

The special COVID-19 meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held at 6:30 PM on **Tuesday, April 28, 2020** as a Virtual Zoom Meeting. Present: Council President Medina; Councilmembers Farrell, Yohn, Heayn, and Sulai; Mayor Wagner, Manager Lowthert, Secretary Anders, BVRPD Chief Yost and WCEC Chief Blount. Also present: Steve Beattie, Eric Scicchitano, Ellen Ruby, Kathryn Morris, Debra Drasher, Sam Pearson, Matt Farrand, Lynne Ragusea and Marlene Lira.

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Medina called the special COVID-19 meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Manager Lowthert read the email questions he received from the public prior to the meeting. Matt Farrand from the Standard Journal asked what will the Borough's role be in a potential limited reopening in 10 days, when will street cleaning and no parking for street cleaning go back in effect, and is the Borough ready?

Marlene Lira emailed asking if Union County is given approval by the Wolfe administration to transition to phase yellow by May 8, 2020 or later does the Borough plan to follow the guidance or implement its own recommendations to continue the current mitigation measures, can you describe the testing capacity at Evangelical Hospital and Geisinger Hospital and how prepared they are to conduct tests for contacts of positive individuals and do we have a contact tracing program in place and individuals to carry this out, and if an individual tests positive after transitioning to phase yellow and they have been to businesses and daycares in the preceding days, how extensively will contacts be tested?

Councilmember Sulai shared that per the Evangelical Hospital website, they have COVID-19 testing kits that provide results within an hour of the samples arriving in the Hospital's lab. The use of the kits will be prioritized for patients who have been admitted to the Hospital, Emergency Department patients who are going to be admitted and patients being discharged to skilled nursing facilities. Geisinger website informs the public whenever someone test positive for COVID-19 at Geisinger testing site. They ask who they have had close contact with in the last few days. They reach out to the individuals identified to let them know that they may have been exposed to the coronavirus. Councilmember Sulai states that the best source of information is on the Hospital's website.

Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie commented that contact tracing is a State function and as a Borough we would rely on the Governor's guidance going through the red, yellow, and green phases. The Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie's approach is that on May 8, 2020 we will assume everything is good and proceeding accordingly and if there seems to be breakdowns in the execution, the Borough of Lewisburg can pull back or the Governor will pull back.

Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie addressed the question regarding how the Borough handles a situation if an individual tests positive having been to businesses and daycares in the preceding day. The Borough of Lewisburg will not handle it because it is not in the Borough of Lewisburg's jurisdiction beyond trying to pull the resources necessary. It would be handled by the State or even with the County. Due to privacy concerns, the Borough of Lewisburg will not know who is testing positive of COVID-19.

The Borough of Lewisburg's role in a limited reopening in ten days is to try to get the Borough's operations back to normal and to continue education and guidance to the businesses and residents. During the yellow phase, there are a good amount of restrictions as defined by the Governor and the Borough of Lewisburg will continue to have an education, guidance, and enforcement role.

Borough Manager Lowthert answered yes to the question if the Borough of Lewisburg is ready for the reopening. The Borough Manager Lowthert also explains the Borough has been working on reopening plans for some time. Department leaders within the Borough have an idea of what facilities should be open sooner rather than later. It will be a staged reopening to assure everything is safe for the staff and public.

Borough Manager Lowthert also commented on the question regarding the start of street cleaning and the parking restrictions. Street cleaning and parking restrictions will go in effect when they need to as it relates to brush pick up along the curbs. There will be notices to the public on the Lewisburg Borough's website and Facebook page.

Borough Manager Lowthert passed along that there has been a lot of public interest in reopening the brush pile and Borough Manager Lowthert feels the best solution would to possibly have curbside pickup over a three or four week period instead of a one week period to minimize exposure to public and staff. When brush pick up would start, the parking restrictions would need to be reinstated.

ATTENDANCE

CALL TO ORDER

- Email Questions from Matt Farrand
- Borough's role
 - Parking/street cleaning
 - Ready?

- Email Questions from Marlene Lira
- Borough's plan
 - Hospital testing
 - Contact Tracing

Email Answer to Hospital testing

Email Answer to Contact Tracing

Email Answer to Borough's role

Email Answer to Ready

Email Answer to Street Cleaning – Parking Restrictions

Brush Pile

April 28, 2020

Eric Scicchitano inquired about which facilities would need to consider opening first. Borough Manager Lowthert commented that addition to the brush pile, all the closed playgrounds, refuse special pickups, parks, street sweeping and the Borough Office. There is a lot of things to think about and instead of starting everything at one time, Lewisburg Borough will be doing a staged approach.

Scicchitano Question – Facilities to Open First

Kathryn Morris asked if the Borough could consider the requirement of maintaining social distancing and wearing of masks if opening places? Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie stated that in the yellow phase, sit down restaurants are not open to the public, take-out and delivery curbside will be maintained. When the green phase occurs Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie understand there will be very little restrictions. Outdoor seating will possibly need to be looked at closely by the Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie to see if it will need to be temporarily regulated to help keep the sidewalks clear.

Morris Question Considering of Requirements

Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie may maintain the requirement of only ten persons in a gathering during the yellow phase and believes the Borough's playgrounds should remain closed.

EMC Beattie Gathering Requirement

It was also mentioned by the Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie that at some point the Borough of Lewisburg would need to decide when the Emergency Declaration would end. The rules and regulation would go back to the pleasure of the Borough Council when the Emergency Declaration ends, and Council would have the option for blanket authorities if needed.

Emergency Declaration End Consideration

Councilmember Farrell asked the Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie where can the Center for Disease Control and the Department of Health guidelines for the green phase mentioned in the Governor's web page can be found and if local business have access for the proper information to structure their business for reopening. Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie informed Council that the Executive Director of the Lewisburg Downtown Partnership, Ellen Ruby has been very active throughout the process, communicating well with the business, working with the State and neighboring communities and feels the Downtown is well prepared and given good guidance. Mayor Wagner also commented that Executive Director Ruby has been preparing businesses for a safe opening.

Guidelines for Businesses

William Cameron Fire Chief Blount asked Council to coordinate the expiration of the Emergency Declaration with the Police and Fire Department because they will not be eligible for any Federal funding they could potentially go after related to COVID-19. Buffalo Valley Regional Police Chief Yost agreed with William Cameron Fire Chief Blount and also stated the police department needs have been minimal but believes may increase as the Borough moves forward with any enforcement and how the department should act upon the enforcement.

Emergency Declaration Expiration Notification Request

Sam Pearson asked if it is known when the recycling center facility at the Lycoming County landfill will open. The Borough does not have that information, but Borough Manager Lowthert commented the Lycoming County Resource Management Services are beginning to hold some recycling events in Lycoming County for all residents. Borough Manager Lowthert believes they are beginning to slowly reopen the services but, at this point, the Borough of Lewisburg has not received any information from Union County about when the Borough would be permitted to reopen the recycling center in Lewisburg. Borough Manager Lowthert has heard that the materials have to sit for seventy-two hours before Lycoming county Resource Management is willing to take them in and if that instance applies when the recycling center opens, the Borough may have to hold full recycling containers longer than normal.

Recycling Center Question and Answer

Councilmember Farrell shared with Council that he spoke with the Lewisburg Downtown Partnership Executive Director Ruby and states the Downtown business have some infrastructure items that are needed to reopen and suggests Council possibly look how to help fund them. Lewisburg Downtown Partnership Executive Director Ruby commented that the downtown businesses are looking forward to reopening safely. Councilmember Sulai had proposed through email that an item at the next meeting for Council is to discuss downtown business economic recovery.

Downtown Businesses

Councilmember Sulai asked Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie who is responsible for developing and communicating COVID-19 safe operation guidelines to the Borough businesses and how it will be communicated to the businesses? Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie stated that the Governor's guidance does provide detailed requirements on how to operate a business going forward and the information was passed along to Lewisburg Downtown Partnership Executive Director Ruby along with information from an essential chain store.

April 28, 2020

Special Project Coordinator/Grant Manager Wheeler added when it is time make the plan for reopening downtown as part of the business forum discussion, an idea of having a unified front and a plan for where hand sanitizer stations would be placed in the downtown came up as a big concern of the businesses. The businesses did ask if the Borough and Lewisburg Downtown Partnership could work on this concern together to see there may be other things to help provide a unified, safe, and sanitary environment for everyone when they come back into town. Borough Manager Lowthert commented that the Borough has had issues obtaining hand sanitizer and hand sanitizer stations. Council President Medina Informed Council and the public that there are some local breweries that are making their own hand sanitizer and could be another option. Councilmember Sulai asked for clarification on hand sanitation stations. Special Project Coordinator/Grant Manager Wheeler explained the stations would be touch free hand sanitizer dispensers mounted at various locations throughout town. Councilmember Sulai says multiple hand sanitizer stations should be considered for the playground areas and at the porta-potty.

Council President Medina stated there will be work session meeting next week and asked Council for topics to be discussed. Councilmember Sulai suggested economic recovery. Councilmember Farrell suggested revitalization efforts and an update on the current COVID-19 numbers and ongoing situation.

Councilmember Sulai suggested possibly having a Council liaison to act as a point person for COVID-19 issues to have an alternate to attend the Union County Municipal Officials Conference calls, Social Services tracking issues related to evictions, homelessness, emergency food supplies etc., Evangelical Hospital and Geisinger Hospital, and Lewisburg Downtown Partnership. Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie shared the he, Borough Manager Lowthert and Mayor Wagner sit in on the Evangelical call reporting the hospitals preparedness. Councilmember Sulai would like to have one Councilmember and an alternate sit in on the Union County Municipal Officials calls and stated the calls are designed for Municipal Officials. Councilmember Yohn volunteered to sit in on the Union County Municipal Official Conference Calls with Councilmember Comas, Borough Manager Lowthert and Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie. Councilmember Sulai added that Sam Pearson submitted a comment that she and Kim Wheeler are attending the Basic Needs Taskforce sessions through the Regional United Way and asked if Sam Pearson and Kim Wheeler would keep Council apprised if a need comes up particularly around homelessness or emergency food.

Councilmember Sulai stated that Council will need to discuss how Council will continue their regular operations going forward because the Council Chambers is small and cannot meet there in person while maintaining social distancing.

Council President Medina acknowledged and thanked everyone in the community for following social distancing, wearing masks, all the essential employees and everyone contributing to the Borough of Lewisburg to make it better and through this crisis.

Borough Manager stated there will be a Zoom work session Tuesday May 5, 2020 at 6:30 PM and the information will be posted on the Borough website and Facebook page for anyone wanting to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline A. Anders
Borough Secretary

**Downtown
Businesses cont.**

**WORK SESSION
Topics**

Council Liaisons

**Future Council
Operations**

**Council President
Acknowledgement
and Thanks**

WORK SESSION

ADJOURNMENT