



## **Public Safety Meeting**

**September 26, 2020**

**Attendees:** Mayor Rohan Hepkins, Councilor Delores McCabe, Councilor Liana Roadcloud, Police Chief Anthony Paparo, Code & Emergency Management Director Rufus Stokes, Public Works Director Jeff Wilkinson, Director Nafis Nichols & Tom Abrams

**Absent:** Fire Chief Mike Diienno, Denise Stinson

**The Meeting was conducted via Zoom and Discussions centered around the following:**

**Dr. McCabe Opened the meeting in prayer**

**WPSD School Reopening:** The William Penn School District reopened on September 14 via virtual online learning. Residents are encouraged to find out more by logging onto the school website at: [www.williampennsd.org](http://www.williampennsd.org), including a special message from new Superintendent Eric J. Becoats. This is a phased-in approach throughout the school year that will move to a hybrid format throughout the school year TBD.

**Governor's Covid-19 Mandate:** Still in effect. Challenges via lawsuits are currently underway, although it doesn't change much in the short term.

**Mayor's Forum & U.S. Census:** Mayor's Citizen's Forum was held via zoom on Tuesday, September 8 with special guest being U.S. Representative of 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Mary Gay Scanlon. It was discussed that she stressed the importance of the Census as it translates to \$2,800 per resident per year for everyone filling out the census. Since it occurs every 10 years, it would mean a loss of federal revenue of \$28,000 per resident not coming back into our municipality for every person not filling it out. So the consequences are huge – not to mention a possible loss in congressional representation in the aggregate. The Administration has truncated the *regular deadline from the end of October to the end of September for completing the Census.*

**Election on November 3:** The upcoming election was discussed that voting by mail and mail bins will be in order in Yeadon, although there is no fixed timeframe for when the drop box will be installed outside our Library due to waiting on other municipalities in Delco to respond to the County's request. We will have an all hands on deck approach to this election as it pertains to public safety and ensuring that all citizens can vote without fear or intimidation.

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**Street Sweeping:** Per Public Works Director Wilkinson, Street Sweeping will start back up on September 28. It was mentioned that this has been advertised on the web, cable channels and notices has been placed on parked cars in affected blocks.

**Traffic Control & Illegally Parked Cars:** It was discussed that illegally parked cars continue to be a problem- some being parked from Philadelphia. Another component is that some cars are being parked and covered on business properties and on residential streets/and at homes. It normally cannot be towed if covered per current ordinance. It was suggested that **Police Chief discuss with Borough Solicitor to change ordinance** so that it can be towed. Traffic control continues to be a work in progress as Church Lane traffic and other parallel arteries are being looked at. Church Lane is a state highway and we are limited in what we can do without PennDOT permission.

**Police Overtime & Part-timers:** Discussions are being held between Director Nichols and Police Chief to establish use of part-timers. We encountered more expenses this year in that category mainly due to our social unrest – which Yeadon handled successfully. We did not meet the same results directly south of us in Southwest Phila, and directly north of us in Upper Darby – as those areas were ransacked.

**Elevator Update:** Discussion about Elevator continually being out is inconveniencing our residents, is a safety hazard and needs a long-term fix. It was mentioned that the Tax Collector was authorized by mayor to use mayor's office in the interim. Due to construction in borough entrance-way this had not happened yet. It was suggested residents use side door – however that too would be a hazard as residents would have to navigate around parked police vehicles, while there is a high step via that door that may cause residents to trip, so it was mentioned that this is also not ideal.

Finally it was suggested that Firm take a look at the current building and determine whether it should be gutted and start over – rather than continuing to throw good money after bad in vacillating projects like roof, elevator, shafts, and other capital needs that don't seem to be working over the long term, in addition to the building over stretched in access, egress. It was mentioned that the elevator shaft be painted to seal in the mold after it has been decontaminated. It was also mentioned to take another look at easing burden on the municipal building in perhaps purchasing the property across from Tri-Star as well as the old Movie Theatre and the Old Yeadon Swim Club site.

**Proposed Health Center** from the County in the MacDade Mall scheduled to begin in November was discussed. It was mentioned that this is a boon for Yeadon. However, we must ensure proper Code Compliance in that strip along with proper lighting and parking lot upgrades as well as ensuring public safety. It was suggested that the Chief would work with neighboring Chief of Darby to ensure police presence during daytime hours, along with what the County Officers may provide.

**Meeting ended with a prayer and benediction from Mayor Hepkins and Dr. McCabe.**