

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE EAST PETERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE AND TIME:	May 27, 2021	6:00 p.m.
LOCATION:	Community Center	6051 Pine Street
ATTENDANCE:	Council Members:	John Wolf, President Debra Miller, Vice-President Adam Gochnauer, Pro Tem John Herr (Absent) Lauren Houck Randy Rannels John Schick
	Mayor:	James Malone
	Borough Manager:	Karen St. Clair
	Public Works Foreman:	Jeff Moseman
	Borough Solicitor:	Amy Leonard

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

Visitors: Josh Roberts, James Swarr, Tammy Moseman, Cathleen Panus

James Swarr was recording the meeting.

Moment of Silence for the Kasper Family

Pledge to Flag

President Wolf stated that East Petersburg Borough would like to extend their condolences to the Kasper Family. He explained that while this matter is still under investigation, they would not be able to make any comments on it at this time.

Josh Kilgore expressed his condolences to the Kasper Family on behalf of NLCRPD. Josh Kilgore stated that Sgt. King, the accident reconstructionist, is one of the best in the county if not in the state, and that is why Lt. Kilgore is very confident when the investigation is done, he will be able to answer all questions. It is important for the integrity of the investigation to avoid releasing any information, and the best way to avoid doing that is to not comment while they work through the investigation. At the conclusion of the investigation all questions will be answered. The purpose of this is to give an accurate investigation for the family. This is an emotional time for everyone, and a lot of times emotion can get in the way of cognitive thought and making the right decisions because you want to make the right decision with your heart and not your head. It is very important for them as the agency, to focus on what their goal is and to find a conclusion for the investigation and help to bring some sort of conclusion to the family. He apologized for not being able to answer any questions and said his heart goes out to the family. He said it is very hard for these types of calls for everybody. They are working as diligently as they can and hope to have a resolution for everyone at some point in time. Lt. Kilgore thanked Manager St. Clair and the Boardmembers, he said it has been professional and awesome working with the Borough. He said if anybody has any follow up questions, they can reach out to him.

Current & Upcoming Business:

1. 6060 "draft" permanent easement

Amy Leonard explained that with an easement you do not own the parking, you just have access to use it. She said it is best to put more in now and then scale it back later because if you want to increase it later, you will have to start the whole process over. Ms. Leonard pointed out that a property with restrictions will not have the same value as a property without restrictions.

Councilmember Gochnauer said he thinks it is best to make it Borough parking only, at all times, to eliminate the need to enforce it later. The property has a two-car garage and an area for parking outside the house. With the easement, the property owner would own the entire lot and pay taxes on the entire property, including the area that would be used for parking by the Borough.

Other options are: To subdivide this property then the Borough would own the back part of the property which would involve going through the land development process; surveying, put together new deed, council approval.

Demolishing the building is another option and utilize the whole lot for parking. President Wolf said it might be a log structure and if that route was chosen, then the log could be sold. It was also discussed to look into possibly maximizing the current parking area. President Wolf asked if the stormwater area could be paved over. Mr. Bingham said yes because it has a depth that would be sufficient for it. The stormwater facilities on this property are owned by the Borough and according to the grant the Borough is required to maintain the stormwater facility. With a permanent easement the Borough would also be required to maintain the grass and parking area.

Amy Leonard said there seems to be a consensus among Council to limit the parking to only Borough use, at all times, so she will work on cleaning that part up in the easement.

2. Borough sign issue

Manager St. Clair explained there have been a lot of complaints over the last few months about "issue signs" in residents front yards. Pictures of the issue signs that are being complained about were given to Councilmembers. The one about Joe Biden is the one most of the complaints are about. Residents are asking why the sign is allowed to be so big and why can't they be made to get a smaller sign. Manager St. Clair asked Council if they would like to amend the current regulations to only allow smaller signs.

Michael Bingham explained under the current regulations we cannot regulate what a sign says and explained if it were an election sign it would have to be down 7 days after the election. Mr. Bingham explained that this is an "issue sign" which is somebody taking an issue at something, and it is allowed under their first amendment constitutional right that they can put this sign up. Only size, location and how many can be regulated. Currently, they are allowed to be 6 sq. ft., outside of the right of way, and only one is allowed on their property, so the sign being complained about is legal. It was pointed out issue signs are usually much smaller in size. Hate speech is also something that can be regulated but does not apply to this sign. This is the only person that has a sign of this size in their yard in the Borough, so it is not a large-scale problem at this point. Council said this situation seems to be a neighborly dispute between just a few residents. It was agreed to leave ordinance as is.

3. 5720 Pine Street

Manager St. Clair said the owner of the property wanted to put an addition on their property and the permit was denied, so they had someone come out to find the property lines. They discovered that a section at the end of the hill they have taken care of as part of their property for 28 years is actually Borough owned property. They are asking if the Borough would let them have that property. Mr. Bingham explained even if this were their property, the permit would still have to be denied. Council said that they need to take the posts out because it is not their land to use. Amy Leonard said a letter from Manager St. Clair could be sent out letting them know the posts should be removed and let them know they should request a variance if they would like a sunroom.

4. HAFSC update: No meeting in May – April minutes were submitted to Council for review. President Wolf pointed out they have not been approved yet.

5. April 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded (D. Miller / R. Rannels) with unanimous Approval by the Board, to Approve the April 22, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes

6. Payables 5/27/2021

There were no additions to the regular bills.

7. Declaration of Disaster Emergency – discuss rescinding

Manager St. Clair asked Council if they would like to rescind the Emergency Disaster that was put into place for the Borough in April 2020. When this resolution was put into place it did not have an effect on anything other than funding. Amy Leonard said that the American Rescue Plan would not be affected if they did rescind. It was also pointed out that the Borough would still be under the umbrella of the County and State Emergency Disaster. Several of the other municipalities are removing this from their books. It was pointed out that if another surge happens, the declaration of disaster could be put into place again. It was pointed out that at this point it does not make much difference if it is on the books or not. It was also pointed out that maybe we should wait until the state ends theirs just in case there is another surge. This will be put on the June agenda for a vote.

8. Review Yard Waste Agreement with Columbia

Manager St. Clair explained we recently had a general agreement in place with them, this has been looked over by Amy Leonard and she made the appropriate changes. This agreement allows our hauler to take the yard waste & leaves to their facility and we need to have this.

9. Review/Approve Ad for 2021 Fog Seal project

Council unanimously approved the ad.

10. Planning Commission “letters of interest”

Council reviewed the letters and took a preliminary vote:

John Schick – Josh Roberts

Randy Rannels – Jeffrey Cassell

John Wolf – Jeffrey Cassell

Debra Miller – Josh Roberts

Lauren Houck – Josh Roberts

Adam Gochnauer – Jeffrey Cassell

This will be put on the June Council meeting agenda – John Herr’s vote is needed to break the tie.

11. Discussion on Civics Grounds Park equipment

Recently Manager St. Clair along with Robin Hemperly and Randy Rannels met with the park consultant, and he had some great ideas. Kristin Troop has expressed interest in working on this project also.

Robin Hemperly had a family emergency and could not attend with the report and pictures. Report and pictures will be distributed when they are received.

12. Fire Co.

Reviewed by Council

13. ARLE Grant Project – Traffic light project Schedule

Completion date for the project is January 2022.

December 7 is when the new equipment will be turned on for a 30-day test period.

Pole delivery is expected quicker than they thought.

14. Misc. Items

Manager St. Clair:

Thriving Lancaster did an article on East Petersburg Borough. A copy was placed on Council’s tablets.

Kasper family member would like to do a car show. They do not have a date, but June 26 has been going around. Council would like more information and said they would need to provide the same things that the Events Committee does – insurance, EMA plan, agreement for park use. Kristin Troop plans to meet with them tomorrow about use of the Amphitheater.

American Rescue Plan still has not changed. They are still going to have some updates.

Cathleen Panus said she read in the newspaper that the Kasper family was upset about the light delay. She said if it comes up, several years ago Jim Williams, former Borough manager said 4 seconds was not long enough, so they expanded it to more time, and PennDOT admonished it and then reminded them that the Borough was not allowed to do anything like that because it is all under PennDOT’s jurisdiction.

President Wolf thanked Cathleen Panus and said that they are not currently in a position to comment about it in any way.

James Swarr said that there is a lot of social media going on including Change.org. He said nobody can deny it is tragic, but they are already talking about filing suit against the Borough, state, and everybody else about what is going on.

Councilmember Gochnauer:

Followed up on grass information he shared with Council re: product to keep the grass from growing as fast. He pointed out that golf courses often use this product. Jeff Moseman said we are not currently using this, but he will look into this product further.

Would like to work on a plan for fleet replacement coming up. There is an opportunity to go in with the police department for purchasing in approximately three years and this could save the Borough more money than going with co-star. He will get the information to Council.

Councilmember Miller:

Pool opens this weekend. They are going back to 2019 procedures for walk-ins; 9:00 – 12:00 Monday through Friday is members only and after 12:00 guests can come in. No pool parties this year. Summer Playground has

been reduced to 1 time, per week. Food Trucks will start this weekend for concessions. Summer Day Camp has 212 kids enrolled and Summer Playground has 400 kids enrolled.

Councilmember Schick:

ARLE grants are re-opening this year June 1 – July 1
Green Light Go grant opens December 1

Jeff Moseman:

Let residents know that there is information on MS4 on the back table regarding illicit discharge.

Mayor Malone:

Attended pension audit exit conference for recording years 2017-2020. The auditor spoke very well of Manager St. Clair and communication process and documentation provided. Findings reported are preliminary and subject to review of the auditor general.

Registered to attend the Mayor's Association.

50th annual conference raffle tickets available for \$10.00

Public Comments: None

Regular Committee meeting Adjournment: 7:31 p.m.

Executive Session for legal & personnel matters: In – 7:40 p.m. Out – 8:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 Council Meeting & Thursday, June 24, 2021 Committee Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Strayer, Recording Secretary