

**BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
MAYOR & COUNCIL**

JULY 6, 2020

Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and read the Presiding Officer's Statement.

Sunshine Statement

The 48-Hours' Notice requirements provided for in the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given by transmission to the Asbury Park Press and the Two River Times and by posting on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on May 29, 2020.

Roll Call

Present: Councilwoman Deidre DerAsadourian
Councilman Jeff DeSalvo
Councilman Don Eddy
Councilwoman Kim Doran Eulner
Councilman Brendan Gilmartin
Councilman Jason Sena

Also Present: Mayor Erik Anderson
Bruce Padula, Borough Attorney
Maureen L. Muttie, Clerk/Administrator

Absent: None

Salute to Flag

Led by Mayor Erik Anderson.

Consent Agenda

Councilman Eddy motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilman DeSalvo, and approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eddy, Eulner, Gilmartin and Sena
Nays: None
Abstain: None

RESOLUTION 2020-085 - APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE ROADWAY & SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS TO WHITE STREET PROJECT

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Council of the Borough of Shrewsbury formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2021-00691 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of Shrewsbury.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Borough of Shrewsbury and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

**RESOLUTION 2020-086 - REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEM OF REVENUE
AND APPROPRIATION – N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87**

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount, and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Shrewsbury has received notice of an award of \$17,205.10 from the County of Monmouth and anticipates an additional award of \$8,000 and wishes to amend the 2020 Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Shrewsbury, in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2020 in the sum of \$25,205.10

Which is now available as a revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues:

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated
with Prior Written Consent of the Director of the
Division of Local Government Services:

State and Federal Revenues Off-set with
Appropriations:

County of Monmouth-
Coronavirus Relief Fund Program \$ 25,205.10

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of..... \$ 25,205.10

be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations:

(a) Operations Excluded from CAPS
State and Federal Programs Off-Set by
Revenues:

County of Monmouth-
Coronavirus Relief Fund Program \$ 25,205.10

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Finance Officer will file the Budget Amendment Certification Form and resolution to the Director of Local Government Services for approval.

**RESOLUTION 2020-087 - NEW JERSEY SAFE AND SECURE
COMMUNITIES PROGRAM**

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Shrewsbury wishes to apply for funding of \$25,895.00 with a match of \$124,800.61 for a project total cost of \$150,695.61 under the Safe and Secure Communities Program (**Grant # P-20-1344**) from 08-01-2019 through 07-31-2020; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Shrewsbury has reviewed the accompanying application and has approved said request; and

WHEREAS, the project is a joint effort between the Department of Law and Public Safety and the Borough of Shrewsbury, for the purpose described in the application.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Shrewsbury Mayor and Council that

- 1) As a matter of public policy, the Borough of Shrewsbury wishes to participate to the fullest extent possible with the Department of Law and Public Safety.
- 2) The Attorney General will receive funds on behalf of the applicant.
- 3) The Division of Criminal Justice shall be responsible for the receipt and review of the applications for said funds.
- 4) The Division of Criminal Justice shall initiate allocations to each applicant as authorized.

**RESOLUTION 2020-088 - AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT
THE FOUNDATION FOR SHREWSBURY EDUCATION'S ANNUAL 5K
AND TO HANG BANNER OVER PATTERSON AVENUE**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and the Council of the Borough of Shrewsbury does hereby approve the request for the Foundation for Shrewsbury Education's Annual Shrewsbury 5K to be held on Sunday, October 18, 2020, from 8:30am until approximately 10:00am.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and the Council does hereby approve a banner to be hung over Patterson Avenue from October 4, 2020 through October 19, 2020.

**RESOLUTION 2020-089 - APPROVING THE BILL LIST FOR JULY 6, 2020 AND
AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Shrewsbury received certain claims against it by way of voucher in the amount of \$334,271.44 for the period ending July 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has reviewed the aforementioned claims.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Borough of Shrewsbury that the attached claims are hereby approved for payment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be given to the Chief Financial Officer.

Councilman Eddy motioned to approve the addition of Resolution 2020-090 Capital Budget Amendment for purchase of an OEM Vehicle, seconded by Councilwoman Eulner, and approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eddy, Eulner, Gilmartin and Sena
Nays: None
Abstain: None

Ordinances – Second Reading/Public Hearing:

Ordinance No. 2020-1071: An Ordinance Establishing Chapter 146 Entitled “Landscaping, Landscaper Licensing, Registration, and Noise” of the Code of the Borough of Shrewsbury

ORDINANCE 2020-1071

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 146
ENTITLED, “LANDSCAPING, LANDSCAPER LICENSING,
REGISTRATION, AND NOISE” OF THE CODE OF THE
BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY**

WHEREAS, the Borough values residential and commercial property maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the Borough also appreciates the need for noise reasonable restriction; and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to balance the two stated values in the best interest of the health safety and welfare of its’ residents and businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Shrewsbury hereby **ORDAIN** as follows:

SECTION I

There is hereby established in the Code of the Borough of Shrewsbury a Chapter 140, entitled “Landscaping, Landscaper Licensing, Registration, and Noise,” which shall read:

140-1: Purpose.

No person shall landscape on or engage in any landscaping on any public or private property within the Borough for hire without first registering with the Borough Clerk on forms to be supplied by the Borough.

140-2: Definitions.

FOR HIRE – to demand and/or accept payment or compensation for completion of services.

LANDSCAPE and LANDSCAPING – business, occupation, or trade of adorning or improving property or portion of property by trimming or cutting grass and/or shrubs; planting; installing or removing leaves, branches, grass, flowers, mulch, hedges, or shrubs; planting, removing, or installing trees; or similar business activities. This shall also include the solicitation of the services and products described herein.

140-3: Application, registration, fees.

a. At the time of registration, applicants shall certify that they have received copies, understand, and shall comply with the applicable Borough ordinances, policies, and provisions.

b. Each registration shall be issued and renewed annually, effective February of each year upon the Borough's acceptance of a \$10.00 fee. This fee shall be assessed and paid with each registration annually.

c. Registration shall not be required for services otherwise requiring registration to be performed by the owner or tenant of such real property belonging or under the care of the owner or tenant.

d. The Borough make no such affirmation, representation, support, or guarantee regarding the fitness, knowledge, or qualification of any person or entity that is registered by the Borough pursuant to this Chapter.

140-4: Noise.

In addition to the Borough's existing ordinances pertaining to noise restriction, Landscapers for hire shall not make or cause to make audible noise by landscape, erection, excavation, demolition, alteration, or repair of any real property or improvements thereon other than between the hours of 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM on Saturday, and in no case on Sunday.

Residents performing landscaping services on their own property shall not make or cause to make audible noise by landscape, erection, excavation, demolition, alteration or repair to their real property and improvements thereon other than between the hours of 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM on Saturday, and 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM on Sunday.

140-5: Penalties.

Any person or entity in violation of any provision of this Chapter shall, upon conviction, pay a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200.00). Each day a violation occurs, even if in continuance of a prior day's activities, shall constitute a separate violation.

SECTION II

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are repealed to the extent of such inconsistency. The Borough Clerk is authorized to renumber and/or re-codify any sections affected by such repeal to the extent consistent with this Ordinance.

SECTION III

If any word, phrase, clause, section or provision of this Ordinance shall be found by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, illegal or unconstitutional such word, phrase, clause, section or provision shall be severable from the balance of the Ordinance and the remainder of the Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION IV

This Ordinance shall take effect upon publication thereof after final passage according to law.

Open the Floor to the Public

Mayor Anderson opened the floor to the public to discuss Ordinance No. 2020-1071.

Resident's Name/Address inaudible - Inquired what information would be needed on the Landscaping registration Form.

Ms. Muttie stated that the form has not yet been created; however, the form would require information about the landscaper—their contact information, license number, etc. The resident questioned whether this information could be interpreted as discriminatory. Mayor Anderson emphasized that the request for licensing was not their driver's license. He added that landscapers aren't abiding by Shrewsbury's ordinances regarding grass clippings in the road as well as time and day boundaries for doing the work. Bruce Padula, Borough Attorney stated that

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the registration requirements only apply to commercial landscapers. He added that homeowners would be addressed personally on a case-by case basis.

Ed Kosberg, 91 Beechwood Drive – Mr. Kosberg inquired whether this was a significant problem.

Mayor Anderson responded that resident complaints began in April regarding grass cutting and landscape maintenance during off-general business hours. He added that it was necessary to address uniformity regarding the hours of operations for commercial landscapers. He also stated that homeowners would have different time boundaries regarding their own landscape maintenance. Mr. Kosberg questioned whether it would be easier to notify the homeowner to address the ordinance violation with the landscaper directly, so it doesn't impede on the landscapers' ability to continue their workday. He also inquired about the cost of the commercial registration. Mayor Anderson responded that the cost would be \$10.00. Councilwoman Eulner emphasized that the fee is once per year, not per client. Mr. Kosberg has concerns of the overall cost to the landscapers, as they probably have clients in multiple towns, each having their own ordinances governing landscaping maintenance. He felt that the town could handle this situation differently by only notifying the homeowner to address concerns. Mr. Kosberg further inquired whether there were additional landscaper concerns. Councilman Eddy stated that there are continued problems with leaves and grass being dumped in the town's stormwater management system, as well as problems related to cutting down trees and not cutting the branches properly for efficient disposal. Mr. Kosberg stated that he has witnessed other residents emulating the same type of tree-cutting procedure. He inquired how this would be addressed with homeowners. Mayor Anderson stated that the town's code enforcement officer addresses these issues. Councilman Eddy explained that the town wants the landscapers and homeowners to understand what the rules and regulations are, so there's no misunderstanding of what is acceptable under the ordinance. Mr. Kosberg asked if the new regulations are going to be enforced with everyone and whether there's a fine. Mayor Anderson emphasized that fining the residents is not the goal. He added, we're not looking to be punitive. Mayor Anderson commented that Mr. Kosberg made a good point about the neighbors just working it out themselves. However, they don't. Mayor Anderson explained that over 20 to 30 calls are received in a season complaining about the neighbors. Then we must step in to try to mitigate and remedy the dispute between them. Also, there were questions regarding acceptable hours of operation and designated time periods. There is an ordinance regarding construction and when you can do construction in the Borough. Mayor Anderson commented that arguably, you could say that maybe landscaping fits underneath that, but the goal is to make it absolutely clear, for example, that you can only cut grass on six days during the week as a commercial landscaper between designated time periods. So that's why we had to do this because unfortunately, many residents don't want to reach out to the neighbors to say, "Hey, you guys were cutting grass at 6:30 this morning." Mr. Kosberg also inquired about grass cuttings, whether there will be a fine and what the enforcement mechanism is. Mayor Anderson stated that enforcement is through the Borough's Code Enforcement Officer. He added that through registration, the identity of the landscaper would be known.

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Mr. Kosberg asked what happens to the homeowner. Mayor Anderson responded, normally what we do is give warnings. Ultimately, if a resident or a commercial enterprise doesn't do what they're supposed to do, they'll get a summons, but we don't want to do that.

Marjorie Clark, 213 Garden Road – Mrs. Clark asked for clarification on the Borough's definition and identification of what is considered landscaping.

Mayor Anderson read the definition from the ordinance: "... a business, occupation or trade, which involves improving property or portion of property by trimming, cutting grass or shrubs or planting, installing removing leaves, branches, grass, flowers, mulch, hedges, shrubs.'

Mrs. Clark expressed concern that the insurance and money cost might cause limitations or disadvantages for landscapers and might turn people away from cutting lawns or being last on the list.

Councilwoman Eulner responded the fee is small. It's a \$10 fee because we're going to have administrative costs related to maintaining this. So, if someone comes in, it's for one year, and \$10, in my mind would not be disadvantaging a landscaper. If that's the case, then maybe they raise their fee 50 cents for each client.

Mrs. Clark responded by saying that she thinks it's one more piece of regulation. In this instance, it might turn people off.

Mayor Anderson responded by saying he would love nothing more than have to not pass an ordinance to tell people when they should be considerate to their neighbors. But unfortunately, they're not and we'll deal with it. I've probably received with Maureen, 20+ quality-of-life complaints from residents about lawn cutting and landscaping and people doing things too early or doing it Sunday at 6pm when they're trying to have a barbecue.

Close the Floor to the Public

With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Anderson closed the floor to the public.

Motion to Adopt

Councilman Sena motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-1071, seconded by Councilwoman Eulner and approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eddy, Eulner, Gilmartin, Sena

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Ordinances – Introduction/First Reading:

Ordinance No. 2020-1072: Capital Ordinance Providing for the Purchase of an OEM Vehicle, and Appropriating \$40,000 Therefor, Authorized in and by the Borough of Shrewsbury, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-1072

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN OEM VEHICLE,
AND APPROPRIATING \$40,000 THEREFOR, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE
BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Shrewsbury, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey (the "Borough") has determined to Purchase of an OEM Vehicle; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has \$40,000.00 in the Capital Improvement Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The improvements described in Section 2 of this ordinance are hereby authorized as general capital improvements to be undertaken in and by the Borough of Shrewsbury, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey (the "Borough"). For the improvements or purposes described in Section 2, there is hereby appropriated \$40,000, said sum being inclusive of \$40,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund.

Section 2. The purchase hereby authorized to be undertaken is for the Purchase of an OEM Vehicle together with all purposes necessary, incidental or appurtenant thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with contracts, plans, specifications or requisitions therefor on file with or through the Borough Clerk, as finally approved by the governing body of the Borough.

Section 3. The 2020 amended capital budget of the Borough will conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services is on file with the Borough Clerk and is available there for public inspection.

Section 4. The Borough Attorney and other Borough officials and representatives are hereby authorized to do all things necessary to accomplish the purposes of the appropriation made herein.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by law.

Councilman Sena motioned to introduced Ordinance No. 2020-1072, seconded by Councilwoman Eulner, and approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: DerAsadourian, DeSalvo, Eddy, Eulner, Gilmartin and Sena
Nays: None
Abstain: None

Reports of Council

Councilwoman DerAsadourian

- Councilwoman DerAsadourian commented that the corner of White Street and Highway 35 was identified as an area of large concern for many parents in the school community. Councilwoman DerAsadourian along with the Safe Routes to School Committee and the Borough Engineer, are trying to figure out in this Covid-19 environment, how to meet and discuss solutions. Also, going forward, Councilwoman DerAsadourian commented she is looking at possibly adding more walking trails throughout the town, which may encompass parks and streets and other things of that nature. Councilwoman DerAsadourian will continue to work on this concept moving forward and will be provide updates in the future.

Councilman DeSalvo:

- Councilman DeSalvo reported the Chief had ask for the ability to post for two part-time dispatchers at \$15.00 an hour. There was consensus from Council for the Chief to post this position.

Councilman Eddy

- Councilman Eddy commented the dealership we took the packer truck had a suspension person to come in and look at the truck. Councilman Eddy was informed that they believe they have a solution and they are waiting for Kenworth to validate it. Councilman Eddy further commented he is hopeful our packer truck is moving along, and we'll know more in the next week or two.
- DPW is out working on storm drains, so you'll see them using the Jet Truck. They're getting the storm drains cleaned out.
- Councilman Eddy reported that believe it or not, there was a problem on the dead end on Monroe Street with people going over and around it. DPW put planters in the middle of the barrier to stop that. Councilman Eddy commented that it looks good and encourages others to swing by and look at it.
- Cameras will be going in at DPW to record and view the yard. First Aid cameras are already in installed.
- From an OEM perspective, Councilman Eddy reported we are receiving a bunch of masks and gowns that Jerzy Chojnacki, OEM Coordinator, acquired to help build up our

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- supplies as we go into the fall. Councilman Eddy further commented that we are always looking for more, so if anybody has any ideas for more supplies, please let us know. Kerry Quinn, Purchasing Agent, is hunting supplies down and it will be stored in the Municipal Building.

Councilwoman Doran Eulner

- Councilwoman Eulner reported the upgrade to Patterson Park is just about completed. Councilwoman Eulner commented that Patterson Park is named after Benjamin J. Parker who was the first Mayor of Shrewsbury Borough. Councilwoman Eulner is hoping to have a rededication of the park pending Covid-19 status.
- There is Community Garden meeting this coming Monday on July 13th.

Councilman Gilmartin

- Councilman Gilmartin reported as per state guidelines, we are allowing competitive baseball to resume effective today. It is considered a medium contact sport and we've had requests from members of the baseball community here in town to use the fields for competitive play, so long as they abide by the guidelines set forth by both the state and USABL, which are extremely strict. If they're in compliance with those guidelines, we're okay with them going ahead and play ball.
- Regarding fall soccer and lacrosse, given the uncertain nature of whether these seasons will occur, the Recreation Committee has gone ahead and opened registration for these activities, but they're not accepting payment at this time. They're only going to accept the registration information. If we get later in the summer and it's confirmed that the conditions are safe enough to have the actual seasons, then they'll go ahead, and they'll have to come back and charge as they customarily do for participation.
- Fire Department June Report: Six general alarm, one car, two mulch, one oven fire. There were eight mutual aid calls including one for Little Silver for a gasoline leak. In total, 95.75-man hours for the month of June. The Fire Department reiterated that they have ended the birthday drive-by now that the number of people that can gather has been increased. They're no longer doing the birthday drive-by as they had back in April and early May. They were very proud to be part of the SBS graduation procession that went through town to acknowledge the graduates. Also, they continue to receive the necessary supplies to keep all the responders safe.
- Councilman Gilmartin is awaiting the First Aid Squad's June Report. They're having a meeting tomorrow for July and so far, there have been 10 calls with 6 occurring yesterday. So, the First Aid Squad is certainly keeping themselves busy and fortunately keeping themselves safe. So, again, shout out to our first responders and the wonderful job that they're doing.

Councilman Sena

- Councilman Sena does not have a report except for the emergency air conditioning expense. Councilman Sen has reached out to the CFO to discussed and we have money in the budget for this emergency air conditioning expense. We don't need to do an emergency appropriation. Dispatch air conditioning went, then the courtroom air conditioning went. There's 17 separate air conditioning units for the municipal building.

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Anderson thanked Maureen Muttie, Councilman Gilmartin and Councilwoman Eulner for putting together the reading of the Declaration of Independence at the last minute. It was a great event. Thank you very much.
- Mayor Anderson reported we've submitted our CARES Act claim for reimbursement to the Monmouth County Freeholders. This is reimbursement for COVID-related expenses.
- Mayor Anderson commented he is dealing with some emails regarding traffic and speeding on highway 35. The Chief has been out there doing targeted enforcement. On speeding, last week they had 16 traffic posts. 15 of them were on the south side of 35. we are exploring the possibility of trying to change the speed limit to the south side of Highway 35 to 35 to match the rest of the roadway.
- Councilman DeSalvo added from May 4th to May 13th there are about 70,000 cars, and the average speed was 42 miles an hour.
- Mayor Anderson commented we will continue to work on this.
- The next tax bill is due August 1st.

Clerk/Administrator's Report:

- Ms. Muttie had no report this evening.

Open the Floor to the Public

Mayor Anderson opened the floor to the public.

Stu Minis, 35 Thomas Avenue – Mr. Minis was happy to hear about the possibility of a more regular brush schedule. He mentioned that he tries to follow the brush calendar, but it's not consistent and he sometimes misses the pickup, which is very frustrating for him. He also mentioned that the previous mayor, Don Burden said the speed limit on the south side of Sycamore Avenue would be reduced to 35 miles per hour, but it never happened.

Mayor Anderson responded the problem that we have is that street line diagrams for speed limits on state highways, the numbers that we just received don't help the argument of lowering the speed limit, unfortunately.

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Councilman DeSalvo added the State says there's an 85% rule, which he just learned about. They're saying that a safe speed on that size road would be 47, and we're at 40. So, it's going to be tough argument.

Mayor Anderson added the State takes whatever the speed is, the 85-percentile average, and that's where people feel safe to drive and that's where they would say technically, the speed limit should be at that figure. Which doesn't make sense, but that's just the way they follow it. We're going to try to do what we can do.

Mr. Minis inquired whether future Council meetings would continue in this format. The Council responded affirmatively. He also inquired whether the Zoning and Planning Board meetings would continue in the in-person format.

Mayor Anderson responded yes. Technically, they're a quasi-judicial branch of government. We can't technically tell them to do live meetings.

Mr. Minis mentioned that he is a small business owner and that these are difficult times for many, especially paying taxes, that any help is needed. He added that many residents are struggling with property taxes as well.

Mayor Anderson stated that some of it is State regulated. He mentioned that Governor Murphy gave towns two days' notice to extend the tax deadline if they wanted. He added that many residents, unfortunately had already paid and were upset they weren't notified.

Mr. Minis also mentioned some invasive growth on Monroe.

Councilman Eddy acknowledged that it must be dealt with next Spring.

Mr. Minis also stated his concerns regarding fireworks, especially near Henry Street. He mentioned that fireworks were going off in the middle of the street and for an extended period. He added that being illegal, perhaps a code enforcement officer should address these situations. He emphasized that non-professionals shooting fireworks is a dangerous situation.

Mayor Anderson stated that it is enforcement and that our Police officers are called upon to address it. He added that many times, the fireworks are completed by the time they get out there. He also mentioned that this is a problem throughout the country. Mayor Anderson commented he thinks it's the combination of people being home, people being stuck in fear, etc.

Mr. Minis had some thoughts on Patterson Park Improvements. He inquired whether there's been any discussion on adding more trees, since some trees were damaged and taken down after Superstorm Sandy.

Councilwoman Eulner responded there has been talk about plantings and she plans on talking further with Bill Gerth to get some ideas.

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Marge Clark, 213 Garden Road – Mrs. Clark expressed her appreciation to Council and especially Jason Sena for informing her of tonight’s meeting. She also mentioned that she was aware it was posted on the town website.

Mrs. Clark stated that she enjoyed Mayor Anderson’s reading of The Declaration of Independence on the 4th of July at the Gazebo in front of Borough Hall and was happy to see the Borough was doing something, since the location where it’s normally held was cancelled because of Covid.

Mrs. Clark mentioned that she recently went to the Borough website to review the minutes to a recent Council Meeting but could not locate them. She stated that the last set of minutes posted was March 16th. She added that she likes to be informed of the town’s happenings and understands that everyone is busy, but for many residents, the minutes are the main informational source of what is going on in the Borough.

Mayor Anderson responded that Maureen Muttie and Kerry Quinn who do the minutes have been crushed. We have all been crushed since March 16th doing voter related tasks, and not to make excuses, but, the fact is, we've had to allocate resources to the most important items; whether it was trying to get protective equipment for the First Aid Squad or Fire Department or Police Department, making sure we were keeping our employees safe, keeping the building clean and not getting our officers sick. We essentially had to develop an entire set of policies and procedures, implement them and change them repeatedly to deal with the ever-changing position of COVID. So, yes, it's very important to get the minutes done. But we had to redirect resources, for example, to file an application to get reimbursed for \$25,000 for Covid-related expenses that we've incurred. But we'll get them up.

Close the Floor to the Public

With no one else wishing to speak, the floor was closed to the public.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.

Attest:



Maureen L. Muttie, RMC, CMC
Municipal Clerk

Approve:



Erik Anderson
Mayor