

The Work Session meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held at 6:30 PM on **Tuesday, May 12, 2020** as a Virtual Zoom Meeting. Present: Council President Medina; Councilmembers Comas, Derman, Farrell, Yohn, Heayn, Sulai and Brody; Mayor Wagner, Manager Lowthert, Secretary Anders, Special Projects Coordinator/Grant Manager Wheeler. Also present: Sam Pearson, Kathy Wendt, Matt Farrand, Kathryn Morris, and Ellen Ruby.

CALL TO ORDER: Council Vice President Comas called the meeting to order at 6:43 PM after some technical difficulty.

Special Projects Coordinator/Grant Manager Wheeler informed the public to submit questions or comments to Council through the Questions and Answers or the Chat function.

Matt Farrand from the Standard Journal emailed the following questions:

- Did people respect social distancing during the first weekend of Condition yellow and were there any complaints?

Borough Manager Lowthert answered that the Borough has not received any complaints about the first weekend. Lewisburg Downtown Partnership Executive Director Ellen Ruby added that they did not receive any complaints either.

- Does anyone see any need to accelerate the process?

Councilmember Comas stated that he believes Councils goal is to follow the legal guidance from the Governor and the Federal Government and had no further comment regarding acceleration.

- Longer term, what impact on Borough projects is anticipated from the fallout from the last couple of months?

Councilmember Comas mentioned that the County extended the due date for face value for property taxes until the last calendar day of 2020. Councilmember Comas also reported that the Borough projects will be able to gear up.

Borough Manager Lowthert reported that the Walker Loomis project and the 2020 Streets project have had about a thirty day delay due to the restrictions. Walker Loomis project should begin in the next day or two and the 2020 Streets project is expected to begin by the end of the month. The CDBG project on South Sixth Street has been re-advertised and has lost about sixty days but it is anticipated that bids will be opened this month and sent to Council for consideration in June. The Paper Alley drainage project is delayed and will possibly be a 2021 project. The Bull Run Flood Restoration project has had little delay and currently permits are being submitted.

Councilmember Derman wanted to ensure public awareness of the yellow phase and the protocol with the phase with possible signs. Executive Director of Lewisburg Neighborhoods Sam Pearson has been working with the Downtown Partnership and the Department of Health regarding getting good information to the public. Executive Director of Lewisburg Neighborhoods Sam Pearson stated Yellow means caution and partial reopening means more vigilance is necessary. There was **lots** of discussion regarding signage, public awareness, and obtaining clear information to convey to the public and businesses.

Councilmember Comas shared that the Governor extended the moratorium on evictions/foreclosures to July 10, 2020. Borough Manager Lowthert informed Council there had been one person who contacted the Borough with a concern regarding eviction and they were referred to the Attorney General's Office in Harrisburg.

Councilmember Derman reviewed the 2-1-1 reports that reflect Union County top needs for food pantries, rent payment assistance, information, and housing related coordinated entry. Union-Snyder Community Action Agency, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Harvest House Christian Fellowship and Eastern Pennsylvania Continuum of Care are the top agency referrals.

Councilmember Comas asked if Councilmember Derman would express the concern of compliance of the published guidelines at the Farmer's Market on Fairground Road at the Wednesday Municipal call.

Borough Manager Lowthert communicated that there has not been any financial impact to the Borough's revenue resources as of the end of April due to COVID-19, but he suspects we will see more of an impact around June.

ATTENDANCE

CALL TO ORDER

Question :
Compliance issues

Answer:
Compliance Issues

Question : Need to
Accelerate

Answer: Need to
Accelerate

Question : Impact
on Projects

Answer: Impact on
Projects

Public Awareness
in Yellow Phase

Governor extends
evictions/foreclosures

2-1-1 Report

Farmer's Market

Financial Impact

May 12, 2020

Union County Sheriff Ritter's statement of refusal to uphold COVID-19 orders was discussed. Mayor Wagner said the items that Sherriff Ritter claim to not uphold are things that he would not normally be responsible to uphold. The Buffalo Valley Regional Police Department would enforce the Borough's Ordinances.

There will be a virtual Public Hearing held May 20, 2020 at 7 pm by SEDA Council of Governments for Union County, Lewisburg, and Kelly Township for Community Development Block Grant CV funding for project funding. There will be approximately \$65,000.00 available for a COVID-19 project. Staff has discussed the potential eligible project of a public sanitary restroom hand washing facility at Hufnagle Park with SEDA Council of Governments.

Councilmember Farrell inquired if the Borough could provide funding to Lewisburg Downtown Partnership to buy equipment for struggling business owners. There was some discussion if the Lewisburg Loan program funds could be utilized. Borough Manager Lowthert suggested they confirm with the Solicitor when Council has ideas for the use. Executive Director of Lewisburg Downtown Partnership Ellen Ruby has not been made aware of any business having financial hardship to open and has conveyed information for funding and supplies to the businesses.

Executive Director of Lewisburg Downtown Partnership Ellen Ruby had a couple of business ask if there has been any discussion on relief for business regarding trash fees. Borough Manager Lowthert answered that Staff has had discussion regarding a possible reduction to the next billing in July for business trash fees that would be presented to Council for discussion.

Councilmember Comas has some concerns regarding the Campus Theatre not being able to open. Executive Director of Lewisburg Neighborhoods Sam Pearson commented that the Pennsylvania Downtown Center has started several task forces for resilience and recovery. One task force will be developing material for large venue and entertainment sites and will be accessible. Executive Director of Lewisburg Neighborhoods Sam Pearson wanted to remind everyone that everything is dependent on public health and anything the Borough can do to help get messaging to the public will help get businesses open.

Borough Manager Lowthert informed Council that Staff will need guidance next week on how Committee meetings will be held going forward and in person meetings. Borough Manager Lowthert has fielded several questions regarding the opening of the parks.

There being no further business, Councilmember Derman made a motion, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline A. Anders
Borough Secretary

Union County
Sheriff

CDBG-CV Public
Hearing

LDP funding

Trash fees for
businesses

Campus Theatre

Future meetings

Adjournment