

Clifton Heights Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2020

The regularly scheduled meeting from Tuesday, March 17th was moved to Thursday, March 19th to allow for a plan to be put in place to accommodate the Governor's order that the size of groups that gather be limited in size.

Present:

Ronald Berry, Council President (at Borough Hall)
Leona Papale, Vice President (via telephone)
Mark Campbell, Councilman (at Borough Hall)
Mike Humphreys, Councilman (via telephone)
Timothy O'Hara, Councilman (via telephone)
Karen Peterson, Councilwoman (via telephone)
Harris Resnick, Councilman (via telephone)
Fred Rich, Councilman (via telephone)

Others Present:

Joe Lombardo, Mayor (at Borough Hall)
John Perfetti, Interim Borough Manager (at Borough Hall)
Francis Catania, Solicitor (via telephone)

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer led by Mayor Lombardo

Public Comment:

Sherry Rich, 82 Chester Ave., said that she wasn't able to get the phone number and pin for the meeting and she probably left a not very nice message about it. She asked if they had to continue with this meeting setup moving forward, if they could post the call-in information online on the Borough's website.

President Berry said that the information was posted online.

Mrs. Rich said that the information on the website said to call the Borough. She said that when she called the Borough she had to leave a voicemail in the general inbox.

Declaration:

Mr. Catania said that the main item on the agenda for the evening would be the ratification of the Declaration of Emergency that the Mayor signed on Saturday, March 14th. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Code requires that the Council act on that within 7 days to either end or extend the Declaration. The recommendation of the Public Safety officials within the Borough is to extend that Declaration. He explained that the Resolution has been posted on the website, the public has notice of it and can offer comments before the vote. He said that the Resolution is intended to be

very broad. It ratifies and confirms the Mayor as the Public Safety Emergency Management Coordinator who can appoint deputies. It lessens the typical burdens that the Borough operates under and allows Borough personnel to make immediate purchases without bidding, waiving those requirements. It also allows for entering into contracts or, if necessary, borrowing money without the approval, but under the review of Council. He said that the idea is to allow for the staff and professionals that the Borough has to act to meet the emergency necessities with as much flexibility as possible. He noted that it has been posted on the website for a couple of days with the continuity of operations plan and the Mayor's Declaration from Saturday. He asked if there were any question from Council.

There were none.

He asked if there were any questions from the public on the line.

There were none.

Solicitor Catania said that the vote would be to approve the Resolution and extend the Declaration of Emergency indefinitely until the Council meets again to either amend or discontinue the Declaration. He also noted that Mrs. Rich's opening comments were well taken because he imagines that they will have to hold at least one more meeting if not more in this fashion moving forward.

A motion was made by Timothy O'Hara to approve Resolution 03-2020 ratifying the Mayor's Declaration of Emergency and extending the Declaration indefinitely until Council deems it necessary to amend or discontinue the Declaration; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Solicitor Catania noted that the list of bills that the Manager has will be processed in the normal course of business and would be available for review from any member of Council. He said that they can be ratified the next time that they are able to meet, but the Resolution allows for them to be processed as necessary moving forward. He said that the Governor is expected to pass his own Proclamation this evening. He has made a list and categorized businesses as essential and non-essential, and any businesses deemed non-essential, like legal services, must close. He said that the idea is to keep as many people at home as possible and to limit interaction and practice social distancing. He said that these are certainly unique and potentially dangerous times.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Vice President Papale to accept the February 2020 meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Treasurer's Report/Bill List:

A motion was made by Vice President Papale to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Closing Public Comment:

Sherry Rich, 82 Chester Ave., asked them all to stay safe and be well.

Councilman Resnick asked about the status of the lease.

Solicitor Catania said they had received a lot of comments but he hadn't been able to work on circulating the information with the current coronavirus situation. He said that he would work on that when he was able to get back to work.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Resnick to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Rich; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary