

Penbrook Borough Council Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2020

1. Call to order

On June 1, 2020 Council President David Deardorff called the Borough Council to order at 6:30 pm followed by a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

2. Roll Call

All were present.

3. Action on the minutes from the May 4, 2020 Council Meeting minutes.

Council President Deardorff asked for and received a motion from Councilperson V Shaw. Councilman Stokes seconded. There was no discussion and the motion was voted in favor unanimously.

4. Citizen comments on the June agenda

There were no citizen comments to be heard.

5. Reports:

A. Mayor – The Mayor provided Council with the May 2020 Police Report.

B. Treasurer – Manager Hogarth read the Treasurer’s report for May 2020.

A motion was made by Armbruster and seconded by Dry to accept the report. It was favorably voted on unanimously.

C. Manager – Manager’s report was read

D. Solicitor – Mr. Wendaaur mentioned that the Tri-County Planning Commission had some questions regarding “conditional use” in regard to the wireless ordinance proposal. Because of this, the commission’s comments and approval will likely be pushed back one month.

E. STEMS – No report

F. Fire Chief – Asst. Chief Lacher read the May stats for the fire department and Fire Police Captain Morris provided the May stats for the fire police responses

G. Committees

i. Codes – Council President Deardorff read the codes report

ii. Public Safety – Because of the resignation of Councilman Margarito the order of succession will be modified for June to include Armbruster, Dry and Deardorff. EMC Zwigart thanked Councilman N Shaw for completing his NIMS courses.

iii. Parks and Property – Chairman Stokes will discuss a topic under new business.

iv. Public Works – Chairman N Shaw read the May report

v. Personnel – No report

vi. Community and Government – Chairperson V Shaw discussed the challenges with the book bag give-away now that National Night Out has been moved to October. It was suggested that most of the children in need of the book bags and supplies are known so proactive efforts will be made to continue this awesome program prior to the start of the school year.

vii. Budget –Chairman Armbruster referred to his revenue/expense spreadsheet and pointed out that the accountants moved the sewer payment received from Susquehanna Township to the appropriate line.

viii. Authority – No report other than a meeting is scheduled for June 17th at 6:30pm

6. New Business

A. Approve or reject a motion to accept the resignation of appointed councilman Amado Margarito who submitted a letter of resignation effective 29 May 2020. A motion to accept was made by Stokes and seconded by Armbruster. The motion carried unanimously. We now have 30 days to appoint a replacement.

B. Approve or reject a motion to accept resolution 2020-9 adopting the Dauphin County Emergency Operations Plan as the Penbrook Emergency Operations Plan. A motion to accept was made by Deardorff and seconded by N Shaw. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Approve or reject a motion to accept Carmen Gonzalez as the chairperson of the vacancy hearing board. A motion to accept was made by V Shaw and seconded by Dry. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approve or reject a motion to appoint Sarah Marencic to the Penbrook Revitalization Inc. Board. A motion to accept was made by Armbruster and seconded by Dry. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Approve or reject a motion to pay Rick Levandusky a one-time amount of \$1,800.00 for the on-line publishing of the Penbrook Borough Ordinances. A motion to approve the payment was made by Armbruster and seconded by N Shaw. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

F. Discussion involving the opening of the Borough Building to the public as well as the working status of non-essential employees. Manager Hogarth reported that administrative assistant Rebecca Ramper is working remotely most of the time. She comes in to process payments and mail necessary documents. BCO Myers is working mostly from the office but is doing some remote duties as needed. Under the Governor's color phases, telework is still required where feasible for yellow. It was suggested by Manager Hogarth that we remain closed until the county is moved to the green phase. There were no motions made for this topic.

G. Councilman Stokes, Chairman of the Parks Committee, made a motion to cancel the youth summer program held at Little Valley Park. The concern was the amount of children that sign up for the program, social distancing and other health risks. The motion was seconded by V Shaw and the motion to cancel the program passed unanimously.

7. Citizens to be heard

Assistant Fire Chief David Lacher expressed his thanks to all for their support of the fire department and leadership of the community.

8. Council comments:

Councilman Armbruster asked if there was a replacement in mind for the Ward1A seat for which there is not and when the vacancy hearing board would meet. There was no specific date for the VHB to meet and that would depend on the availability of a viable replacement.

Councilman Ramper questioned the status of the emergency siren. Manager Hogarth reported that it was checked by K&C communications and their report sent via email to the Public Safety Committee. Summarizing the report K&C believed the damage now evident was not from the original lightning strike or they would have seen that when the repairs were made. The report did say that it was most likely from a power surge. K&C suggested no more money be invested in the siren and provided a quote for a mechanical siren should the Borough want to keep something in place. Ramper expressed concern for some borough residents that may not have technology capable of receiving emergency notifications. Manager Hogarth said he would explore notification options.

Council President Deardorff asked if anyone was interested in investing any more money into the existing siren. Dry, N Shaw, V Shaw and the Mayor all wanted to explore the mechanical siren option for consideration. Deardorff, Ramper, Armbruster and Stokes were against putting any more money into the siren.

Councilman N Shaw said he had the opportunity to stop into the fire house on Saturday May 30th and was impressed with the cleanliness and organization of the space. He thanked the fire department for their efforts.

9. Action on the bills to be paid:

A motion was made by Armbruster to pay the bills. It was seconded by N Shaw. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Armbruster to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. It was seconded by Dry and voted in favor unanimously.

Respectfully submitted and attested,

Joseph Hogarth
Borough Manager and Municipal Secretary