

WEST GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL –Meeting Notes

May 6, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the West Grove Borough Council was held on Wednesday May 6, 2020. The meeting took place via the Zoom Virtual Meeting platform. The President, David Prosser called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

- Mr. David Prosser, President
- Mrs. Kristin Proto, Vice President
- Mayor Stephen Black
- Mr. Chip Freese
- Mr. Bill Temme
- Ms. Elizabeth Garduno
- Ms. Karen Beltran
- Mr. Gregory McCummings, Secretary

MINUTES:

April 1, 2020: Mr. Temme moved and Mrs. Proto seconded to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2020 Borough Council.

Motion Passed

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Freese moved and Mr. Temme seconded to approve the April Financial Report.

Motion Passed

TRANSFERS:

Mr. Temme moved and Mrs. Proto seconded to approve the May Transfers.

Motion Passed

BILLS:

Mr. Temme moved and Mrs. Proto seconded to approve the March bills.

Motion Passed

VISITORS:

The owner of Tom's TV, Tom Sylvina, inquired about the turkey buzzards they are dealing with from the strip mall next door to them. The consensus of Borough Council and the legal advice from Helen Esbenshade is that because the strip mall is located in London Grove they would have jurisdiction to address the issue.

EMC Chuck Freese indicated he receives resistance when trying to gather information on specifics for where the confirmed COVID cases are including in the Borough. Mr. Freese updated Council on resource requests in the community and possible future antibody testing sites. Stats were provided regarding COVID patients at the Jennersville Regional Hospital.

FINANCE:

Water/Sewer billing was discussed and for the current quarter we invoice just under \$214,000 and as of the meeting we have collected \$130,000 or 61% of what is due. With the due date on the invoices being Friday the 8th of May we anticipate a large portion of the 29% still outstanding to be collected.

Manager McCummings provided year to date revenue and expenditure figures for discussion. President Prosser inquired about the park user fees and how we were approaching that. The Borough offered the spring sports to be refunded their user fees or to keep them with us until next season. Discussion also took place regarding the outstanding loans we have for the municipal building and what our payment and interest schedules look like.

Update was provided that the 2019 Borough Audit was submitted and accepted by DCED which was previously outstanding.

An update was provided by Vice President Proto on the Vision Partnership Program Grant and the progress on the RFP for the Comprehensive Plan update. President Prosser suggested that a subcommittee be formed for the RFP and the project. The following council members along with the Borough Manager volunteered to be on the committee: Kristin Proto, Elizabeth Garduno and Karen Beltran.

Local property taxes were discussed in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pennsylvania legislation was passed that gives local government the authority to make changes this year if they wish to do so. Any changes have to be communicated to the elected tax collector via a resolution within 30 days. Borough Council agreed they would like to extend the face value of the tax until the end of the year, thus foregoing any penalties for the residents. Borough Manager will work with Helen to draft the resolution that will need to be reviewed at the May Borough Work Session.

ZONING OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT:

Construction was opened back up on May 1st by the Governor so inspections will resume for both the new construction as well as rental inspections.

PUBLIC WORKS:

The Guernsey Road water booster pump failed in May. We were able to replace the pump to restore the pressure which is essential for the fire hydrant system.

COVID-19 Park restrictions were posted in both parks as discussed in both English and Spanish. Memorial Park seems to be having more activity than Harmony so we will need to monitor the activity.

Sewer flow figures were presented and discussed. We continue to operate below our permitted 250,000 gallons per day but we believe we are benefiting from lower rainfall totals along with the fixes we put into the collection system in 2019.

Public Works ended up bidding out paving for our portion of South Guernsey Road due to the fact that London Grove bid out to pave all around.

The LED street light project materials for South Hills were delivered and the project is scheduled to be completed by the second week of May.

Borough Council discussed the potential rain garden project for the front of the Borough Building. Because the grant funding that Shane Morgan was able to secure for the Borough has a time limit we need to make a decision if we want to move forward. Following discussion President Prosser agreed that we should move forward.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Chief Jerry Simpson provided an update on police operations during the pandemic. The status of the department has been operating at normal levels and meeting its objectives. They have had some revenue and cost impacts on the budget however the operation is normal. Lieutenant Joe Greenwault updated that moral is good within the department and that the trends they are seeing following analysis is part 1 crimes down 40% and part 2 crimes down 50% and 21% down on domestics but up 20% on calls year over year. We are down 97% on enforcement due to orders for less contact however traffic accidents are down as well due to less folks being on the road. Accreditation is on schedule and the mock assessment went well. Accreditation assessment is schedule for June 3rd and June 4th. Chief Simpson introduced Special Investigator Kevin Dykes who introduced himself and expressed his appreciation for joining our team and looks forward to working with everyone in the future.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Temme made a motion to approve Ordinance **2020-02** and Mr. Freese seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

Mr. Temme made a motion to approve Ordinance **2020-03** and Mr. Freese seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

The letter regarding the designation of the sheep previously discussed designating him as an emotion support animal was discussed. The Borough Legal team indicated that the letter did hit all the requirements to allow the animal to remain. If the Borough can demonstrate that the animal is a public health and safety issue than we could deny the accommodation. Borough Council asked that we request who the veterinarian is and have them provide documentation of the medical history of the animal and that they believe the living quarters for the sheep is appropriate. The concern is setting a precedence that farm animals will be allowed in the Borough moving forward for emotional support animals.

NEW BUSINESS

Habitat for Humanity's email request to waive or reduce the water and sewer tap in fees for the new homes going in. Borough Council felt it was not fair to the rest of the community to grant the request and that it was not appropriate for the request to be so late in the process as the first 5 homes are almost completed. Council instructed Borough Manager to communicate to Habitat that we will not grant and reduction or waiver to the fees.

Mrs. Proto and Chief Simpson discussed the possibility of starting a program to check in on elderly residents. Future discussions will take place.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Nothing Reported

MAYORS COMMENTS

State safe, stay apart, be careful, god bless and all that good stuff!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Public Safety Commission Meeting & Awards Ceremony – Thursday 5/14 @ 7:30pm (West Grove Borough via Zoom)**
- **Primary Election Day – June 2, 2020**

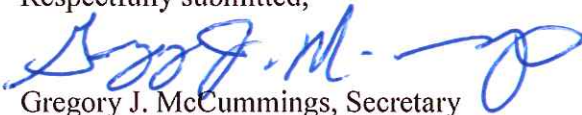
ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Temme moved and Mr. Freese seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 9:46p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Gregory J. McCummings, Secretary