

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE EAST PETERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE AND TIME:	February 6, 2024	7:00 p.m.
LOCATION:	Community Center	6051 Pine Street
ATTENDANCE:	Council Members:	Debra Miller, President John Schick, Vice President Adam Gochnauer, Pro Tem John Herr Randy Rannels William Sharp (Absent) Sandra Valdez James Malone Karen St. Clair Jeff Moseman
	Mayor:	
	Borough Manager:	
	MS4/Project Supervisor:	

President Miller called the regular Council meeting to order.

Pledge to Flag and Moment of Silence.

Visitors: Karyl Carmignani, David Connor, Tammy & Jeff Moseman, John Nolt, Don Kissinger, Melanie Martinez, Jamie Rohrer, Caleb Simmens, Ted Moyer, Josh Roberts, Joyce & Frank Mokros, Roger Howard

Visitor Comments:

1. **David Conner** - Voiced concern for the railroad track on Steven Street not being marked with advanced warning sign that the road crosses the railroad ahead. The pavement markings are not there. It should have a yellow circular sign advancing warning to alert drivers that cross the road and a stop line painted across the road to identify where to stop. It is marked heading west on East Hempfields side. John Schick said it is warranted that we should put the yellow sign up 500 ft. in advance and paint yellow lines. Gates and lights are not warranted for this area.
2. **Joyce Mokros** – Asked what the money from the sale of the borough buildings was used for. Manager St. Clair said it was invested to be used for future projects coming up.

Bill Payment: Reviewed by Council.

Police Report: Report submitted to Council.

Chief Kilgore reported the following:

There were 2 big incidents in the borough in the last 2 weeks. He said they deal with a lot of families and a lot of hurt and does not want to downplay this, but at the same time they have an investigation to do.

Fire on High Street: domestic dispute led to intentional fire started by Mr. Hackman which led to a stand-off and then suicide situation. Mrs. Hackman and family dog were able to get out safely. Initially they were trying to protect the officers and firefighters to avoid anyone getting shot. When the fire became large and they were certain Mr. Hackman was no longer a threat, they were able to enter the home. The firefighters did an awesome job and were able to knock the fire down quickly. The officers and the fire dept. did meet to talk about the situation to discuss what went well and what they can do better. No innocent persons were hurt.

Stabbing on Lawnwood Ct.: The person who committed the crime fled on foot. The information that was given to the 911 center by a caller was a fire, and shots were fired. This led to shelter in place, slowed traffic and contacting school. Fortunately, they were able to locate him and put him in custody within an hour. This is an ongoing investigation.

He said the officers did a great job on this. The victim is in the hospital and is expected to make a full recovery.

Tammy Moseman said there was some confusion on Facebook about where the notification would come from for an incident like this. She asked if the school should have notified the parents of the incident that occurred and that they were in lockdown. Mrs. Moseman said she did receive the notification about the High St. incident, and it was very affective. She thanked the officers for what they do for the borough.

Chief Kilgore said he made the phone call to the school himself and it was precautionary. He contacted the school to ask them to keep the kids inside and the superintendent of the school put something together for the website, which was approved by Chief Kilgore. The lockdown was lifted very shortly after, approximately 35-40 minutes. James Rohrer said two weeks ago a new reverse 911 alert became available that you have to sign up for. The incident on Hight St. was the first time it was ever used in Lancaster County. You can go onto the Lancaster County or LCEMA website and see how to sign up for the reverse 911 notification system. Chief Kilgore said this notification system is new and they will put information on their website about this.

It was asked how quickly the officers were able to respond to the call. Chief Kilgore said the officer was there within 2-3 minutes.

Chief Kilgore is working on the strategic plan. The previous plan focused on reducing, solving, and preventing crime. With the new technology they have been able to track crimes. The previous plan also focused on training, investigating/follow-ups, and county engagement. He is a firm believer that community engagement is something that happens every day. Every time our officers engage with someone in the community, it is an opportunity to have community engagement. It should be something we do every day and not just at an event or a meeting. They are looking at ways to improve this especially with the schools. He is planning joint training w/fire dept. and other police departments.

He has changed scheduling to maximize supervision and the number of officers on the street.

They have a Crimewatch page to keep residents informed and they will continue to do this.

Embracing and integrating technology is something they are always looking at and has been used as a time saving tool.

Communication is important and they will continue to attend meetings and have honest conversations.

They have been fiscally responsible and plan to continue to stay on, or under budget. They will continue to keep a separate fund for retired officers.

They continue to get better with work force retention/employee satisfaction. Programs are now available for officer wellness. Many initiatives have been made to make sure their officers are taken care of. Officers will soon have an app on their phones to give immediate access for any kind of help and guidance. There is a high rate of suicide in this profession.

Oversight is very important - they have a supervisor on duty 24/7. Leadership is another main focus and have been working on this through training programs.

They developed a program called RCAT - six officers will be a liaison between four school districts and will be going into the schools to do programs, go to afterschool programs, have lunch with the kids, and be a liaison for the teachers and administrators. This will be a good way to establish relationships with the kids. This is in place of an SRO program.

Traffic is their number 1 complaint. There has been 7 fatal accidents in the last 7 months, which is unheard of. He would like to implement a designated traffic unit down the road. Currently officers are handling up to 15 calls in a shift and then have to do traffic enforcement on top of it.

This year they will be alternating specialist officers to attend the meetings so everyone can learn who their department is.

They will present the yearend report in the next month or two.

Tammy Moseman asked if they have emotional support animals. Chief Kilgore said there is a litany of things that go along with this. It's a great tool, but there is a lot of downside to this e.g., time, money, and regulations. He said if there is an officer that would need it, he would not be opposed to it. Mrs. Moseman said she knows someone who breeds them and would be willing to help with this if it is ever needed.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Malone was in attendance.

Attended Lancaster County Borough Association meeting and PA State Mayor Association meeting.

Discussions with Chief Kilgore.

Reviewed borough code and new legislation.

February is Child Dental Care month and Black History month.

If there is a child in need of severe dental care there is a program for this. If you know of someone in need, please reach out to the Mayor.

Emergency Medical Service: Report submitted to Council.
Nathaniel Buchanon was not in attendance.
Deb Miller pointed out there were 20 calls in January.

Emergency Services Coordinator: Report submitted to Council.

Josh Roberts reported the following:

Started reviewing the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan that we received.

First EMC meeting of the year will be 2/21/2024 @ 6:30 p.m. at the fire hall conference room.

Started reviewing an emergency plan from an outside event that received approval from the events committee.

Set up location on Microsoft Teams on the internal system to store the EMC documents.

Created EMC goals for 2024:

Working on coming up with standard operating checklist for EMC annual duties, special event review/process, and also working with fire dept. and police dept. for emergency response to incidents. Also looking into what would make their process easier.

Started looking into ways we can engage the community. Would like to work with fire department on at least one fire prevention. Would like to get a child safety car seat check on an event day. Trying to build on the sustainability of the program and possibly working toward an emergency management committee where we have a few local individuals that would be involved instead of just one person. Mr. Roberts said a lot of these positions across the county are volunteer and he is not convinced that this needs to be a paid position. This could be something that we do with community engagement, and he will continue to look into this further.

Met with Borough Manager to stay in touch to learn about this position and responsibilities.

Went to the High St. incident debrief. Completed all of his online first year associate level certification courses. He just needs the 2 in-person classes. Went to an in-service training by Lancaster County EMA. Went to the High St. incident and mostly observed the Fire Chief and Deputy CFO running the incident command. He Coordinated getting public works to salt the street. He also checked with Red Cross for displacement services.

Fire Dept.: No report submitted.

James Rohrer reported there were 43 calls in January: 20 in East Hempfield Twp., 10 in East Petersburg Borough, 1 in Manheim Borough, 8 in Manheim Twp., 2 in Manor Twp., and 2 in Penn Twp.

In July-2022, 9 fire departments including East Petersburg FD, received a shared 3-year grant in the amount of \$755,555.00 for recruitment and retention. This grant has its own recruitment and retention coordinator that is paid for through FEMA. Kay Marketing has been hired to do a marketing program. They will be at EP fire dept. with cameras on Friday night. They will be doing other video programs and roll-out. Chief Rohrer said if recruitment and retention doesn't work we need to start looking for other ideas. This is the third grant they have received for recruitment and retention.

Last Friday, East Petersburg was awarded \$16,951.00 through a state grant and that will replace our over 20 year old nozzles, some appliances, and some of the hose. The grant through FEMA is again now open, and they will apply to try to replace their over 14 year old SCBA that as of next year we will no longer be able to use. These are \$8,000.00– \$9,000.00 an air pack.

Lancaster County is giving emergency responders/volunteers who do 15 hours - \$150.00 rebate on their real estate taxes. This started in 2023 and will be available for 2024. EHT does this for their emergency services personnel who run their 1st due district. They also do a higher education reimbursement in the amount of \$2,500.00. In York County, Shrewsbury Borough gives credits for local and county taxes and the school district is giving them full credit for property tax. They are retaining volunteers because of this program. Chief Rohrer said once they are through this, they will be sitting down with Borough Council for a meeting.

Borough Manager: Report submitted to Council.

Manager St. Clair reported the following:

Received \$707.00 grant money for calendars.

Liquid Fuels audit report was received back - there were no findings or discrepancies.

Workers Comp. audit was completed mid-January. The audit resulted in an additional premium of \$1,680.00. Their calculations were verified, and they were correct.

Last month, we added multi-factor authentication. Insurance companies are starting to require this.

Jeff Moseman will be submitting information on Pickel Ball project. Last year, we applied for a grant for this, and we did not receive it. Manger St. Clair and Jeff Moseman have been brainstorming for ideas and Mr. Moseman

has put together a packet for council to look at. Mr. Moseman said we could look for another grant, but this will involve time and money. We can self-fund with borough funds, or we can try to look at other options. There is empty space at the volleyball court at the community park. There is room for 4 courts in that same spot. The preliminary cost is \$17,000.00. The parking lot area is an area that gets used 2-3 times a year. Grass areas could be used for parking if needed those 2-3 times a year. The amount budgeted for court repairs/maintenance was \$25,000.00 and an amount of \$35,250.00 was budgeted pending we were granted the pickleball project. This leaves \$60,250.00 available to use for pickleball courts. Deb Miller asked if this will be put on the agenda at the end of the month. Manager St. Clair said it will be put on the committee mtg agenda for discussion. Adam Gochnauer said since we have a board member on HARC and a good relationship with HARC, maybe it would be worthwhile to reach out to Jeff Book and see if there is a partnership opportunity for this project. He agrees if we have to do it ourselves, this is the way to go, but for the big project this might be a good place to start. HARC doesn't have any pickleball courts and they are using the gym, which isn't an ideal situation and they do have a need for courts. He thinks it would be worth reaching out to see if there is an opportunity for a partnership. They might be able to get grants or subsidize this and put up money to have a mutual agreement for them to use the courts for their leagues. John Schick asked if HARC already has an agreement with E. Hempfield Twp. at Amos Herr Park. Mr. Gochnauer said he knows they do have leagues play there, but it might be something they would be interested in as another option.

Department Managers:

Scott Liggins pointed out the following from the department reports:

Public Works: Sweeper in shop for winter maintenance, potholes filled in various spots, snow events 1/16 & 1/19.

MS4/Special Projects: Multiple incidents of vehicles parked in grass and dragging mud into roadway- doorhanger for violations given along with MS4 education. 2023 Annual Water report submitted – average usage was 100,384,139 gallons. Bioswale Meadows foot bridge pre-bid meeting scheduled for 2/6/2024. Lancaster County Community ARPA funding round 2 future meeting t.b.d.

Water Dept.: Water staff attended the ELANCO Source Water Collaborative annual source water protection meeting. Pre-construction meeting was held at Koser Rd Spring Plant. A tentative start date for work to begin is April 1, 2024. Research and price quotes for PFAS testing. This is set to begin in February 2024.

PFAS is a large class of synthetic chemicals that have been in use since the 1940's. This class of chemicals is often referred to as forever chemicals because they end up in the environment. They are found in different products such as clothing, carpeting, non-stick cookware, firefighting foam, cosmetics, adhesives, and more. DEP wanted to get ahead of EPA regulations that will be coming out in the future. Federal Government hasn't set any kind of maximum levels yet. PA and a few other states have decided to see what the levels are going to be. This is in addition to the testing we already do, and it is required by DEP. We were given a list of accredited laboratories that do this. We narrowed it down to three of them.:

NJ Reider & Assoc. – \$6,919.60

Analytical Laboratory Services – \$4,680.00

Suburban Testing labs – \$2,680.00

Mr. Liggins recommended Suburban Testing Laboratories. He said they seem to be far superior. They are the only laboratory here that does the testing in-house and do all the sampling and they are local.

Mr. Schick asked if the new readers can read all the meters. Mr. Liggins said there are only 12 meters that still need readers and then all the meters will be able to be read with the radio reader.

Zoning Officer Report: Report submitted to Council.

Council liked the new report format.

It was pointed out that Glo Fiber has begun running underground lines in the County and is working in Manheim Twp. currently. Jeff Moseman said they will need to pull permits when they start working in the borough. Jamie Rohrer said they have had some calls due to contractors hired by Glo Fiber hitting gas lines. Lawns are also being dug up. Manager St. Clair said she will reach out to the manager of Manheim Twp. to see what complaints they are receiving so it can be addressed at their meeting with them. Scott Liggins said he has seen miscommunication with the contractors hired by Glo Fiber. They were called out to mark lines more than one time for the same site because of this.

Property Violation Report: Report submitted to Council.

Mainly for vehicles and sidewalks.

Solicitor/Collections Report: Report submitted to Council.

HARC: (Hempfield Area Recreation Commission) – Debra Miller – Membership is up 14%. The pool is having trouble with its dehumidification, and it is closed during repairs. They are hoping the repairs will be done shortly.

Old Business:

Review of January 25, 2024, Committee Meeting Topics: Amanda Reilly-Sokoli-PA Furniture Mission, Tom Arnold – EMC Position, Kristin Troop – Events Committee, Amendment Ordinance for Ridge Ave and Carpenter St, Res. 889-DCNR Park Grant project, Proposals for auditing services, Resolution 890 - Appointing White & Rudy as Auditor, Aging trees at the swimming pool, Account payables 01/25/2024, 4Q23 Financial review, Misc. Items, Fire Co. financials, 10/26/2023 Committee mtg minutes, Payment no.1 to Telco, Inc. for traffic signal improvements, Advertisement for footbridges for the Meadows Bio-swale project, Executive session for legal and personnel matters.

New Business – Action Items:

President Miller asked if there were any questions on the new business items. There were no questions about the new items listed below.

1. *It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Rannels, Councilmember Valdez) with unanimous approval by the board, to approve January 2, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes.*
2. *It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Valdez, Councilmember Schick) with unanimous approval by the board, to approve Ordinance 324, amending the East Petersburg Zoning Ordinance to add definitions for short term rentals. This ordinance amends zoning ordinance no. 254.*
3. *It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Schick, Councilmember Herr) with unanimous approval by the board, to approve Ordinance 325, to regulate short term rental units in East Petersburg Borough.*
4. *It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Gochnauer, Councilmember Valdez) with unanimous approval by the board, to approve Lancaster County Tax Claim Bureau Certification of uncollected taxes.*
5. *It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Gochnauer, Councilmember Rannels) with unanimous approval by the board, to approve Borough Manager's Contract for the period of 01/02/2024 through 01/05/2026.*
6. *It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Valdez, Councilmember Schick) with unanimous approval by the board, to approve advertisement of Ordinance 326, Amending parking for Ridge Ave. and Carpenter St.*
7. *It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Gochnauer, Councilmember Herr) with unanimous approval by the board, to approve Suburban Testing Labs for analytical laboratory testing of PFAS.*
8. *It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Gochnauer, Councilmember Valdez) with unanimous approval by the board, to approve 2024 PA-Classics Soccer Tournaments.*

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

Announcements:

1. The next Borough Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.
2. Appeals Board February 8 - 7 PM as needed
3. Planning Commission February 15 - 7 PM as needed
4. Zoning Hearing February 28 - 7 PM as needed
5. Committee February 22 - 6 PM

6. The office will be closed February 19 in observance of Presidents Day.

7. Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner will be held February 24, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at EP Mennonite Church. Tickets will be available from any Lion – Adults \$12, Kids 6-12 \$6, under 6 free. You can also pay at the door.

Adjournment: 8:18 p.m.

Executive Session for legal matters: In: 8:28 p.m. Out: 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Strayer, Recording Secretary