

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE EAST PETERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

**DATE AND TIME:** September 7, 2021 7:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Community Center 6051 Pine Street  
**ATTENDANCE:** Council Members: John Wolf, President  
Debra Miller, Vice President  
Adam Gochnauer  
John Herr  
Lauren Houck  
Randy Rannels  
John Schick  
James Malone  
Karen St. Clair  
Jeff Moseman  
Mayor:  
Manager:  
Public Works Foreman:

**President Wolf called the Council meeting to order:** 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge to Flag**

**Bill Payment:** Reviewed by Council.  
No additions to regular bills

**Visitors:** LNP Reporter, Tammy Moseman, Josh Roberts, James Swarr, Joyce & Frank Mokros, John Strayer, Kim McKinney, Steven Shenk, Autumn Shenk, Don Schoenberger  
James Swarr and Josh Roberts were both recording the meeting.

**Comments:**

1. Kim McKinney voiced concern for the following issues: Groups of kids at the park in Constitution square are climbing trees and she is afraid someone will get hurt. Council said they cannot keep an officer stationed at the park all day, and she should report this while it is happening because we need to catch them while it is happening. Ms. McKinney said that she wanted to call and report a situation at the park and the office had just closed and she didn't want to call 911 because it wasn't a real emergency. Manager St. Clair told her she can call the non-emergency number in a situation like this which can be found on the website.

Ms. McKinney said her neighbor lets his car run 20-30 minutes around 5:30 a.m. before he leaves for work. This has been going on for months. Manager St. Clair said there is a noise ordinance from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Chief Steffen explained if the car has a valid Pennsylvania state inspection certificate, then it verifies that the vehicles exhaust system and noise suppression system are in proper working order. Chief Steffen explained in several cases like this one, the vehicle sits low and may have an exhaust modification. Chief Steven explained most noise ordinances do have exemptions such as for construction or farming noises and if a vehicle has a Pennsylvania state inspection sticker and a lawful muffler, he does not see how it is enforceable. Council suggested she talk to her neighbor about this.

Ms. McKinney said while they were on vacation a branch from their neighbor's tree fell near her newly renovated shed. She said when Tree Monsters came out to clear the limbs they drove through her yard after it rained and made 6-8-inch ruts in her grass. Council told Ms. McKinney that would be between the homeowner and the contractor. Ms. McKinney said it was her neighbor who gave Tree Monsters the permission to go through her yard when they weren't home. She did say Tree Monsters came back and filled in the ruts with some dirt, but it still needs tampered or rolled. Mr. Moseman suggested that she contact Tree Monsters again and stay on them until they remedy the issue.

2. John Strayer said he lives at the last house on Sundra Drive near where the fire hydrant is being installed. He said he doesn't understand why they installed a hydrant the same week the road was going to be paved. He said currently the hydrant is covered and not in use and a section of the road in front of his house has not been paved completely. He pointed out that delivery trucks that come down that road are damaging the new paving because they can't turn around where they normally do. He said there are still plates in the street. He also said he feels that the hydrant should have been put in last year, so the street would have had time to settle. Mr. Strayer said the hole was dug for the hydrant prior to the contractor receiving the hydrant so the hole had to sit for a few days. He said it would be a good idea for the Borough to have hydrants on hand. Mr. Moseman explained they were told by the contractor doing the fog sealing that it would be near the end of summer and as soon as they scheduled the hydrant and started opening it up both contractors conversed. Mr. Moseman explained the heavy rains also didn't help. Mr. Moseman said they do their best to try to schedule these things, so they don't conflict. Mr. Moseman assured Mr. Strayer this is temporary, and the work will all be done correctly when it is complete.

Mr. Strayer also said he sees a lot of right hand turns on red at Graystone Rd. and Main St. Council said they cannot comment on this intersection while the investigation is still going on.

**Police Report:** Report was submitted to Council.

Chief Steffen said he cannot comment on the traffic light at Graystone Road and Main Street. He said the investigation has been turned over to the office of the District Attorney, so it would be inappropriate to discuss it in any manner.

Chief Steffen said he spoke to the mayor about speeding in the area of Graystone Rd. where people are entering into the Borough from East Hempfield Township boundary. He explained the speed limit goes from 55 to 45 and then drops to 35 entering the borough. They are currently working on speed studies in this area. The data collected has been downloaded and the officer assigned to this is currently working on the analysis of the information.

Chief Steffen said he recently spoke with fire and EMS personnel regarding ramping up the program for emerging covid variant scenarios and keeping in compliance with federal and state guidelines.

Throughout their jurisdiction there has been varying levels of concern about the masking and unmasking requirements at the schools. They had patrols at the schools for passive measures this morning, but there was not a problem within their jurisdiction.

Call volume is falling in line with what was projected. East Petersburg Borough had several domestic related arrests last month.

Councilmember Miller thanked them for being present on Graystone Road. She said the residents there are very pleased about this.

Chief Steffen said they patrolled the park this evening and there were very few people there and he pointed out that this is representative of most evenings.

Chief Steffen said that he has seen an uptick of reports of instances of fraudulent activity on checking accounts. They are suggesting people monitor their bank statements and contact the financial institution to report anything suspicious.

Josh Roberts asked what the follow up is from the speed studies that were done on Lemon Street and Hollow Drive from last October. Mr. Roberts said it looks to him that more than half of the people driving on those roads are speeding. He asked what the follow up is normally, such as the police increasing patrol, or is this incumbent on the borough to request those services or is it something the borough needs to look into as far as traffic calming tactics. Chief Steffen said that when there is a disparity in the number of vehicles that are over the speed limit, there is a formula that is used to apply to that number to the traffic flow to determine how many speed enforcement details should be performed per year. Chief Steffen said he did not have the data in front of him, but he believes Lemon Street was three. Chief Steffen explained that when you look at the data collected you have to look at different factors, such as if it is a high number outside the range, it could be an emergency response vehicle. Chief Steffen said that NLCRPD has it set up that an e-mail is sent to him every time one of their vehicles

is in excess of the speed limit over a certain threshold. Chief explained that the next thing to look at is how you meet the three operations per year, whether it is a meaningful application at the time, or how you can apply this. Chief Steffen explained that PA does not allow radar, so the officers get set up and the next thing you know they are called off to an emergency and this is the way the statute is, so he cannot change this, and they just try to work around it. Chief Steffen said that most people on the highways are not going the speed limit, and this is similar to the driving habits in the towns. Mr. Roberts said the speeding in the borough where there are variables of children on sidewalks, does not seem the same as comparing it to the highway speeding patterns. Chief Steffen said that he was explaining what the data shows. Mr. Roberts asked what the follow up items might be. Chief Steffen said enforcement, engineering and sometimes the speed limit can even be found to be too low, but this would be an engineering question. He explained that the borough does not have the resources to have an officer sit there all day long. Chief Steffen said you have to take into consideration if there are 177 cars that drive there per day, would that be an overall cost benefit. Mr. Roberts said that there were enough complaints of a speeding problem on Lemon Street from residents that the borough asked for a speed study to be done. Chief Steffen said that they have responded to this and pointed out that they can arrest speeders, and even send letters to residents in the area to remind them to slow down, but he explained behavior usually goes back to the way it was. Mr. Roberts asked if the borough provided more resources by way of funding, would it allow the police to do more patrol targeted for speed enforcement. Chief Steffen said you can't throw money at a problem like this and expect to solve it, because it is behavioral, and as soon as the effect goes away from enforcement such as issuing tickets, you will see the speeding pick back up. Chief Steffen said if you want them to issue everyone who speeds tickets, it would not be a long-term solution.

Council pointed out that the former police were asked to run many details in areas of Clarkson and Martin because they were receiving a lot of complaints about speeders, and pointed out that 70% of the speeders were people living there and the excuses were "I had to get to work", "I have to get my child to soccer practice", "I am in a hurry", etc. Mayor Malone pointed out that the calming effects are built into what they are currently doing. He pointed out that two years ago some neighbors got together along with their children and held signs reminding people to slow down, and people on Facebook could not handle children asking them to slow down. Mayor Malone said when speeding issues come up the police do follow up with the studies and then follow through with the formulas.

**Mayor Malone** thanked the police, and veterans, as well as members of council, for attending "Coffee with a Cop" at Geneva Bakery. He said it was great to see a lot of young children there and interacting with the officers. Mayor Malone reminded everyone that September 10 is Suicide Prevention Day, and a lot of people are lost to suicide, so he encouraged everyone to reach out to neighbors, friends and family and ask them how they are doing and to just be there for them. Thanked residents for coming out and participating in community events and thanked those who donated their time.

**EMS:** Report submitted to Council.

Adam Marden pointed out that their vehicles are monitored for speed, and he also gets e-mail alerts when speed is over the limits. Mr. Marden said that Mt. Joy is going through the same issues with speeding. Mr. Marden said they responded to 16 calls in the borough - Sunday was the busiest day and busiest time of day was 8:00 a.m. Transition to Penn State Health is going well. Adam Marden said that they recently responded to a bad car accident and East Petersburg Fire Department was a big help and said that East Petersburg is very blessed to have them.

**Emergency Services Coordinator:** No report given. Diane Garber is off work.

**Chief Fire Official:** Report submitted to Council.  
John Kottmyer, CFO was not in attendance.

**Fire Report:** Report submitted to Council.

Chief Schoenberger reported 37 incidents with 9 calls being in the borough, 223 staff hours, and 350 training hours. They were the first fire department involved with the reported active shooter at the Nook. They were involved with command and triage. They will be involved with East Pete Day and the Fire Station will be open all day for tours. They will be dropping the balls for the golf ball drop on Saturday.

**Manager's Report:** Report submitted to Council.

NNO was a huge success and she thanked everyone who was involved. Work is scheduled to begin at State and

Main for the traffic signal the week of September 13<sup>th</sup> and a courtesy notification will be given to the businesses at the square.

Elm Street from New to Linden will be closed for road work for 2-3 days. Residents are encouraged to park on New and Linden St. during the paving project. There is a section on Elm St. that residents are putting their trash. Manager St. Clair said this is not permitted and effective September 17<sup>th</sup> trash service will no longer be picked up on Elm Street. Trash will have to be put out at the curb on Main Street. Jeff Moseman said that work is being done there to control rainwater. There is a runoff issue that is causing flooding at a few properties in this area. Manager St. Clair thanked Jeff Moseman for giving Councilmembers tours of the water plants.

**Foreman's Report:** Report submitted to Council.

Jeff Moseman pointed out the following:

MS4 information on Illicit discharge was available at the back of the room for anyone interested.

Installed a new hydrant, blow off and valve.

Strategic hydrant flushing was done by the city interconnect.

Fog seal project has been completed.

BMPs have been cleaned out in accordance with MS4.

A lot of park clean-up took place after all the heavy rain.

Fenced was repaired due to tree branch falling.

Cleaned up rocks that kids threw into the swale area at the park.

A lot of preparatory meetings held with departments for budgeting.

LASA was seen doing some flooding tests in the borough.

**Zoning Officer Report:** Reports submitted to Council.

Engineering work TOA, MS4 & Stormwater work, permit review, property maintenance, site inspections

**Property Violations:** Report submitted to Council.

**Solicitor/Collections Report:** Report submitted to Council.

Working on: Ord. 314 amendment to POD-portable storage containers/ dumpster ordinance, resolution for redistricting, looking into property on Broad St. on sheriff sale list along with 2 other properties on this list

**HARC:** (Hempfield Area Recreation Commission) – Debra Miller reported the following:

Koser Jeweler Tennis Tournament was a huge success. It had the largest in-person attendance ever. The payout for singles was 15,000.00 and the doubles winner won 5,000.00 each. The event was available on live streaming. It was all done very well.

The day camp and playground had over 900 children this year.

The annual golf outing will take place on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Players and sponsors are still needed. This event benefits the scholarship program.

Joyce Mokros said that she received a letter saying Silver Sneakers was dropped, and she asked what she can do. Councilmember Miller said there are funds available for assistance and told her to contact Jeff Book at HARC with any questions.

**Old Business:** Committee meeting topics: Presentation for 2022 street repairs, Presentation for 2022 Water meter project, new zero turn for parks, payables, HAFSC updates, Rt. 72 & Miller Rd. signal project update, Chain of Command (SOP), voting precincts of Borough district 41, review Ordinance 289 – storage containers, review Resolution 819 – Policies/Procedures for Trash & Recycling, 2022 Budget: preliminary review for Misc. funds, Misc. Manager/Foreman/Council items, Fire co. financials, Committee meeting minutes, Executive session for personnel matters

**New Business:**

1. *It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Gochnauer, Councilmember Rannels) and carried with a 5-0 vote to approve the meeting minutes for August 4, 2021, Councilmember Houck abstained because she did not attend that meeting*
2. Manager St. Clair explained that this resolution was updated to reflect the increase in the tire tags and lg. appliance tags that took place earlier in the year.

***It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Gochnauer, Councilmember Herr) and carried unanimously, to Approve Resolution 819, Policies/Procedures for Trash & Recycling***

3. Councilmember Miller explained that we had two and then a third new councilmembers and a new borough manager and then later a change in leadership. The status quo of the past borough practice wasn't working anymore. The PA State Association of Borough's recommends that each municipality develop a chain of command, so with the approval of council, Ms. Miller said she drafted this document with the help of Manager St. Clair and Robin Hemperly. This document will serve as a document to be followed by current and future councilmembers and staff members. This document will ease the navigation of borough business while respecting everyone's elected, appointed, and paid positions. This will be a free-standing document.

***It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Miller, Councilmember Schick) and carried unanimously to Approve Standard Operating Procedures for Chain of Command for East Petersburg Borough***

4. Councilmember Herr said he wanted to give credit to our previous Mayor, Jeff Geoghan for taking on a lot of the worry of this. Councilmember Herr explained that our three voting districts belong with the Hempfield area, where we have school contact, fire and emergency contact, and recreation contacts. Councilmember Miller said it just makes sense that we vote along with that precinct, so that Brett Miller would be our representative.

***It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Herr, Councilmember Miller) and carried unanimously to Approve Resolution 820, Requesting the placement of the (3) three Voting Precincts in East Petersburg Borough be within State House district 41 in the 2021 reapportionment***

5. ***It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Gochnauer, Councilmember Rannels) and carried unanimously to Advertise Ordinance 314, updating POD (portable on-demand storage) and dumpster regulations in East Petersburg Borough***
6. ***It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Gochnauer, Councilmember Herr) and carried unanimously to Approve MMO, Minimal Municipal Obligation Pension Fund for 2022***

**Announcements:**

September 16 & 17 - Carnival in the Park – will begin both nights at 5:15 p.m. with Food Trucks! Wristbands on Thursday.

September 18 - East Pete Day begins with a 5K Race at 8:30 a.m. - The annual East Petersburg Day Parade will follow the 5K at 10:00 a.m. and lead families, friends, and neighbors to East Petersburg Community Park for an amazing day filled with live music, jugglers, rides, games, great food, and a firework display to end the evening.

October 2 – Pumpkin Fest will be held at the Community Center from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. (rain or shine). Pumpkin decorating & hayrides.

**Adjournment:** 8:10 p.m.

**Executive Session for legal & personnel matters:** In: 8:18 p.m. Out: 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kim Strayer, Recording Secretary