

**WORMLEYSBURG BOROUGH
COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 12, 2020**

The monthly meeting of the Wormleysburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 on the Zoom platform with Borough Manager Deborah Ealer acting as Host. Council President Thomas Martini called the meeting to order at 7:48 p.m. (Deviation from announced time was caused by a technical difficulty.) He noted that authority to meet virtually was granted recently under amendments to Title 53 which permits municipal governing bodies to meet by tele-communications devices during the current state of emergency related to Corona Virus 2019. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Martini.

Borough Manager Deb Ealer called the Roll.

President Thomas L. Martini	-	Present
Mayor George O. Preble	-	Present
Vice-President Stephen M. Hawbecker	-	Present
Mr. Joseph Deklinski	-	Present
Mr. George Kahler	-	Present
Ms. Sue Stuart	-	Present
Mr. Warren Stumpf	-	Present
Ms. Margaret Stuski	-	Present

Also signed into the meeting were the following individuals: Borough Solicitor Bryan Salzmann, Esq.; West Shore Regional Police (WSRP) Chief Michael Hope; Steven Deck, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, and Jason Frank, West Shore Bureau of Fire. Resident Tess Bockes from South Front Street joined the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

President Martini introduced Steven Deck, Executive Director of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and asked him to update Council on recent activities related to the Market Street Bicycle/Pedestrian Accommodation Study, otherwise known as the Bottleneck Study.

Mr. Deck thanked Council for the opportunity to present and promised an overview of key points and questions. He noted that he had Council's March 11, 2020, letter expressing multiple serious concerns about TCRPC's proposed plan to reduce traffic lanes in the Bottleneck. He showed two photos of the westbound end of Market Street looking eastbound toward the 3rd Street intersection at Market Street – one photo as it currently stands; the other, as proposed with one traffic lane removed, five-foot bike lanes, and new curb.

He also displayed the "All" tab from the study data, which shows how traffic has changed over 20 years. Data from five locations in and near the bottleneck in both directions is reported as annual average daily traffic (AADT). He theorized that the minor decline in traffic volumes during 2014-2015 was due to the work done on the I-83 Bridge, which added lanes allowing traffic to flow more freely between the east and west shores on the interstate.

In the proposed plan, the two westbound lanes remain the same, but the eastbound lanes are reduced to one for traffic and a five-foot bike lane and a one-foot buffer to protect vehicles from the curb. He speculated that this would result in better flow but likely result in a slightly lower number of cars in front of the restaurants. The study does indicate that there are traffic delays under the bridges coming to the lights, but he believes that it is not the lane capacity but the traffic light working against traffic moving through smoothly.

Mr. Deck noted that the existing 50-year old traffic light located at and under the working railroad bridge where it accesses the Market Street Bridge is owned by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). It must be replaced with a modern light capable of reading traffic volumes, reacting, and continually adjusting light timing to improve flow, and this must be accounted for by the engineers during roadbed planning. PennDOT would like to turn the light over to a municipality, and the replacement costs might be mitigated with state grants. He stated that the key to making the proposed concept work is the new traffic light. One will not work without the other.

Mr. Martini suggested that an actual lane test might be beneficial. He also noted that replacing and the ultimate ownership of the light has not been discussed or determined. It could be owned either separately by Wormleysburg or Lemoyne or jointly; however, that is typically not preferred due to cost sharing issues that typically arise.

Ms. Stuart noted that the AADT data does not accurately reflect the tremendous vehicle volume during normal rush hours, which would be exacerbated by losing a lane. Neither does it account for the potential loss of walk-ins to local business due to vehicles that take other routes. She expressed concern that this is a weighty topic that cannot be addressed appropriately in this setting and asked for a meeting to address the specific issues related to this study.

Ms. Stuski indicated that she has deeper concerns about the plan than can be handled in a Council meeting. She noted that Wormleysburg is landlocked with three bridges, which can and do become blocked quickly during emergencies, accidents, or even during events and annual fireworks displays. Traffic backlog can quickly result in potentially isolating the majority of residents during an emergency. She asked if anyone had looked at disaster management in the entire

region as a part of a safety study incorporating the insufficiency of bridges, rather than traffic in just one intersection. She also pointed out that bicycles in between traffic lanes and curving curbs could represent a profound danger to cyclists. Noting there are still many unanswered questions, she asked for answers on behalf of residents from PennDOT, TCRPC and other interested parties. Bigger picture questions include why not buy the land and straighten out the road properly. She is looking for leadership, especially now that we understand better what a pandemic emergency can do to communities and people.

Mr. Deklinski thanked Mr. Deck for attending the meeting but indicated that the study data alone does not address real issues in Wormleysburg. He feels it is very important to talk about these issues in a different forum. In addition to the study data, he has serious concerns about moving fire and emergency management apparatus in that corridor, along with other concerns.

Mr. Martini thanked Mr. Deck for this information and indicated that he would like to have another meeting to focus on this topic.

ACTION: On motion made by Ms. Stuski and seconded by Mr. Stumpf, Council unanimously agreed to host a separate meeting specifically to review the study, ask additional questions, detail our concerns, and add to the public record. Specifically, we request additional public safety information related to the concerns notes and those in the March 11 letter.

Mr. Deck exited the meeting after the vote at 8:11 p.m. The agenda continued.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

ACTION: On motion made by Mr. Deklinski and seconded by Ms. Stuski, the minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments.

BUILDING PLANS

There were no building plans.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

REPORTS FROM APPOINTED BOROUGH OFFICERS

Borough Manager/Secretary

Council accepted the Borough Manager's monthly report, which was emailed earlier, with no questions.

Borough Treasurer

Treasurer Ealer presented the March and April reports. There were no questions.

ACTION: On motion made Ms. Stuski and seconded by Mr. Hawbecker, the March and April Treasurer's reports were approved unanimously as presented and send to the file for audit.

Borough Solicitor

Attorney Salzman reported that he had contacted the Redevelopment Authority solicitor handing the blighted property at 120-124 South Front Street and has had no reply to the proposed edits to their documents. Counsel had no other report.

Borough Engineer

Mr. Deklinski thanked Counsel for his continuing work on the Front Street problem. The RFP seeking bids for a new borough engineer was sent out to six prospective companies and the Borough received four responses from: HRG, Navarro & Wright, Rettew, and Wilson Engineering. Proposals will be evaluated shortly by Streets Committee and develop a recommendation by the end of the month. Our current engineer, Redcon, opted not to offer a proposal.

Counsel offered to provide a standard consulting engineering agreement that is designed specifically for municipalities. It clarifies issues such as ownership of documents, liability limitations, payment processes, and similar concerns. Mr. Deklinski thanked Counsel for his offer.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Martini asked for a vote on Resolution 2020-04, which is the *Continued Proclamation of Local Disaster Emergency*. It ratifies the original and subsequent (every seven days) Declarations of Disaster Emergency beginning in March 2020. This resolution contains a self-renewal clause that allows it to recommence without the Mayor's signature so long as the Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak issued by President Donald J. Trump remains in effect or so long as the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued by Governor Tom Wolf remains in effect.

ACTION: On motion made by Mr. Deklinski, seconded by Mr. Kahler, Council unanimously approved Resolution 2020-04 continually adopting the Emergency Declaration.

Mr. Martini asked for a vote on Resolution 2020-05, which *Temporarily Authorizes Employee Use of Paid Administrative Leave During COVID-19 Emergency*. This resolution allows the Borough Manager to order employees to

stay home or to work as needed and use administrative leave in accordance with the employee's individual situation and job responsibilities.

ACTION: On motion made by Ms. Stuart, seconded by Mr. Deklinski, Council unanimously approved Resolution 2020-05.

Mr. Martini asked for a vote on Resolution 2020-06, entitled *Grant Authorization*, which affirms actions taken at the March meeting to formally empower the Borough Manager to seek grant funding to underwrite the cost of a strategic plan and related expenses. The Resolution, which commits the Borough to \$25,000 in matching grant funds, is required by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development when making grant applications.

ACTION: On motion made by Mr. Deklinski, seconded by Mr. Stumpf, Council unanimously approved Resolution 2020-06.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Preble reviewed the monthly report from West Shore Regional Police Department (WSRP), which was sent by email. There were no questions.

Chief Hope reported that National Night Out has been cancelled since all the businesses who donate and participate are closed. Plans are to return to Wormleysburg next year at the Greek Church.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative Committee

ACTION: On motion made by Mr. Hawbecker and seconded by Ms. Stuski, Council unanimously approved the distribution of funds as follows (as evidenced by the check register dated 3/10/20 to 5/11/20).

<u>Accounts</u>	<u>Number of Checks</u>	<u>Distribution Summary</u>
General Fund	92	\$ 305,764.81
Fire Tax Fund	5	\$ 42,093.75
<u>Sewer Fund</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>\$ 193,772.82</u>
Total Activity	174	\$ 541,631.38

Parks, Public Lands and Recreation Committee, COG

Ms. Stuski noted that Bill Weigle had cancelled this year's Riverfront Clean-up Day before we learned, sadly, that he had passed away. His passing creates openings on the Recreation and Zoning Hearing Boards.

ACTION: On motion made by Mr. Deklinski and seconded by Ms. Stuski, Council unanimously approved the proposal to rename the Pine Street Park in memory of William "Bill" Weigle.

Council agreed to host a memorial ceremony to place a plaque or stone and to celebrate Mr. Weigle's contributions when the emergency order is lifted. We did receive a notice to proceed with the playground renovation. Parks remain closed and the Committee will review options for cleaning playground equipment when the emergency order is lifted. The May meeting of the Capital Regional Council of Governments was cancelled. The Safer grant for \$2.8 million for 21 fire companies is ready for submission.

Planning Commission and Streets, Sanitary/Highway Committee

Mr. Deklinski reported the Borough crew is cutting grass and keeping Borough properties and streets in shape. River Day remains on the schedule but he will make a decision by the end of the month.

Service/Property Committee

Mr. Kahler is reviewing the trash contract with the Borough Manager.

Codes Enforcement, Zoning, Sidewalks and Shade Trees Committee

Ms. Stuart had no report.

Public Safety Committee

ACTION: On motion made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Ms. Stuski, Council unanimously approved the West Shore Bureau of Fire Major Incident Types and Classification reports for April 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Martini acknowledged the loss of life-long Borough resident Bill Weigel, who passed away. A brief obituary notice will be added to the website. He will be missed by all.

Resident Tess Bockes thanked the West Shore Regional Police Department for handling nuisance activities in riverfront park promptly and effectively.

OLD BUSINESS

Borough Manager Ealer thanked Jason Frank from West Shore Bureau of Fire for sending out daily reports and working on the reimbursement grant.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Mr. Deklinski, Council meeting adjourned at 8:38p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Stuart
Acting Recording Secretary

Deborah Ealer
Borough Manager

**BOROUGH OF WORMLEYSBURG
20 MARKET STREET • WORMLEYSBURG, PA 17043**