

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE EAST PETERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE AND TIME:	February 23, 2023	6:00 p.m.
LOCATION:	Community Center	6051 Pine Street
ATTENDANCE:	Council Members:	Debra Miller, President John Schick, Vice-President Adam Gochnauer, Pro Tem John Herr (Absent) Lauren Houck Randy Rannels Sandra Valdez
	Mayor:	James Malone
	Borough Manager:	Karen St. Clair

Meeting was called to order: 6:00 p.m.

Moment of Silence / Pledge to Flag

Visitors: Michael Bingham, Amy Leonard, Tammy & Jeff Moseman, Jennifer MacNeill, Natalia Latsios, Josh Roberts, Cortney Pokrop, Kristin Troop, Erin Matthews, James Swarr, Megan Shank, Lori Ann Lockard, Dereck & Alyssa Duffy, Amy LaPorte, Luis Rivera, Samuel Maurer IV, Susan Roslevege, Sarah Mayheim, Brad Raush
Josh Roberts and Jimmy Swarr were both recording the meeting.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Josh Roberts said Lancaster County now has pulse point which is an app you can download and if someone has a cardiac arrest at a public place it will alert those who have signed up that are CPR able or have access to AED.

Josh Roberts asked if the borough receives a report from the fire commission. Mr. Roberts said he has been checking EH website and has not seen that they reorganized yet. Tammy Moseman said she heard that the commission meetings were being held with the chief meetings. Adam Gochnauer said he does have this on his list to address with them and he would like to receive a report each month from an EP representative on the fire commission.

II. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

1. Cortney Pokrop – Propose change for ordinance for backyard hens

Cortney Pokrop said she would like backyard hens to be reconsidered and the term chicken be taken out of livestock in the existing zoning ordinance, to allow residents to be more self-sufficient by having hens. She said there is an upfront cost that takes years to get back, so this is not for saving money initially. She said some of the benefits of keeping hens are: they eat scraps, bugs and ticks and then put the fertilizer back in the garden to complete the circle of self-sufficient living, and it decreases some of the worry about food shortages. She is proposing to allow (4) four hens per household, no roosters, and the hens must be in a coupe with a run, in backyards only, with fresh food/water & a clean coupe must be kept at all times. The hens only need 4 sq. ft.; 4 hens would require 40 sq. ft. Ms. Pokrop said the state of PA does not include chicken in livestock, they are categorized as poultry, but this could include quail and pigeons, therefore it is best to just use the term chicken. She said chickens are not noisy (only roosters are), chickens in minimal amounts do not contribute to disease (larger populations do). Several municipalities in Lancaster and York county do allow chickens. She shared an ordinance for chickens with council from another municipality that she thought covers everything very well. Ms. Pokrop started a Facebook page in support of hens and there are approximately 80 members.

A resident said she raised peeps as pets at her home to adulthood and then found out she was not allowed to have them and gave them to a friend who had a farm. She did not have any complaints from neighbors about them.

A resident said she was a former chicken owner, and she said the benefit she liked most was giving the scraps to the chickens. She said people who take care of their property will take care of the chickens.

Natalia Latsios, a property owner in the borough who is currently renovating a home on Lemon St. said she thinks it would be beneficial to have chickens because it would get people outdoors more and save on food waste.

Mr. Santiago, a resident of the borough, has a family of eight and is planning on homeschooling. He would like to use chickens as part of the schooling curriculum along with his garden. Having chickens would also benefit his family by raising their own food.

Samuel Maurer IV, a resident of the borough, said he was previously the zoning officer for Manheim Twp., and he used to get complaints about people having chickens and the smell being bad, due to people not cleaning the manure. Mr. Maurer pointed out that chickens are allowed in East Petersburg Borough on properties that have 5 acres or more. Ms. Pokrop said maybe it could be put in the ordinance that people with recent property maintenance violations could not have chickens to eliminate possible issues.

Tammy Moseman, a resident of the borough, asked who is going to monitor the possible violations and asked if feral cats would be predators for chickens. Ms. Pokrop said the coup and run would safely secure the chickens. Ms. Moseman said she would like more information on the diseases chickens can carry to be shared with residents especially for those who have health issues.

A resident said they had chickens and cats, and never saw a cat go after a chicken. He also said the state of PA classifies chickens as domesticated animals, along with pigs. He said there was a court case in Fayette County in regard to someone keeping chickens and the ordinance saw chickens as livestock. Michael Bingham, Zoning Officer, said he is familiar with this case, and it was because of the language in the ordinance that did not specify chickens as poultry, but East Petersburg's ordinance does. This resident said they want to follow the rules and have the borough give direction and allow them to do it legally.

Michael Bingham, Zoning Officer, said he did have chickens growing up on a 5-acre farmette and they are a lot of work and they do smell, and they need cleaned after every week and most people do not, so you end up getting inches of manure that you have to take care of. The waste from chickens is known to carry bird flu, salmonella, bacteriosis, e-coli, and histoplasmosis which is spread through the air. He said that if you do not have roosters and only keep hens sometimes one of the hens will take the dominate role and act as the rooster and crow. He said if you remove chicken from livestock and we allow chickens then what will be next. The line has to be drawn somewhere and it was previously drawn at chickens. The cost to re-write the zoning ordinance could exceed 20,000.00. He stated it would have to be submitted for the entire borough to review, and although there are 80 people in support of chickens, we have multiple thousands of people who live in East Petersburg Borough. If we allow chickens who would be responsible to regulate them and check on them. That's likely to be the zoning officer. This is a tremendous amount of work when you already have a full load to begin with, and this would cost taxpayers a significant amount of money. Mr. Bingham said compost can be a great way to not waste leftover table foods. Mr. Bingham stated if you want to have a farmette or 5 acres, a township is where you would want to be. He received a call from someone asking to have a small horse, because it was the size of a dog. Many of these animals including cows are classified as domesticated, it just means they have been breeding them over many years. He has received many complaints even in municipalities where they are allowed to have them. Many people do not want to live next to a barn animal. He said there are a few properties in the borough that do meet the 5-acre criteria. He said chickens do get out and run into other properties at times and said he does not feel chickens are a good fit for a borough. If they were allowed, there would be setbacks and regulations, and this would all need to be monitored.

Amy Leonard, Borough Solicitor, said it is up to council if they want to consider an amendment to the borough, but this would not be quick. Someone would need to draft the amendment, it would go to PC, LCPC, public hearing(s) for input, and this could take 6 months or longer.

Lauren Houck said the committee meetings are when we discuss things, and we need to hear from our solicitor and zoning officer and hear the pros and cons. We are a small tax base, and we need to be aware of the cost of paying someone to regulate and check up on these things. She asked if there was a reason Ms. Pokrop chose to

give an example from Hanover rather than one in Lancaster County. Ms. Pokrop said Hanover's Ordinance covered it the best and after you read it, there is not a lot you can have questions about.

Adam Gochnauer told Ms. Pokrop her packet was very well done and said that this came before council many years ago, prior to most of the members who are currently on the board. It was discussed at that time, and there were complaints with people in the borough who had chickens because they were loud, and they did stink. He said they probably weren't taken care of as they should have been. There were more people against it at that meeting and it was decided to keep it the same. Someone also requested keeping an alpaca. He pointed out ordinances cannot be changed every time someone wants something new, and we need to know where to draw the line and make a decision for everyone in the community. Mr. Gochnauer said it was discussed that something like this could be added as a referendum so the entire borough could have a say. The referendum would be done before we consider any changes.

Debra Miller asked if chickens would be ok to leave outside in the colder months? She was told that chickens can remain outside in colder weather, they just need a heat source to keep drinking water from freezing.

John Schick said the people who are showing interest in this are not the ones you normally need to worry about. There is a lot of monitoring and enforcement for property maintenance that would need to go into this, and it would have to be done by an official. The line has to be drawn somewhere for the use of borough resources. He said she could go to the zoning hearing board and show a hardship.

Sandra Valdez thanked Courtney Pokrop for the information and agrees that this would be an additional use of tax funds because of the cost to monitor this due to the effects to neighbors this may cause. She feels the only way to justify the additional costs would be that this is something everyone wants, but you have to be careful with the expenses, so taxes do not need increased.

Debra Miller, Randy Rannels and Mayor Malone also agreed the referendum would be a great idea.

Amy Leonard and Manager St. Clair said they will look into what is needed for the referendum.

2. Kristin Troop – Events Committee

Kristin Troop said that the Music in the Park will be expanding to July 15 (music TBD), August 5 (Uptown Band), and September 2 (Blues Fest). They would like to have a beer garden at the August 5, and September 2 - Music in the Park events. Uptown Band on August 5 will be sponsored by Gochnauer's Appliance. The beer garden's will have fenced in area and RAMP certified people checking I.D.'s. A distillery vendor would like to pass out samples and sell bottles at the Car Show. They cannot have a beer garden at the car show because there would not be enough room with all the cars. Adam Gochnauer said he would prefer the alcohol be kept to the beer garden so it can be regulated. Randy Rannels pointed out that the rule at the park is that you cannot bring alcohol and if the distillery sold alcohol someone could easily open it up. This will be put on the March 7th agenda for a motion.

3. Megan Makers Market: Would like to have an event on June 10th with 100 plus vendors

Megan Shenk owner of Shenk Shop holds Maker Markets with handmade items made by crafters and artisans. They have a wide variety and will have approx. 100 vendors at the event. They will have 3-5 food trucks. They have volunteers from Hempfield High School service their events throughout the year to fulfill their local service hours. She projects 1,500 – 2,000 people will be in attendance for the E.P. event. There will be live music. There is no cost to the borough, and she would pay a fee to use the space at the park. She will take care of the porta potties, trash, marketing, parking, traffic control and emergency planning. The vendors would use the grass park space. She will contact churches, schools, and businesses to plan for overflow parking. This year they are planning to have markets at: Hempfield High School, Maytown Historical Society, Columbia Market House, Mountville Ballfield, Elizabethtown Fairgrounds, Columbia River Park, and Marietta. If it rains, they will reschedule, or it will be a rain or shine event. This will be put on the March 7th agenda for a vote.

4. Pine Street Update – submitted to Manager St. Clair by John Herr

John Herr could not be at the meeting. He gave Karen St. Clair an update on how the residents on Pine Street feel about making changes to the traffic pattern on Pine Street to solve traffic issues due to: fire vehicles

answering calls, traffic congestion, commuters avoiding the 72 and 722 light, difficulties achieving street sweeping because of parked cars.

Residents on Pine St. agreed that the concerns are valid and answered the following questions asked by Mr. Herr:

Making Pine Street one-way heading south – 10 said yes and 2 said no.

Alternate side parking for 2 hours; once each side, each month for street sweeping - 9 said yes and 2 said no.

Next month, he will have more information after he talks to more residents.

5. Borough office sign for new location

The fire department wanted to know if we would be interested in sharing the cost of a sign with them when we move to the new offices, and what kind of sign would we want. Council would like to see pricing and did not think a digital sign would get seen on Pine St. so the cost would not be justified unless it was very cheap. If the fire department wants the digital sign and we don't, the cost could be negotiated so we are only paying for the part of the sign we will need. It was pointed out that the Events Committee does post their events on the digital billboard on Main St.

6. Karen St. Clair: General Fund surplus of funds & update on the pool season

Manager St. Clair explained that during COVID in 2020 and 2021 there were projects that were budgeted for and a lot of those were put on hold, and there were no planned transfers of surplus funds into the capital reserves during this time period. Currently we have approx. 638,862.00 in surplus and would like transfer 500,000.00 - 600,000.00 into capital reserves until it gets used for the projects. This will be put on the March 7th agenda for a vote.

Pool Season Rates and events were reviewed. It is the 10-year anniversary of HARC managing the pool. HARC would like to have a celebration event on Memorial Day Weekend, including food trucks as well as member only appreciation weekend. Council said closing the pool to the public on the busiest holiday weekends will eliminate the revenue for walk-in's and it might alienate the public. It was pointed out that having days for members only could increase membership sales, but these days should not be on the holiday weekends when members would like to bring guests. It was pointed out that it might be better to limit swimming to members only at the indoor pool or just pick another day.

Discounted rate before April 29th – individual membership for a resident is 185.00; non-resident is 209.00, after April 29th individual membership for resident is 205.00; non-resident is 229.00. The savings is 20.00 prior to April 29th.

7. Review Account Payables

No additions to the regular bills.

8. Misc. Items

Manager St. Clair

MEP meeting was held for the new offices. The company that was hired for the offices at the FD is currently only working on our project. They will be doing a final walk through soon and we will have a better timeline.

Working on appraisals of 6040-6050-6060 Main Street.

Audit went well; report will be here in April.

Adam Gochnauer

He will have a few things he will be dealing with over the next few months that he will be coming to council with. The fire department is one of them. He does not have the figures yet, but there will be some big expenses coming up for the street sweeper including the filter which has been budgeted for. Now that we have a 7-year history to review, we can see what the cost is for all of this, and we can evaluate where things stand with the rates.

Lauren Houck said the last sweeper we had could not be run during the winter months and pointed out some places are paying the same amount for fines as we have paid to purchase the sweeper. Adam Gochnauer said that it has made money every year except last year when we had to do maintenance on it, and then we broke even. After this year, the big stuff has been replaced and we can start to budget for the next 7-years. Originally the sweeper was bought for MS4 and then we came up with the idea to market the sweepings and it has been a great project and we look forward to continuing with it.

Mr. Gochnauer said that the Northern Lancaster County Regional Police Commission meeting will be held here in East Petersburg at the Community Center on March 9, at 7:00 p.m. He said this meeting gives the community a chance to come and ask questions.

Debra Miller

Years ago, there was a walking tour of East Petersburg Borough, and this has been put on the website. Sam Maurer said there was once a garden tour of the borough and there is a booklet at the historical society on this. There is an opening on the LASA board, if anyone is interested, they can contact Manager St. Clair.

John Schick

Public Works has put up new stop signs that are reflective at night and new speed limit signs will be next.

Sandra Valdez

Asked if we received the traffic study back from NLCRPD for Main Street. Manager St. Clair said she did not receive it yet and she will check on this at their next meeting.

James Malone

Attended PA State Mayors Association Meeting. Radar Coalition is starting the whole process over again. Write your congressperson, state house representative, and try to tell them we could really use this. The Black Caucus is currently opposed to it and has been engaged with them for two years now. The only variation in the new bill is that the income from tickets cannot be more than 1% of your total. He said that everyone is fine with this; they just want the tool to control speeding. He said that everyone needs to be considerate of others on the roads and not speed. Homelessness was also discussed at the LCMA Meeting.

Debra Miller said Mike Sterla mentioned red light cameras and asked if this is something that could work in the borough. John Schick said Philadelphia uses red light cameras on Roosevelt Blvd. and this is where the ARLE Grant money comes from. He said that you have to be a first-class township and it is 100,000.00 per intersection to equip and you need an organization to collect the fines.

9. Fire Company Financials – for review only

II. ACTION ITEMS:

1. *It was moved and seconded (J. Schick /L. Houck) with unanimous approval by the board to approve the January 26, 2023, Borough Committee meeting minutes*

III. Extra Items: Issues arising in the last 24 hours: None

IV. Committee Meeting Adjournment: 7:55 p.m.

VI. Executive Session for legal & personnel matters: Not needed

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 7, 2022, Council Meeting & Thursday, March 23, 2023, Committee Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Strayer, Recording Secretary