



# CITY OF TITUSVILLE

## City Council Special Meeting Proceedings June 29, 2020

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Mayor Peden called the Special Meeting to order.
<b>ROLL CALL</b>	Mayor Peden, Deputy Mayor Crouch, Councilman Witosky, and Councilman McCrillis.
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b> COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE	<p>Previous discussion of changing meetings so they did not conflict with school board meetings and the City Solicitor would be able to attend if needed. It was also discussed about having outdoor meetings at some of the parks in the City during the summer.</p> <p><i>Motion by Mr. Crouch, second by Mr. McCrillis and carried unanimously to move the City Council meetings to Tuesdays.</i></p>
COVID-19	<p>City Manager Neil Fratus updated Council on current COVID-19 numbers from the CDC. Titusville (16354 zip code) has had 6 reported cases since March, not all of those are Titusville residents. There have been 53 positive cases for Crawford County.</p> <p>Mr. Peden asked the County officials present (Eric Henry, Francis Weiderspahn, and Zach Norwood) about CDBG CARES Act funds in regard to giving it to the hospital. Council was told by TRA that the Hospital had already received assistance and was not eligible to receive any from the City. Zach Norwood stated that 30% of the funds can be used for urgent need. Meadville Medical Center will be doing upgrades to facilities and purchasing personal protection equipment with their funds. But there are hoops to jump through in order to qualify for the funds, the first is National objective, the second is the HUD activity matrix. National objective is based upon how many low to moderate income households the entity has. Mr. Crouch asked about police, fire, EMS. Mr. Norwood said that falls under the HUD matrix of public services but does not cover operations, only equipment and direct assistance.</p> <p>Mr. Peden asked if funds could be used to purchase equipment to establish a pod for emergencies at different locations through the City. Mr. Norwood said you must ask if it prepares, prevents, or responds to COVID-19 and the answer is yes then most likely it qualifies to use the funds.</p> <p>Mr. Peden asked if funds could be used to assist low to moderate income individuals in paying rent and utilities. Mr. Norwood stated that disqualification of assistance would be duplication of benefits for the same purpose from two different federal agencies. The City can partner with local agencies to distribute funds for housing assistance and utility assistance.</p> <p>Mr. Crouch asked about PPP. Mr. Norwood said if a business received PPP it does exclude them from receiving CDBG money. Sole proprietors that have taken unemployment are not disqualified. James Elliott asked what range low to moderate income qualifies as. Mr. Norwood could not provide exact numbers because they change annually by County and it is based on the number of people in your household.</p> <p>Mr. Peden had one other item concerning COVID. He heard that</p>

according to the City website we were opening the Splash Pad. City Manager Neil Fratus said it was still being discussed but nothing had been advertised. Mr. Peden stated the website says it will open July 4. Mr. Fratus would look into that.

PITT PROPERTIES

Mr. Peden stated that this whole process started when the Pitt dorms were donated to the City when the school closed. The City put them up for sale and received one bid that was not accepted because it was too far under what they thought they could get for the building. The taxes on the buildings have since been reduced by the County. A firm out of Ohio, K & R Development, came in and looked at the buildings and made an offer of \$150,000 and provided a detailed plan of what he wanted to do with them. A second bid came in by the original bidder, Jason Drake, of \$150,000 with essentially no plan. Mr. Drake came back to Council with a proposed plan and an offer of \$200,000. Mr. Peden stated that in his mind both offers stand at \$150,000 because Mr. Drake upped his bid after seeing the other bid and plan. He cannot support someone changing a bid after they are made public. There has been discussion from the individual from Ohio that was born and raised here, that he wants to give back to Titusville. The first question from him when looking at the dorms was where is the swimming pool? When told it had been torn out, he stated he would build the City one. Originally that offer was anonymous but has allowed the City to make it public now. Mr. Drake also came back with an offer to make a large donation to a pool.

Mr. Witosky suggested taking the vote the following week in light of the information just released about the pool to allow for some public input.

Mr. McCrillis and Mr. Crouch were both in favor of the pool donation.

*Motion by Mr. Witosky, second by Mr. McCrillis and carried unanimously to table the vote to the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

PUBLIC INPUT

Jason Drake – 105 E. Dillon Dr. – Mr. Drake said he heard Mr. Peden say that he had submitted a bid of \$150,000 and also a bid of \$200,000 but before Council said he never submitted an official bid. Mr. Peden corrected him and said they didn't receive a plan with his first bid and Council allowed him to submit one.

Eric Henry – County Commissioner – 903 Diamond Park – The County is receiving \$7.6 million for federal CARES Act funding and Commissioner Soff will be working with municipalities to distribute those funds. He also caught the meeting with the TRA board member and stated that the County will do anything they can to help Titusville. All other municipalities that they administer CDBG for are very happy with the County.

Zach Norwood – County Planning Commission – 903 Diamond Park – The County is not looking to take away the City's CDBG but they are ready and willing to help in any way they can. They manage 50 of the 51 communities in Crawford County because the County

receives resources for 49 of the 51 communities. There are only three that receive direct assistance, everyone else's has to go through the County. All the overhead/administrative pieces are already being done so they can do it more efficiently. They charge Meadville and Vernon Township 6% rather than the 18% as they would with Titusville. Mr. Peden asked if moving administration to the County would delay current projects such as the Diamond Street demolition. Mr. Norwood said it would not.

Mr. Witosky asked what the deadline for COVID CARES Act funds was. Mr. Norwood said it had been extended from July to August 31. For the record the term "red-headed step-child" was used too many times to count.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mr. Peden asked about the Perry Street Bridge sale. No bids were received. After the bid period closed they received one bid from the bidder that also bid on the Mead Ave. Bridge. PennDOT is moving forward with their process. When it is time to remove the bridge the bidder will be taking it. He also asked if the County had a LERTA program. They do and will partner with local municipalities wishing to do that program and adopt a LERTA plan.

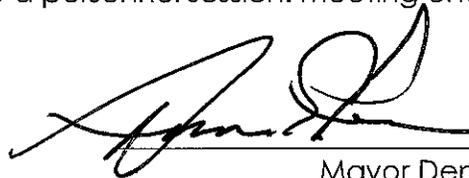
Mr. McCrillis thanked the Commissioners for coming over.

James Elliott – 306 N. Franklin St. – Mead Ave. Bridge bidder? Mr. Norwood could not recall the name but would get the information to Neil. Pool? Is it written in stone that Mr. Ritchie is donating a pool and if so it should have been public information otherwise Mr. Drake might not have put the time in to do a proposed plan.

Jason Drake – Asked how Mr. Ritchie came up with his \$150,000 bid.

ADJOURNMENT TO PERSONNEL SESSION

Motion by Mr. Crouch, second by Mr. McCrillis and carried unanimously to adjourn to a personnel session. Meeting ended at 11:09 a.m.



Mayor Dennis Peden

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of City Council of June 29, 2020.

THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF Aug., 2020



Heather Stewart  
Recording Secretary

**CITY OF TITUSVILLE**

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