

February 13, 2014
Middletown, PA 17057

An emergency meeting of Middletown Borough Council was called to order by Council President Christopher R. McNamara at 11 a.m., with Council members John Brubaker, Anne Marino Einhorn, Tom Handley, Robert Louer, McNamara, Victoria Malone, and Sue Sullivan present.

Also present were Mayor James H. Curry III, Borough Manager Tim Konek, and Director of Communications Chris A. Courogen.

Following an invocation by Councilor Louer and the pledge of allegiance, Council President McNamara explained the reason for the emergency meeting was to ratify the Mayor's Declaration of a Disaster Emergency due to the snow storm that was ongoing.

Council President McNamara explained the declaration would allow the Borough to seek outside resources to assist with snow removal efforts. The ratified declaration would allow Emergency Management Coordinator Tom Foreman to direct the Borough Manager to seek additional resources without the burdens of normal procurement processes, eliminating the lengthy delays involved in the bidding process.

Mayor Curry said it was important to act on the declaration so the Borough would be able to be first in line for any needed outside help.

Councilor Louer made a motion to ratify the Mayor's Declaration of a Disaster Emergency. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sullivan.

Councilor Handley asked about the weather forecast. Council President McNamara reported the latest forecast shared by the Borough Manager called for an additional 6-8 inches of accumulation.

Mayor Curry said he took action due to concerns expressed by Public Works Superintendent Klinepeter about getting side streets cleared and the need for additional help to remove snow from snow emergency routes.

The Mayor also discussed enforcement of the snow emergency route parking restrictions, saying he did not direct police to tow vehicles because it was his understanding the restrictions had not been strictly enforced in the past. The Mayor said ticketing seemed to be effective in getting the message across that the Borough was serious about enforcement because police had issued only half as many tickets during this storm as they had the prior storm.

Councilor Sullivan expressed approval that the messages sent by the Borough included information on alternative parking areas.

Councilor Brubaker asked why there was not a disaster emergency declaration the previous storm, which he said caused more damage.

Council President McNamara said that could be a subject of discussion during any after action review. Council president McNamara also praised the response to this storm by Public Works Superintendent Klinepeter and the Public Works crew.

Councilor Sullivan expressed hope there would not be as many power outages with this storm as there were in the prior storm. Council President McNamara said the Borough had already called in a crew to assist should there be any problems with electricity.

Mayor Curry again reiterated he was taking this action because the Public Works Department specifically asked for help.

Councilor Sullivan expressed concern about the Borough's Emergency Management Agency, saying during Hurricane Sandy things had been totally disorganized.

Council President McNamara said those matters would have to be addressed, and expressed concern about the lack of coordination between Borough departments, citing miscommunication between the Emergency Management Coordinator and the Fire Department regarding the possible use of the fire station as a "warming station."

Council President McNamara also expressed concern over communications from the County which indicated it had received no reports from the Borough's Emergency Management Agency during the last storm.

The Council President also noted the need to reward the Public Works Department for its efforts in responding to this storm.

Councilor Handley asked if the declaration would set a time when Public Works could stand down its response efforts. Council President McNamara explained it would be in effect until the Mayor lifts it.

Council President McNamara also expressed dismay at the inability of the Borough Public Works Department radios to communicate with the Borough's police department radios and suggested the Borough should look into solving that compatibility issue.

Following the discussion, the motion was approved by a unanimous 7-0 vote.

Councilor Handley **made a motion to adjourn**. It was seconded by Councilor Louer and approved by unanimous consent. At 11:28 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Assistant Borough Secretary