The Work Session meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 as a Virtual Zoom Meeting. Present: Councilmembers Comas, Derman, Yohn, Heayn, Sulai and Brody; Mayor Wagner, Manager Lowthert, Special Projects Coordinator/Grant Manager Wheeler. Also present: Kathy Wendt, Bucknell University Chief of Police Barilar and BVRPD Chief Yost.

CALL TO ORDER: Council Vice President Comas called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Mayor Wagner stated there are some concerns with the Borough’s Social Gatherings Ordinance 1036 which requires and regulates permits for social gatherings where alcoholic beverages are served or consumed and which is attended at any one time by more than 75 persons, regardless of age. Due to the current pandemic, Mayor Wagner suggested that Council consider lowering the number of persons permitted at a social gathering from more than 75 persons to more than 25 persons.

There was much discussion on the benefits of revising the Social Gathering Ordinance as well as the ability to enforce it. Also discussed was not issuing Social Gathering permits during the pandemic.

Bucknell University Chief of Police Barilar reported that Bucknell University has taken the initiative to limit social gatherings to no more than 50 persons on campus as well as having students sign a “code of conduct” contract pertaining to COVID-19.

The Borough Council directed Borough Manager Lowthert to contact Attorney Lyons to advertise the revised Social Gathering Ordinance which changes the definition of Regulated Social Gathering to “A gathering of persons for the purpose of social interaction where alcoholic beverages are served or consumed and which is attended at any one time by more than 25 persons, regardless of age.” Manager Lowthert stated that after advertising a Special Council meeting can be scheduled and the revised Ordinance can be adopted ten days later. BVRPD Chief Yost and Bucknell University Chief of Police Barilar both agreed that the sooner students and residents can be notified of this revision the better.

Councilmember Heayn stated that there was a concern with businesses blocking the sidewalks with tables and making it more difficult to walk downtown. Manager Lowthert will follow-up with Ellen Ruby, Executive Director of Lewisburg Downtown Partnership, regarding this issue.

Borough Manager Lowthert reported that with Council President Medina vacated his Ward IV Borough Council seat and that the Councilmembers have 30 days to appoint a replacement or it will go to the Vacancy Board for appointment. Borough Manager Lowthert suggested that a decision be made at the next Borough Council meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2020.

Borough Manager Lowthert reported that hand sanitizing units have been received and the staff are currently monitoring a unit that was installed in Hufnagle Park. Once confirmed that the unit installed at Hufnagle Park is working properly then the remaining sanitizing units will be installed at the other parks throughout the Borough. Borough Manager Lowthert also reported that all play equipment has been sanitized and safety surfaces have been replaced where needed. With no objections, Borough Manager Lowthert will be opening the parks once all sanitizing units are installed along with the posting of Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidelines on prevention.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy D. Wendt
Accounting Clerk I