

The Zoom Work Session meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held at 6:30 PM on **Tuesday, May 5, 2020** as a Virtual Zoom Meeting. Present: Vice Council President Comas; Councilmembers Derman, Farrell, Yohn, Heayn, Sulai and Brody; Manager Lowthert, Secretary Anders, Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie, 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 6:34 PM.

Council Vice President Comas did a roll call of Council Members, Mayor, Staff, and attendees for those calling in by phone.

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.

Councilmember Sulai asked what the current advice is for personal travel outside the region.

Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie has not received any guidance on personal travel but says the best guidance is to default to the general guidance of practicing social distancing, washing hands, wearing a mask, do not gather in mass and limit travel.

Councilmember Comas inquired about the ten-person gathering order being lifted to align with the Governor's yellow phase approach of no more than twenty-five persons and what that means for implementation.

Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie has been in contact with Buffalo Valley Regional Police Chief Yost regarding enforcement and the protentional confusion with gatherings. Union County Emergency Management had no comment on Lewisburg Borough lifting the ten-person gathering ban. To quickly address an immediate issue within the Borough, the Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie implemented the ten-person ban rather than wait for the State general recommendation. The immediacy no longer appears to be present and Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie is hopeful to be on the back end heading down the road of recovery.

Councilmember Comas agrees to stay aligned with the State as much as possible to avoid confusion.

Councilmember Sulai stated from information she has read, she understands that COVID-19 will be an ongoing issue for up to two years and has concerns regarding nursing homes and prisons. Councilmember Sulai believes we are at the backend of trying to flatten the curve and does not deem we are in the recovery phase because of increased cases daily in the world.

Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie quantified based on the data for the area, we are trying to take the best step forward despite the potential of COVID-19 being around for a long period of time and exhibit an ebb and flow. There is one nursing home within the Borough of Lewisburg and Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie trusts the management is going to keep the residents safe through careful observation of employees, limit or restrict visitors, cleaning, and other options.

Councilmember Derman commented a nursing home in the County is not lifting any of their strict restrictions when the County enters the yellow phase to ensure patient safety.

Councilmember Sulai relays there is a strong connection to two of the most vulnerable institutions with the highest rates of death and largest source of infection and the Borough of Lewisburg and public health does not stop at the borders of the Borough.

Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie clarified if a nursing home gets highly infected, the County will be handling the issue and the Borough of Lewisburg will have very limited ability to respond.

**ATTENDANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Question : Travel Outside Region

Answer: Travel Outside Region

Question: Gathering Limit Order

Answer: Gathering Limit Order

COVID-19 possible ongoing issue

COVID-19 Best step forward

Nursing Home Comment and Concern

EMC Nursing Home Response

May 5, 2020

Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie indicated that something he will be looking for and he believes the biggest concern will be when residents start taking vacations and people coming into the area to visit family there will be more exposure.

There was some discussion regarding proper messaging, planning and assisting the public with education regarding COVID-19 to adapt to the new normal.

Borough Manager Lowthert summarized the Flood Plain Restoration project and required FEMA/PEMA information needed, Walker/Loomis project likely to start next week and 2020 Streets project to follow. The CDBG South Sixth Street Floodplain Restoration project has been put out for bid again.

Councilmember Derman attended the Union County Commissioners weekly update and passed along the County's approval to extend real-estate face value tax to December 31, 2020 and election update.

Councilmember Heayn shared with Council that the US Census has been pushed back to be done by the end of October and Census workers will not be arriving soon.

Mayor Wagner relayed that residents could feel safe if they need to go to the Emergency Room because Evangelical Hospital has a separate entrance for COVID-19 and a separate entrance for other illnesses. Mayor Wagner also commented that Evangelical Hospital has enough equipment, Personal Protective Equipment and they are ready for a spike if one should come. Everyone is reminded that community leaders need to lead by example and should do all the good practices of wearing masks, social distancing and washing your hands. Evangelical would also like to bring back some nonessential services and bring back some employees.

Mayor Wagner also shared that there was some discussion regarding the Bureau of Prisons and the 900 people that were brought in from the South do not have the COVID-19, however there have been many custodial workers that have been tested. Borough Manager Lowthert believes the State testing site at Mohegan Sun in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area is open for testing for anyone.

Councilmember Heayn asked if the information regarding the curbside brush pick up could be shared other than on the website and Facebook page. Borough Manager Lowthert confirmed that there was a press release sent to the Standard Journal, Daily Item, and WKOK. Councilmember Yohn inquired if the Borough crews could pick up brush in the alleys also. Borough Manager Lowthert will get an answer next week regarding alley brush pile pick up.

Lewisburg Downtown Partnership Executive Director Ellen Ruby reported the businesses are working to get ready to enter the yellow phase to allow in-person shopping. The businesses are being cautious and aware of wanting to be as safe as they can for staff and anyone entering the businesses. There will be signage outside the store with the requirements to enter. Executive Director Ruby also shared a donation of masks was made to the Lewisburg Downtown Partnership that will be distributed to the business for the employees or anyone that may need one to enter a store. Borough Manager Lowthert added if Lewisburg Downtown Partnership needs more masks, the Borough Office received a donation of masks from The Revival Tabernacle Church in Watsonstown. There was some discussion regarding parking in the downtown and businesses offering curbside pick-up safely placing signs for a designated parking space to offer this service.

Lewisburg Neighborhood Executive Director Sam Pearson suggests there needs to be public outreach messaging regarding the yellow reopening phase and recap the strong need to wear masks, social distancing, washing hands, and keep groups under 25 persons. There was some discussion. Executive Director Pearson also reported there are still volunteers individually performing clean-ups around the Borough.

EMC Vacation Concerns

Derman correction add "new" 5/19/20

Flood Plain Restoration & Streets Project

Union County Commissioners update

Census

Evangelical Hospital Update

Prisons

Curbside Brush Pick-up

Lewisburg Downtown Partnership Update

Derman correction add hyphen 5/19/20

Lewisburg Neighborhood

May 5, 2020

Councilmember Comas inquired about the parks and playgrounds opening. Emergency Management Coordinator Beattie would not recommend opening the parks and playgrounds during the yellow phase.

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

Question/Answer:  
Parks &  
Playground  
Opening

ADJOURNMENT