

**Stewartstown Borough Council
Special Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 16th, 2023**

Members present

Pam Almony
Donna Bloom
David Elwell
Bill Gemmill

Others present

Mayor Brittany Barnette

Visitors present

Linda Miller
Bob Holmes

1. The meeting was called to order @ 10:00am.
2. **Discussion/action on Hopewell Area Recreation & Parks' fireworks scheduled for Saturday, July 1st, 2023.** On June 12th, 2023, York County Commissioners adopted Resolution 2023-13, establishing a 30-day county-wide burn ban on any and all open burning. The Resolution also prohibits fireworks, unless approved through written authorization by the municipality having jurisdiction which in the case of HARP (16 College Avenue, Stewartstown) is Stewartstown Borough. Eureka Volunteer Fire Chief, Todd Gibney has stated, in writing, that he is against going ahead with the July 1st, 2023 fireworks display. The following discussion was held. Mrs. Bloom said she's against holding the event because the weather has been so dry.
HARP Representative Bob Holmes was present. He stated, if the event is canceled soon enough, HARP would get a percentage of their money back. They could also reschedule to a later date, but if we get a storm with 2-3" of rain over the next few weeks, we'd have to see how & if that helps the current dry conditions. He believes, if canceled for July 1st, the event would need to be rescheduled within 90 days, per the fireworks company in order to not lose any money. Bob also believes all other events for HARP FEST on July 1st would be canceled if the fireworks were canceled.
Mayor Barnette talked to Mayor Sharkey to get Shrewsbury's thoughts on holding their fireworks, scheduled for June 30th. Their Borough Council gave approval to hold the fireworks, with the discretion of safety first. Their Fire Chief said they will water down the baseball fields & area where they will be set off. Ms. Almony isn't in favor of that because of the drought conditions that we're in & with the low water levels Stewartstown is experiencing. More definite answers are needed from HARP, as far as the final date of when they could get a refund or partial refund.
Mayor Barnette read a recent email from Rick Kerns (HARP Director) who confirmed that, if the fireworks display had to be rescheduled to a later date, they'd probably lose a lot of the vendors & the bounce attractions, which would leave them with just the fireworks. Rick also said we could wait to make a decision of postponing up until the day before (Friday, June 30th). If the event is completely canceled, HARP would lose 50% of their deposit (\$2,500).
3. **Council recessed today's meeting**—At 10:10 am, Ms. Almony made a motion to recess this meeting until next Friday, June 23rd @ 10:00am.

**Stewartstown Borough Council
Reconvened Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 23, 2023**

Members present

Pam Almony
Polly Kreiss
David Elwell
Bill Gemmill

Others present

Mayor Brittany Barnette
Stacy Myers, Recording Sec'y

Visitors present

Bob Holmes

1. Council reconvened the June 16th, 2023 meeting @ 10:07am on Friday, June 23, 2023.
2. Discussion was held on the current rainy weather & in light of the continued rainy forecast we're to receive, Mr. Gemmill made a motion to approve holding the fireworks display at Hopewell Area Rec & Parks Fairgrounds on Saturday, July 1st, 2023. Ms. Almony seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
3. HARP rep, Bob Holmes stated Eureka's Fire Chief, Todd Gibney said he will still stand behind York County Commissioners' 30-day Burn Ban. Bob believes the southern portion of the County may have received a lot more rain than northern parts. He suggested a Borough Council rep contact County

Commissioners to see about lifting the ban, although the June 12th Resolution regarding the ban left the decision about fireworks up to each County municipality & their officials.

4. **Adjournment**—With no further business, Ms. Almony made a motion to adjourn the meeting @ 10:10am. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Myers, Recording Secretary