

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Councilor Fahndrich at 18:31 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: Councilor Fahndrich, Councilor Castaldi, Councilor Eichler, Mayor Bradley and Chief Goshen. Interim Borough Manager Jill Frey was also present.

Council Members present were (in addition to the above members): President Hall, Councilor Deering, Councilor Ginder, Councilor Reese and Councilor Ruschke. Seven of the nine members were present which represents a quorum of the full Council.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councilor Fahndrich amended the Agenda to add 4b – Hiring of a Full-Time Police Officer under Public Input Period, and add 10d – Emergency Declaration under New Business. A motion to adopt the Public Safety Committee Meeting Agenda, as amended for May 24, 2021 was made by Councilor Eichler, seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Motion to adopt the amended Agenda carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Christina Paden, Executive Director of Rainbows End Youth Services (REYS), located at 105 Fairview Street, Mount Joy wanted to present an event they are hosting, A Taste of REYS Carnival, on Friday, June 25, 2021 from 5pm to 8pm. It is a fundraiser for their non-profit youth center. They are expecting over 200 guests to come to the facility to learn about REYS and enjoy an ice cream truck and other family fun activities. They would like to close 2nd Street because they have the field across 2nd Street and will allow easy access to the building and the field. They do not want to block Strawberry or Hemp Streets. Chief Goshen had Ms. Paden present now as she has another commitment at 7pm. He said the road closure was minor and he had no issues with it but wanted the Public Safety committee to be aware of it and to ask questions, if any. From a police point of view, we have no issues with the road closure. President Hall corrected the street name as Forlorn Alley, not 2nd Street.

Hiring of a Full-Time Police Officer (4b)

At the last Borough Council meeting, there was a discussion that if the officer had met all of the conditions, we would entertain a motion to allow Chief Goshen to offer employment. The officer has met all conditions per Chief Goshen. President Hall made a motion to change conditional offer to regular offer of employment to John Balint, seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Motion carried unanimously. President Hall stated that would like to be dismissed as he has another commitment. Councilor Fahndrich dismissed President Hall and any other members of Council who wish to leave the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes for the Public Safety Committee meeting held on April 24, 2021 was made by Councilor Eichler, seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Motion to approve the Minutes carried unanimously. Councilor Eichler thanked Diana Ellis for the minutes and wanted to make it part of the public record.

FDMJ REPORT

FDMJ Chief Gohn was not in attendance, however he emails his report and attends Council meetings.

EMA REPORT

Matt Kratz was not in attendance as he was on vacation and no report was received. He did send an email to add Emergency Declaration to the Agenda.

SVEMS REPORT

Captain Blanchflower reported sixty-eight calls in the Borough, again with the number slowly climbing month by month. Thirty-three were Class 1 calls; eight were Class 2 and fifteen were Class 3. Twelve were handled by another unit. Still an increasing trend in the Borough. The EMT class is in the fifth week with one week to go. Once tested hopefully we will have seven new employees by the end of June. Councilor Fahndrich received her report and forwarded it to the Public Safety Committee and will ensure that all members of Council receive it. Councilor Eichler thanked Captain Blanchflower and SVEMS for their work.

OLD BUSINESS

Free Roaming and Feral Cats

A few months ago, Mayor Bradley relayed the complaints he had received regarding a spike in free roaming and feral cats in the Borough. He sent information to the committee today that he received from other municipalities on how they are dealing with it. There are advocates on multiple sides of the issue and several approaches to it. One side relates to public health concerns and diseases associated with wild and stray animals, most notably rabies, and toxoplasmosis is commonly associated with cats but there are several others as well. Another concern, especially when living in colony, is the environmental impact particularly on wildlife kill which is pretty significant with birds and small animals. Those are two of the major concerns. There are advocates on the bird side of things that want much stronger controls and others that are concerned with the public health side of things, and then there are advocates for the cats. Historically to control cats, it was capture and kill. But since the 90's it has been trap/neuter/release/monitor. We need to take steps to address the situation. There is an ordinance on the books that addresses dogs, but none for cats. Chief Goshen said we could tweak the current ordinance that addresses dogs to include cats; Manheim Borough addresses it as animals, which is defined as any mammal. Chief Goshen explained that there are two places in Lancaster County that will spay/neuter cats for \$35; Pet Pantry and Humane League of Lancaster but it takes about two weeks to get a cat in so we would need a place to hold cats for two weeks, in addition to feeding them. There isn't any approved cat repellent or cat deterrent that you can spray or put down that will keep them out that won't have a detrimental affect on other wildlife. After May's Council meeting, Councilor Eichler spent \$400 to have a stray female spayed. He tried Pet Pantry but was not successful and Companion Animal Hospital did it the next day. Mayor Bradley stated that the problem transcends all three Wards. Mayor Bradley has seen no few than eight cats roaming freely. From what he has been able to come across for the trap/neuter/release programs to be effective, somewhere between 75 and 90% of the cats in the colony need to be neutered. There is a model ordinance in the State of Pennsylvania for trap/neuter/release program and talks about cat colonies. It addresses feeding and permitting of cats to free roam. Mayor Bradley will re-send the information. Councilor Fahndrich encouraged the Public Safety members to re-read the information, do additional research and return with possible suggestions next month, as she is concerned that that there is a problem in the Borough. Councilor Castaldi stated that we need to discourage residents from feeding stray cats.

Dunkin Donuts Traffic Issues

Chief Goshen wanted to update the committee. We tried to mitigate the traffic issues a few weeks ago and LMS (management group for Giant property) was not happy with our efforts. Their upper management hired an independent traffic

control company that works Wednesday through Sunday and they re-direct traffic into Giant's parking lot. It seems to be extremely effective and they will continue to do this until there is a noticeable reduction in the traffic flowing in that area. Giant is paying for the traffic control company.

Donegal Seniors Graduation Convoy

Chief Goshen provided an update on the Convoy. Denise Steck and Pastor Arnold contacted both East Donegal and Marietta Borough to gain the necessary approvals for the Convoy. Five buses have been donated for use by Durham Busy company at no cost. So far only thirty students have signed up, but we have heard students plan to jump in the Convoy with their own personal vehicles but there is a plan in place to address that behavior if it does occur. The event takes place Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at the Crossroads Church, starting at 5pm with the Convoy starting at 6pm. We will be involved in the Borough part; however, Susquehanna Regional will be in the whole route and possibly Northwest EMS.

NEW BUSINESS

Conditional Offer Protocols

Councilor Fahndrich brought up the need to clarify conditional offer protocols. Mayor Bradley explained that if you make a conditional offer of employment and the candidate meets the conditions, passes the psychological, physical and polygraph exams, they are hired. Once sworn in, they go through a sixteen-week FTO program. Chief Goshen explained there are two types of offers of employment – conditional and unconditional. Conditional offer - you agree to hire if all conditions are met. Unconditional offer - the employer has the right to back out at any time for any reason. He envisions the process to go to Civil Service, Public Safety, and then to Council and if all conditions are met, the Mayor would be authorized to swear in the new officer without going back to Council. It is bureaucratically redundant and slows down the process to have to return to Council for another approval. Councilor Castaldi agreed with Mayor Bradley and Chief Goshen. Council has the right to set the conditions and time limit. Councilor Fahndrich concurs with everything said and will circle back with President Hall to get this streamlined while following the letter of the law.

REYS Fundraiser and Associated Road Closure (2nd Street) (See Public Input)

Christina Paden presented earlier in the meeting. Discussion on the street name...2nd Street or Fornlorn Alley (comes out by the Historic Society) ...and its usage. She is only asking for that area to be blocked from 5pm to 8pm and will have staff to monitor the residents of the homes in that area so no additional closure is needed. Mayor Bradley agrees to close the street but also feels it is well used during that timeframe as a quick shortcut, so safety is a concern. He encourages additional signage such as...local traffic only; road closed ahead, etc.

and to make sure blockage is fairly significant. Chief Goshen stated that the signage will be at Manheim along Strawberry and Hemp Streets, and the volunteers will be there as well. Councilor Castaldi made a motion to move to full Council REYS organization fundraiser request to close 2nd Street (Fornlorn Alley) on Friday, June 25, 2021, seconded by Councilor Eichler. Motion carried unanimously.

COVID Related Health and Safety Controls

Mayor Bradley sent out several in depth/technical links on COVID related health and safety controls that speaks of indoor spread of COVID and how it relates to social distancing. A study by MIT indicates that six-foot social distancing is not sufficient indoors, but that your air and air exchange has a significant effect. He discussed with the previous interim Borough Manager regarding the air handling system in the Borough facility. There was a lengthy discussion regarding HEPA filtration units, air exchange per hour, costs, decibel levels, etc. The Oransi EJ unit sells for \$899/unit and we would need four units at a total approximate cost of \$3,956.00. To ensure health and safety of staff, we would put one in the Borough office, one in the front office of the police station and the other two units would remain in Council chambers and since they are portable units, the two office units would be moved to the Council chamber for meetings. The unit is the size of a box fan or dehumidifier (about 2' x 2'). The filters need to be replaced annually at an approximate cost of \$150.00 each. This cost can be applied against the CARES Act monies. Interim Manager Frey spoke with the Auditor who explained that we had CARES Act monies allocated for 2020 so that increased our fund balance and that can be used now but recommends that we move it to the Capital fund or take from the COVID expense line for 2021. Councilor Fahndrich questioned whether we have any ongoing COVID related expenses and Interim Manager Frey stated that we count the Zoom meetings and some different supplies as COVID expense; nothing excessive. Councilor Eichler agrees that this should go to full Council as he anticipates this will be the new norm. Councilor Castaldi feels that if there are dollars available and it is a legitimate COVID expense, we should go for it. Councilor Fahndrich made a motion to move to full Council to consider the purchase of four Oransi HEPA air purifiers at an approximate cost of \$3596.00, seconded by Councilor Eichler. Motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Declaration

Matt Kratz, EMA, sent an email to Councilor Fahndrich regarding rescinding the Emergency Declaration. It stated that we are one of the few municipalities still under an emergency declaration. The purpose of the declaration is funding; give you access to dollars. Mayor Bradley feels that as long as the State has the emergency declaration in place, Mount Joy Borough's should continue unless there is undue stress on EMA. We need Matt here to discuss. Councilor Fahndrich questioned as to what the process is to rescind the emergency

declaration and Mayor Bradley stated a date was needed; basically, a declaration is in effect until a date is set, unless it was established at the start of the emergency declaration. Councilor Fahndrich agreed that as Mayor Bradley indicated that there is nothing in the Borough that limits any personal freedoms, so taking the Emergency Declaration off the books doesn't benefit the Borough residents. Councilor Fahndrich will reach out to Matt and see if he is able to attend the next Council meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD

None.

ANY OTHER MATTER PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS

The committee went into Executive Session to discuss service from SVEMS/ Life Lion LLC. at 20:28 Hrs. and ended at 20:40 Hrs. No decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT

At 20:42 Hrs. Councilor Eichler made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Diana Ellis