

NEW HOPE BOROUGH
March 27, 2020, 10:00 AM
Special Meeting of Council
Minutes

Council President Gering called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM held via teleconference.

Present: Council Members Gering, Dougherty, Rettig, Feder, McHugh and Meyer. Also present were Borough Solicitor David Truelove and Borough Manger EJ Lee.

Two members of the public also dialed into the meeting.

Council President' Report

RESOLUTION: The motion for the adoption of Resolution 2020-12 to authorize the continuance of the Borough's Disaster Emergency Declaration as issued by the Mayor on March 20, 2020 beyond the seven-day initial declaration in accordance with the Pennsylvania Emergency Manager Services Code.

The motion made by Mr. Meyer, seconded by Ms. Rettig, and passed unanimously (6-0).

Public Comment

- Mr. Michael Wieners, owner of John and Peters voiced his concerns for the local businesses who have had to close in response to the COVID-19 Orders from the Governor and what options there are for struggling businesses.
Ms. Gering reminded Mr. Wieners that the directive of non-essential businesses having to close is from the Governor.
Mr. Truelove further explained that these mandates from the state are beyond the control of the local government.
Mr. Meyer shared with Mr. Wieners that there is an interest free loan program that is available to businesses affected by the COVID-19 mandates, to which there was a discussion on whether it was actually interest free or not. Mr. Meyer shared that he will research into this more and reach out to Mr. Weiner.
Ms. Lee also shared that she will raise this concern with Senator Santisiero's staff at their next teleconference on COVID-19 updates.
Mr. Dougherty directed Ms. Lee to share the transcripts of the teleconference with Senator Santisiero's staff so that they are aware of some confusion about the financial programs available to businesses.
Ms. McHugh also shared that she has been working with all the local businesses in the Borough to get their business status updated on the Borough website and also to help promote the small businesses via the Borough Facebook page and asked Mr. Weiner to provide Ms. McHugh with his contact information so that she can further follow up with him.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:23 AM