

MILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Zoom Call due to COVID-19

April 8, 2020
7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order with the following Councilpersons were in attendance on the Zoom Call: Mr. Shearer, Mr. Walker, Mr. Robol, Mr. Morales, Mrs. Meckley, Mr. Specht, Mr. John Pfeil, Mr. Dale Pfeil, Ms. Fawess, and Mr. Swartz. Also on the Zoom Call were Jess Novinger, Shelly Sandstrom, Attorney Benion, Chief Zettlemyer, Scott Derr, Sam Shaffer, and Kevin Mertz. Mayor Nelson, and Doug Diehl were not on the Zoom Call.

Minutes: On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Dale Pfeil and carried, Council approved the minutes from the March 11, 2020 meeting.

On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Ms. Fawess and carried, Council approved the minutes from the March 25, 2020 meeting.

Report of the Borough Manager: Ms. Novinger reported that she has been diligently keeping up with all the ever-changing regulations and best practices of the COVID-19 health pandemic.

Because of the COVID-19 and all of the uncertainty surrounding this virus and the current state of the world, it is her recommendation, after consulting with her department heads, that we do not open the Milton Community Pool for the 2020 season. She explained that there is a multitude of uncertainty moving forward but the following items are her biggest concerns:

- The pump house wall needs replaced due to deterioration, age, and pressure from the water table. We were in the process of getting quotes on repairing the wall prior to the COVID-19, however all construction is now at a halt and the Borough is unable to make this repair.
- Due to supply chain issues we are unsure that we can get all the needed chemicals, paper products, and supplies needed to operate the pool.
- She is uncertain that staff can be hired in time at this point as background checks, training, and we have no idea when the “stay-at-home” order will be lifted. With most of our staff being college students, I am unsure if they will have to attend summer school.
- The Public Works Department is down three workers because of voluntary layoffs. The pool takes a great amount of effort to get ready.
- Can the concession stand operate, get the necessary supplies, and be inspected?
- She is unsure if the Water Company can provide the water to fill the pool.
- All fundraising efforts by the Pool Committee have been postponed indefinitely at this point. Therefore, the pool will be entirely funded by general fund for opening, operating and maintenance costs.
- We are unsure of when the social distancing regulations will be lifted.

- There is a significant leak in the diving well area of the pool that has not been identified and the Borough cannot proceed with this issue until construction can resume.

Mr. John Pfeil asked Ms. Novinger if the work on the pool would be completed this summer and she responded that it would.

Mr. Dale Pfeil asked if we had to make this decision tonight. Ms. Novinger responded that she has discussed this with Sam and Shelly, as well as members of the Pool Committee. If we extend the decision, it would be difficult to hire staff. We also have no idea when the social distancing will be lifted. Sam Shaffer stated that it would be difficult to open in time due to minimal staffing and the work needed to open the pool. Mr. Walker asked if the Public Works Department could do the necessary work on the pool. Sam responded that the masonry work on the pump house would have to be done by an outside source as no one in the Department has that type of masonry skills. Ms. Sandstrom stated that given the uncertainty of when the stay at home order will be lifted and when school may end to free up potential staff, there is probably not enough time to have the necessary personnel in place to operate the pool. There are also concerns as to whether supplies to operate the concession stand can be obtained if we are even able to serve food. She also stated that many communities are having the same dilemma right now. The entire country is going through this and what to do with outside pools. Ms. Novinger stated that she does not make this recommendation lightly as she was looking forward to the pool season. On motion of Mr. John Pfeil, seconded by Ms. Fawess and carried, Council voted to not open the Milton Community Pool for the 2020 season. There was a roll-call vote on this with the motion being to not open the Community Pool with the following results: Mr. Robol – yes; Mrs. Meckley – no; Mr. Moralez – yes; Mr. John Pfeil – yes; Mr. Swartz – yes; Mr. Walker – no; Mr. Specht – yes; Ms. Fawess – yes; Mr. Shearer – yes, Mr. Dale Pfeil – no. With a result of 7-3, the motion carried.

Next, Ms. Novinger reported that Spring Brush/Leaf Clean Up has been scheduled for the week of April 27th – Friday, May 2nd by ward. This will be advertised on our Facebook page, website and in the Standard-Journal.

Report of the Mayor: Mayor Nelson was not on the zoom call.

Report of the President of Council: President Shearer had no report.

Report of Chief of Police: Chief Zettlemoyer reported that the Department has received numerous calls from residents concerned about various businesses which have been operational since the stay at home order was put in place. He said the businesses were found to be on the list of those approved to operate or received waivers from the State to continue operations. He also noted that numerous vehicles from out of the area have been seen in Milton in recent weeks. He then stated that the Corona virus is here and that community members need to wear masks and practice social distancing.

Report of Public Works Director: Sam Shaffer reported that the department continues to work on the parks and cemeteries. Three of his staff have taken voluntary layoffs. He is keeping his crew separated as much as possible. President Shearer asked the status of the chipper. Sam said that is back up and running. President Sheard thanked them for their work on the chipper.

Report of the Fire Chief: Scott Derr stated that the department's ambulance transported three patients from the borough who tested positive for COVID-19. In addition Scott said that the ambulance has transported quite a few more patients from the Borough who are still awaiting their COVID-19 test results.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Highways and Protection to Persons and Property: No report

General Government and Recreation:

- A. On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Walker and carried, Council approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Borough and 4 Paws Sake PA.
- B. On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Swartz and carried, Council approved cancelling the 2nd meeting of each month due to the COVID-19 pandemic until further notice.

Finance, Health and Sanitation

- A. On motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mr. Specht and carried, Council approved paying the bills from General Fund, Reserve, Payroll, Community Pool and Cemetery accounts in the amount of \$191,959.02.

Mr. John Pfeil asked Ms. Novinger to send Council reports when they are completed.

Mr. Robol asked if we knew when the Recycling Center would re-open. Mrs. Meckley responded that the Lycoming County Recycling Center would not be re-opening before May 1st.

President Shearer spoke to both the public and the press in saying that Council is trying to keep agendas short and to the point due to the current situation. We will deal with things as they arise and decide what is needed to be on the agenda.

There being no further questions or business, on motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Ms. Fawess and carried, Council adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Shelly Sandstrom
Secretary/Treasurer