

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE EAST PETERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL**

DATE AND TIME:	April 7, 2020	7:00 p.m.
LOCATION:	Community Center	6051 Pine Street
ATTENDANCE:	Council Members:	Cathleen Panus, President John Wolf, Vice President Adam Gochnauer, Pro Tem John Herr Lauren Houck (Absent) Debra Miller William Pfautz, Jr. Mayor: James Malone Manager: Karen St. Clair Public Works Foreman: Jeff Moseman

The LNP reporter was recording the meeting.

Visitors: This meeting was held through Webex due to the Coronavirus

It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Wolf, Councilmember Gochnauer) and carried unanimously, to Approve the minutes of the March 3, 2020 Borough Council meeting

Bill Payment – Reviewed by Council – Manager St. Clair reported there were no additions to the regular bills.

Fire Report: Chief Don Schoenberger reviewed the monthly report. He said that things have slowed down with the Stay at Home order that the Governor has put in place. He also said that they are using precautionary measures on calls including using protective gear. The fire dept. is currently closed for tours, and public meetings have been cancelled. Zoom training will begin next week. Local businesses have donated enough supplies to last a few weeks. They are on a list waiting to receive N95 masks as they become available. Councilmember Miller said in February she toured the Fire Station Facilities, including the museum, and she was very impressed with their facilities, and technology, and how well it is all maintained. She thanked Chief Schoenberger and all the members for what they tirelessly do every day.

EMC Coordinator Report: Diane Garber reported the following updates for COVID-19: They have put a request into PEMA for supplies, but nobody outside of healthcare workers has received any supplies from PEMA including police personnel. PEMA has not given out any supplies in the last 2 weeks, and they are currently not going to distribute masks to Fire Departments because they have SCBA's. National Chief's Assoc. and other groups are pushing back on this because the SCBA's are difficult to decontaminate and it takes a significant amount of time to do so. They also cannot give CPR and other life sustaining skills while wearing the SCBA's. An order was placed for 1,000 surgical masks to be distributed to the fire co., police and public works- they should be here next week. A local company will be donating printed face shields; the local dentist has also donated supplies.

Some municipalities have put curfews in place, but as of now, this is not something the local police want to do. The peak is anticipated at the end of the next 2 weeks, but we will still have to decelerate from where we have accelerated to. There will still be a significant number of cases. We are not closing in on the end of this, and this could continue into May or longer. As it travels through other surrounding states, it could pass back into areas of PA and we could end up seeing another small rise in cases. The Governor is asking people to wear masks. Changes will be coming out shortly for people who have school aged children.

Councilmember Panus asked Ms. Garber to keep them informed of who is donating supplies so the borough can acknowledge what they are doing.

Councilmember Miller asked if there is a geographical breakdown of the cases in Lancaster County. Ms. Garber said that currently the state is handling the number of cases we have, and they are not able to provide that breakdown because they are handling so much data. Ms. Garber also said that after the census is over, we will have our own Health Dept. and they will be able to provide those kinds of detailed statistics.

Joyce Mokros asked if the car auction is closed. Ms. Garber told her she does not have that information, but she can contact the police to find out who has received a waiver to operate.

Police Report: Mayor Malone read the traffic safety police report. There are fewer violations due to less traffic. They are currently taking extra precautions due to the virus. Mayor's Assoc. has submitted a request to the state for a breakdown of COVID-19 cases in the county. Police are currently taking precautions by wearing masks and easy to wash uniforms. They have been keeping up with posting reports on their website and keeping us all informed. The Board meeting for this month has been cancelled.

Other Reports:

1. Susquehanna EMS – No Report
2. Foreman Report - Submitted to Council – Jeff Moseman reported employees are working within safe distance from each other. The park equipment has been taped off and no trespassing signs have been put up. People are still utilizing the park equipment and the police have been notified about this. Hand washing station is now at the park near the restrooms. Street Sweeper has been serviced and street sweeping will continue. Currently monitoring the stream and reporting findings to DEP. N95 masks have been issued to each borough vehicle. Keeping up with Coronavirus recommendations from DEP. Weekly staff meeting with Diane Garber via Zoom.
3. Zoning Officer Report – Submitted to Council - Graystone Road construction of new homes was granted a waiver to continue with some operations of building, but they have decided to cease working there because his staff has been harassed for continuing to work and one of the houses has been broken into. Michael Bingham also reported he is preparing bids specs for fog sealing, currently waiting on grant updates, permits are still being issued in the borough. Residents were reminded a permit is needed for any manmade structure even if it is a replacement. A Bill is currently trying to be passed through the house to allow construction projects to continue if social distancing is enforced, but we do not know if this will pass.
4. Property Violations – Submitted to Council – There are currently 11 of them. After a long history of violations, a property on Lemon St. is now compliant. Another property with a long history of violations on Graystone Rd. has also been cleaned up.
5. Solicitor Report – Submitted to Council – Working on updating ROW Ordinance. Several properties are still in collections for unpaid property maintenance fees.
6. HARC - Debra Miller reported for HARC(Hempfield Area Recreation Commission) – Wellness Fair on March 8 was well attended and had many diverse vendors. March 16th operations closed due to the pandemic and on April 1st - 2 managers were furloughed, and other staff laid off. The remaining directors remain with a 20% salary reduction. Scheduled improvements to the facility are continuing. The community pool opening remains unchanged at this time.
Councilmember Miller also reported that she attended a new councilmember bootcamp along with Mayor Malone and Councilmember Herr and said that we are very lucky to have a high caliber staff and officers, because she learned at this session some of the other municipalities have some real problems.

Old Business- Committee Meeting Topics – This meeting was held by Webex: TOA, Emergency Disaster Declaration was passed and this will allow for some funding that is available due to COVID-19, LCSWMA Tour was postponed, Yard Waste pick-ups are back on track and did not have to be postponed, Approved (2) events for Events Committee, COVID-19 updates

New Business:

1. Manager St. Clair explained that she recently sent out a lot of information to Council that she received from the county for property tax relief. Currently the property tax extends the 2% discount until April 30th and they are proposing to extend the 0% penalty to December 31, 2020; November 30th was also suggested. All the municipalities that do not have their own tax collector will have to agree on the same date for the county collector to use. Manager St. Clair said she would like more time to look at the budget and reserve accounts to be sure the Borough has enough funds to make it through until December 30th. All municipalities have until April 30th to give input on this to the County. Mayor Malone asked what the other municipalities are doing. Manager St. Clair said that a lot of the municipalities have not had their meetings to discuss this yet but stated that this will be harder for the smaller municipalities. Manager St. Clair said she will be contacting the Borough's Association for feedback and will continue to gather more information to be sure they have all the facts to make a well-informed decision at the next meeting.

It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Wolf, Councilmember Miller) with unanimous Approval by the Board, to Table Resolution 781, Extending the period in which Real Estate Taxes can be paid at the base rate, by adopting a penalty rate of 0%. This will be looked at and discussed at the next Committee Meeting on April 23, 2020

2. (A) ***It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Wolf, Councilmember Miller) with unanimous Approval by the Board, to Approve the Petition to Postpone the 2020 tax upset sale***

(B) It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Wolf, Councilmember Miller) with unanimous Approval by the Board to Authorize Karen St. Clair and Cathleen Panus to sign the municipal page of the Petition to Postpone the 2020 tax upset sale

3. A Financial Relief Application has been created for residents that are experiencing a hardship and need financial relief for water/trash accounts. Each application will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Wolf, Councilmember Gochnauer) and carried unanimously, to Approve the Financial Relief Application for water/trash billing

Public Comments

1. Susan Lloyd said that she has some concerns regarding True Green servicing in her area three separate times during a global pandemic, while the Stay at Home Order is in place, and she is stuck in her house breathing in the chemicals. She doesn't see this as an essential service. She also said there is a case in Washington against TruGreen because it is known to cause cancer, respiratory issues, and it also can leak into ground water and contaminate drinking water. She said she spoke with Jeff Moseman about her concerns recently. She also said that breathing in these chemicals can make you more sensitive to COVID-19. She said she has respiratory issues and was having trouble breathing and she called the Dr. and they couldn't see her because of the restrictions in place, so she doesn't understand why TruGreen is allowed to treat lawns just to control weeds and make the grass green. She said other residents have expressed concern to her about this. She said she is going to re-register for the hypersensitivity list so that the lawn care company will have to notify her in writing of the date and time prior to the treatments. Ms. Lloyd said she had her attorney send TruGreen a Cease and Desist and TruGreen responded to her by e-mail to let her know that they would be out the next day to treat her neighbor's lawn. She said she researched the chemicals TruGreen is using and it is the same chemicals that are listed in the lawsuit in Washington. President Panus said that she can call the Governor's office to check if this business is essential and allowed to operate during the pandemic. Ms. Lloyd said she did contact the Governor's office and Dept. of Agriculture to report this and she let them also know that they sprayed in high winds which is not recommended. Mr. Bingham and Councilmember Gochnauer checked the Governor's list and said that residential and commercial landscaping is listed on the Governor's site as life sustaining service. Ms. Lloyd said she developed a bladder tumor as a child because of chemicals TruGreen sprayed and because of this, TruGreen was issued a fine. Mr. Moseman

said that weed control is listed as essential because it is to control the pests and control the weeds, so that rodents do not have a place to harbor. The Borough has minimized use of pesticides drastically. Mr. Moseman said that he checked the most recent pesticide tests taken at the Spring and Well and there are no detectable amounts in our water. Council said that we are very limited what we can do for this situation, since the residents have hired TruGreen to do services for them. Mr. Moseman said that the governing body for the pesticide applications is the Department of Agriculture. Ms. Lloyd said she has reported it to them also.

April 10 – Borough office will be closed
Easter Egg Hunt at E.P. Community Park - will be rescheduled new date TBD
Lg. Appliance & Tire Pick-up - will be rescheduled new date TBD
Election Day - rescheduled for June 2
Car Show - rescheduled for October 17, 2020

Adjournment: 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Strayer, Recording Secretary