

BOROUGH COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020
5:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CALL TO ORDER: This meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by President Joseph A. Pompa.

PRESENT: A quorum was present including members of Council as follows: Joseph A. Pompa; Brady Leahey; Sean Burke; Richard A. Scholton; and Michele Baker. Others in attendance: Borough Manager Jim Gehret; Borough Secretary Patricia J. Duron; and Borough Solicitor Nathan Karn. James Mielnik and Joyce Lowe were absent. Mayor Dodson was present via cell phone.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nothing.

MANAGER REPORT: Mr. Gehret advised Council of the restriction of public access to the municipal building due to the NOVID – 19, which began on March 18, 2020. He also advised of the current status of operations in various departments.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-7: Mr. Pompa asked for Council’s consideration of Resolution No. 2020-7 to declare a disaster emergency. A motion was made by Mr. Leahey and was seconded by Ms. Baker. A vote was taken and all members present voted in favor, with the motion carrying, five votes to zero votes.

RESOLUTION 2020-7

A Resolution Declaring a Disaster Emergency

WHEREAS, as evidenced by the President of the United States’ National Emergency Declaration, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Emergency Disaster Declaration, and order of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court closing all courts except for certain essential functions, which includes the Blair County Court of Common Pleas located in the Borough of Hollidaysburg, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic has caused or threatens to cause injury, damage, and suffering to the persons and institutions of the Borough of Hollidaysburg; and

WHEREAS, Council of the Borough of Hollidaysburg believes action is necessary to support government operations and to be better prepared to manage the evolving Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic as declared by the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC); and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic has endangered the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Borough of Hollidaysburg, and threatens to create problems greater in scope than the Borough Manager, the Mayor and/or Council may be able to resolve without the flexibility to take certain actions at certain times; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in the Borough of Hollidaysburg.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Council for the Borough of Hollidaysburg, pursuant to the provisions of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Section 7501 *et seq.*, as amended

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(Emergency Management Services Code) (35 PA C.S., Section 7501), do hereby proclaim pursuant to Section 7501(b) the existence of a disaster emergency in the Borough of Hollidaysburg with respect to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council directs the Borough of Hollidaysburg Emergency Management Coordinator to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 7501(d) that the Council authorizes officials of the Borough of Hollidaysburg to act as necessary to meet the current demands of this emergency all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements), including but not limited to the following: the expenditure of public funds; the adjustment of Borough facility operation hours and the manner of operation of offices and departments; employment of temporary workers; rental of equipment; purchase of supplies and materials; the entering into such contracts and agreements for the performance of public work as may be required to meet the emergency; and collective bargaining related to the need for changes in labor contracts necessitated solely by this declared emergency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that during this emergency, the Council may utilize when necessary the use of Emergency Meetings under the Pennsylvania Open Meetings Law (65 Pa.C.S.A. §701 *et seq.*) and will endeavor to provide news media one hours' notice of the same, will record the meeting, and make such recording available on its website following the meeting, endeavoring to do so within twelve (12) hours of the end of such meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this declaration of disaster emergency shall remain in effect until rescinded by a resolution of the Council of the Borough of Hollidaysburg.

DULY, adopted by the Council of the Borough of Hollidaysburg, Blair County, Pennsylvania, this 19th day of March, 2020.

Joseph A. Pompa, President of Council

ATTEST:

Patricia J. Duron, Secretary

ADJOURN: President Pompa adjourned the meeting at 5:40 PM.

Patricia J. Duron, Secretary