in attendance; report is usually sent electronically.

EMA REPORT

Matt Kratz communicated previously with both the Police and Fire Departments to track expenses as related to COVID-19. All expenses for the period of 1/20/20 to 3/20/2020 are to be turned in by Wednesday, March 25, 2020 and then every Monday until 5/20/2020; Police Department's spreadsheet was received. The Borough can include expenses related to Zoom for the purpose of public meetings. Make-A-Wish Mother's Day Truck Convoy has been postponed.

SVEMS REPORT

Captain Blanchflower was not present virtually but emailed her report to Chief Williams who provided all committee members with the report. Chief Williams will speak to Captain Blanchflower about utilizing Zoom for future meetings for the foreseeable future.

OLD BUSINESS

Main Street Parking

Potential proposal sent to PennDOT's legal team who is reviewing it. President Hall reached out to them last week but nothing further; waiting on feedback from them.

Main & Marietta Cross Walk Update

PennDOT is closed; nothing further to report. The Main Street/Marietta project has been extended.

Left Turn Phase Criteria

Nothing new to report; haven't seen anything more.

Train Station Parking Technology

Waiting for agreement with the Borough before moving ahead with the technology. The demonstration scheduled for 3/27/20 at the Training Center has been postponed indefinitely.

NEW BUSINESS

PD precautions made as a result of COVID-19 Threat

Chief Williams had a telephone conference with the Chiefs of Police in consultation with the District Attorney and the following protocols were agreed upon across the county.

- Non-emergency calls will receive an initial telephone call from the officer

- Limited traffic enforcement
- Life/safety calls in person with appropriate social distancing
- Sterilization protocols in place with all officers carrying gloves and cannister of Lysol/Clorox wipes; wiping down all surfaces in vehicle and workstations
- Class 1 response for EMS calls, other calls upon request
- Moved two administrative assistants' desks in the office

Mayor Bradley applauded Chief Williams with his efforts to take care of all personnel. Councilor Eichler was pleased to hear of the changes.

MSMJ 2020 Memorial Day Parade Status

The status of the MSMJ 2020 Memorial Day Parade is up in the air. Chief Williams believes if we have a ninety-day advance notice, we should be okay to get road closure approval from PennDOT, as he can probably modify existing request. Public Safety Committee recommends postponing the Memorial Day Parade. Dave Schell will recommend to his committee that the Parade be postponed no sooner than Labor Day.

Make a Wish Mother's Day Truck Convoy - Postponed

This event has been postponed.

Paula's School of Baton 5K Run – Postponed

Second annual 5K Run postponed indefinitely; not projecting a proposed date.

COVID-19 Task Force

Chief Williams provided the committee members with a Lancaster County Regional COVID-19 Law Enforcement Task Force Agreement. Twenty-five departments have signed onto the District Attorney's Task Force. This agreement is solely for COVID-19 which allows officers to assist agencies in need as part of the Task Force, where the primary police agency has been substantially affected in its ability to provide essential duties due to an outbreak of COVID-19 and has requested the assistance of one or more of these officers' assistance as a member of the Task Force. Councilor Fahndrich made a motion to allow Chief Williams to sign onto the District Attorney's COVID-19 Task Force; seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Motion carried unanimously.

NW Lancaster County LE Mutual Assistance Agreement

Chief Williams provided the committee members with NW Lancaster County LE Mutual Assistance Agreement for approval. Councilor Fahndrich made a motion to authorize Chief Williams to enter into the NW Lancaster County LE Mutual Assistance Agreement; seconded by Councilor Eichler. Motion carried unanimously.

Part Time Officer – Advertising Open Position

The Police Department currently employs three part time officers and in light of the Coronavirus, needs to hire more part time officers so we have some flexibility at this time. Councilor Deering inquired as to the process of hiring and if we were reaching out to previous prospective employees. Mayor Bradley felt it appropriate to reach out to others who previously applied. Councilor Castaldi made a motion to authorize Chief Williams to advertise and hire up to a total complement of five part-time officers; seconded by Councilor Eichler. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD

Josh Deering, 33 Frank Street, inquired as to the status of a varmint license. In light of the current COVID-19 crisis, no further research was done. Chief Williams still has this issue on his desk and will try to work on researching it.

Brian Youngerman, address unknown, representing the West Ward inquired about the reason for charging fees for parking at borough owned lots. Mayor Bradley explained that the series of improvements on the borough lots were paid by PennDOT for the use of their train station. Otherwise, we would need to reimburse PennDOT for the expenses incurred. We tried to maximize the lots for parking with no charge. The residents are able to park at no cost in the evening. Most of the parking during the day is used by train ridership. He encouraged Brian Youngerman to submit suggestions in writing to Borough Manager Sulkosky and him (Mayor Bradley).

Dave Schell, MSMJ, has received inquiries about whether the Police Department will be enforcing what the Governor has recommended regarding businesses. Chief Williams stated that upon receipt of complaint, an officer will be sent out to advise the business of the Declaration; repeated complaints will be sent to PSP or Department of Health for investigation.

ANY OTHER MATTER PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Mayor Bradley inquired about handling of future meetings. Borough Manager Sulkosky stated biweekly staff meeting have been cancelled. However, he has the ability to utilize this platform as needed. Borough Manager Sulkosky feels that we can utilize the 'Zoom' platform for meetings in addition to the conference call feature on the telephone system. He has the authority to purchase a second host if he feels it necessary. Additionally, with Zoom you can have one host but have unlimited team meetings; system is designed for internal borough meetings.

Borough Manager Sulkosky inquired about complaints that come through the Borough. Those should be forwarded to the non-emergency line or to the Chief of Police.

Dennis Nissley, Public Works Director, is currently out on medical, however, he has been in discussion with his crew, stressing employees to drive separately to jobs. The stormwater project has been postponed since it is not an emergency. Councilor Castaldi feels Dennis Nissley was looking for some direction with his employees and feels we should allow Dennis to use his discretion in communicating with his employees. Dennis Nissley will also follow up with Borough Manager Sulkosky on other issues as he sees fit.

President Hall inquired with Dennis Nissley about closing playgrounds in the Borough in light of the Coronavirus. Councilor Eichler stated that Governor Dick Observation Tower was closed. Councilor Deering stated that East Donegal closed all parks and pavilions. Councilor Castaldi does not feel we should allow children on the playground equipment given the amount of time the virus can live on those types of surfaces. Councilor Ginder feels all playgrounds in the Borough should be closed for liability purposes. Councilor Castaldi made a motion to close Borough owned playgrounds with equipment until further notice; seconded by Councilor Reese. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Bradley recommends signage on wooded pickets at the four corners of Joyland. Police Department will enforce the closure.

Mayor Bradley stated that everyone needs to look within each committee to see necessity of projects and what recovery packages look like.

Borough Manager Sulkosky is going to put out a proposal for whatever we need to accommodate Department of Health requirements.

Councilor Castaldi wanted to thank everyone for all of their work in putting together this virtual meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS

Preliminary testing had to be delayed initially but it is in the works. Executive Session was not held.

ADJOURNMENT

At 20:59 Hrs. Councilor Eichler made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by: Diana Ellis