

Special Borough Council Meeting

June 15, 2020

A Special Meeting of Souderton Borough Council was called to order, on the above date, at 7:00 pm by Council President Brian Goshow with the following members present:

President Brian K. Goshow	Councillor Edward Huber
Vice-President Julie Munden	Mayor John R. Reynolds
Councillor Donna Rogers	Solicitor Charlotte Hunsberger
Councillor Richard Godshall	
Councillor Daniel Yocum	Borough Manager P. Michael Coll
Councillor Matthew Mscichowski	EMC and PW Director Steven R. Coll
Councillor Daryl Littlefield	Police Chief James P. Leary

Absent from this meeting was Borough Councillor Ned Leight.

Council President Brian Goshow noted that this is the first in-person public meeting conducted since the COVID-19 emergency. The Council Chambers have been re-arranged to provide for social distancing. This format will serve as an initial test for future meetings. The primary purpose of this Special Meeting is to receive updates on the status of the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration, reports from the Emergency Management Coordinator, Public Works, Police Chief and Borough Manager on municipal operations and to discuss preparations for future meetings. Minutes of this Special Meeting will be prepared by the Borough Manager and posted to the website for public review and comment.

Council President Brian Goshow first recognized Margaret Zglinicki and Harry Boardman of the Souderton Business Improvement District to discuss plans to move forward with the re-authorization of the BID before the end of 2020. The re-authorization plan was developed in March, 2020, recommending another 5 year period and includes commercial properties throughout the entire Borough. The primary focus will be on economic development and marketing. Borough Council discussed the required process and timeframe for authorization, which may be considered at the July 6 regular Borough Council meeting.

Councillor Edward Huber discussed recommendations from the special swimming pool committee concerning the potential opening of the pool should the state move into the green phase of their re-opening plan. Management and staffing continues to be evaluated, along with occupancy limits and social distancing measures. Borough Council expressed mixed opinions on the possibility of opening the pool. The Pool Committee and Borough Council discussed various issues concerning operating the pool under the COVID-19 guidelines. They will continue to evaluate options for more discussion at the next meeting.

Borough Manager Michael Coll reported that a number of restaurants are struggling under the COVID-19 restrictions and would like to take advantage of outdoor dining alternatives. The Borough recently enacted an outdoor dining ordinance which may be difficult for some of the local businesses to work under. Some of our neighboring municipalities have waived certain provisions of their outdoor dining regulations to help businesses cope with the difficult

circumstances. Indian Valley Hotel recently asked for permission to set up outdoor tables along their sidewalk and within the pull in parking spaces along Broad Street. Borough Council expressed agreement to temporarily relax provisions of the outdoor dining ordinance, but parking areas and public right of ways cannot be utilized for outdoor dining purposes. Borough Solicitor Charlotte Hunsberger suggested that Borough Council consider a formal Resolution temporarily waiving certain provisions of the outdoor dining ordinance.

Borough Manager Michael Coll reviewed various improvements associated with the Community Park, pavilion and band shell. Work is in progress on the band shell improvements. Indian Valley Masonry is working to re-point the stone wall. A drainage bed and piping has been added behind the wall to relieve hydraulic pressure against the wall and preserve the life of the wall. Trout Brothers is forming a new concrete cap for the top of the wall. Bergey's Electric is working on lighting upgrades. Steve Toy has been in conversation with Jeff Radcliff about modifications to aid in setting up the sound system for Concert Sundaes. A suggestion was made to install metal frame work to hang speakers on either side of the band shell. A second series of poles could be added to mount display screens. The upgrades may attract a larger field of performers to Concert Sundaes events. Borough Council understood the purpose of the upgrades but expressed concern with preserving the iconic appearance of the band shell and its arch.

A number of events are planned for the Community Park. Souderton-Telford Rotary Club will be sponsoring a drive-in movie event, details of which are still pending. The East Penn Modifiers would like to consider a car show in the Community Park in August. The Moyer 5K run has been moved to August due to COVID regulations. The Souderton-Telford Main Streets Art Jam is pending for this fall. Further park improvements will need to be sensitive to these events.

Police Chief James Leary reported that Grace Bible Church and Keystone Opportunity will be holding a food drive in the main Street parking lot on Saturday, June 27, 2020. He will be on hand to render any assistance to this event.

The Souderton Planning Commission has been considering resumption of regular meetings that have been postponed due to the COVID-19 emergency and restrictions. The Montgomery County Planning Commission continues to prefer their planners to participate virtually rather than in-person. Over the past several months, the Borough Engineer and Montgomery County Planning Commission have been reviewing the development plans for the remainder of the Berkeley Court development. Review letters have been forwarded to the developer's engineer. School Lane Development is working to complete outstanding punch list items with Berkeley Court Phase 2A. They are proposing to defer a few items to the next phase of the development. Borough Manager Michael Coll explained a procedural violation that occurred in completing the required DEP Sewage facilities Planning procedures for Phase 2A. The revision approved in 2018 to re-orient a townhouse building and add two additional townhouse units was not reported to DEP as required. The Borough will reply to the procedural violation and work towards a resolution.

Public Works Director Steven Coll reviewed public works activities and he also provided

an update as the Emergency Management Director. Borough Manager Michael Coll noted that he will schedule Moyer Indoor/Outdoor to complete curbside vegetation control in the Borough towards the end of this month.

The Borough Manager reported that the Montgomery County Commissioners have approved the grant request to improve the Chestnut Street Parking Lot. Contract documents will be forwarded in the coming weeks. The Borough Manager suggested that Borough Council consider moving forward with improvements to the Railroad Avenue Parking Lot which will be funded in part by a State grant.

Borough Council discussed progress with the Police Chief Search and discussed moving forward with plans to renovate the Police Station. Borough Council expressed a desire to move forward with at least the beginning phases of improvements.

The Borough manager noted a few items that have been deferred due to the COVID-19 emergency. The deferred matters include:

- Appointment- Civil Service Commission
- 4 Way Stop- Summit Street and Wile Avenue
- Adoption- 2015 International Fire Code
- Communications Committee Report- Recording/Televising Meetings

There being no further business, the special meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

P. Michael Coll
Borough Secretary