

BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING –COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 2, 2020 – 12:00 P.M.

The Borough of Wyomissing Council held a special meeting via a recorded Zoom video/conference call platform on the above date and time to discuss the Wyomissing pool. Council President Thomas M. Moll called the meeting to order at noon with the following persons present: Council Members Thomas M. Bausher, John C. Woodward, Stephen D. Brunner, William S. Jenckes, Jody W. Menon, and Keith L. Derr; Mayor Frederick C. Levering, Borough Solicitors Christopher J. Hartman, Borough Manager Pat Brandenburg, Economic Development Coordinator and Zoning & Codes Enforcement Officer Michele Bare, Parks & Recreation Director Robert Lewis, and Assistant Borough Secretary Melissa Miller. The following persons were absent: Borough Engineer Jim McCarthy, Police Chief Jeffrey Biehl, Public Works Director James V. Babb, and Treasurer Gregory L. Portner.

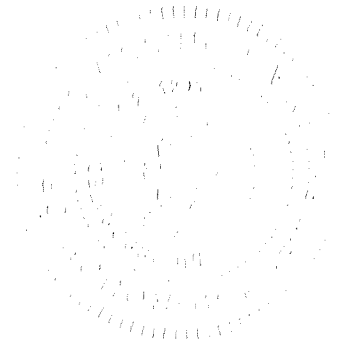
CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

VISITORS:

Phyllis Smith – Business Manager, Borough of Wyomissing  
Peter Beck – Borough Resident and Recreation Board  
Andrea Boerger – Borough Resident and Recreation Board  
Eric Donahue – 1840 Brandywine Road and Recreation Board  
Kate Fanning – Borough Resident and Recreation Board  
Michael Herr – Borough Resident  
Charles Barbera – 1030 Old Mill Road  
Adrian Jadic – 48 Cardinal Road  
Bernard Giblin – Borough Resident  
Leah Tipton – Borough Resident  
Colleen Olivard – Borough Resident  
Lisa Alcaro – Borough Resident  
Chad Olivard – Borough Resident  
Steven Haley – Borough Resident  
Chris Choi – Borough Resident  
Steph Zechman – Borough Resident  
Matthew Miller – Borough Resident  
Leticia Marshall – Borough Resident  
Shannon Wechsler – Borough Resident  
Linda Capozello – Borough Resident  
Jodi Bukowski – Borough Resident  
Claire Gibney – Borough Resident



Dave Reeser – Borough Resident  
Carol Fisher – Borough Resident

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Eric Donahue, 1840 Brandywine Road expressed his feelings that the pool could open, and could be done safely. Many times he notices the grassy area surrounding the pool is not at full capacity, thus providing an opportunity to set up the grounds for social distancing. He expressed his concern that more children will be inclined to play in the creek if the pool does not open this year.

Dr. Charles Barbera, 1030 Old Mill Road indicated the Borough needs to help the public mitigate COVID-19 and help things get back to normal. He commended Council for their efforts to evaluate all aspects of opening the pool, but he indicated the CDC has provided no evidence that COVID-19 is present in treated pools. He feels the Borough and pool staff can create a safe environment at the pool with various procedures and protocols, and can show the community the situation can be responsibly handled.

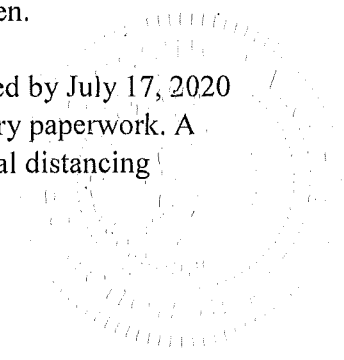
Adrian Jadic, 48 Cardinal Road expressed his opposition of opening the pool. He explained the virus began in the wet market and can last outside for 34 days. He further explained that high touch surfaces are susceptible to COVID-19, thus social distancing will not be effective. He was concerned of current COVID-19 case increases, and was concerned about kids passing COVID-19 to others when they go home after pool use. He indicated that centuries have lived without social activities, and feels the general population should make sacrifices for the greater good. He feels the drive to open the pool is selfish, and people should stick together to help keep each other safe.

Edwina Nailor, Borough resident thanked the Borough Manager for his comments. She expressed her concern to not open the pool, and indicated that some communities have opened a little too early, and are now experiencing COVID-19 spikes. She asked Council to err on the side of caution when making the decision to open the pool; kids are not able to stay 6 feet apart and wear masks. She further noted her concern that the pool is economically a loss due to opening later in the season.

Abby Zechman, Borough resident indicated when adults are observing kids, kids will follow social distancing guidelines, however when no adults are present, kids are less likely to follow social distancing guidelines.

Jody Bukowski, Borough resident asked the Borough Manager if anyone from the Borough has reached out to local pools that are operating under COVID-19 policies and procedures to see how effective their management of COVID-19 policies and procedures has been.

Borough Manager Pat Brandenburg noted the pool will be filled and chlorinated by July 17, 2020 and Borough Hall staff will work with Summer pool staff to complete necessary paperwork. A fee schedule will need to be established for Summer operation along with social distancing operations.



Recreation Director Rob Lewis stated he feels less confident about reinforcing social distancing at the pool. He was concerned about the possibility of a COVID-19 outbreak from the pool, and potentially having kids going back to school spreading COVID-19. Rob indicated Kate Fanning has a great plan in place for operating the pool, and noted the pool will not look the same as years prior. From an administrative perspective, lifeguards will need to have all their training, and will need to get working papers from the high school. He further noted there will be Summer employees who go back to college the middle of August, or back to high school the end of August.

Kate Fanning, Borough resident, Recreation Board member, and Pool Manager indicated that MyRec software should be utilized to have people sign up for timeslots for pool usage. She further discussed the logistics about how signing up for a timeslot would work. She indicated a need to have a weekly meeting to evaluate the Berks County COVID situation and see how pool operations are going.

Councilmember Menon indicated stringent requirements within the pool COVID-19 operations plan go beyond CDC recommendations. She indicated that people are doing other activities that are less monitored than what the pool would be, and there is a need to keep monitoring COVID cases in the community. She lastly noted that the policy and safety plans allow Borough staff and Council to make changes or close if need be.

Councilmember Bausher indicated Council must also consider the economic situation to the Borough. He noted there are still maintenance items that need to be completed, administration tasks to get Summer staff paperwork completed, and set a rate schedule for the Summer. He also noted that it is a little easier to keep the pool closed than to open and have to close.

Councilmember Woodward was concerned that teens would be administering social distancing and cleaning guidelines.

Councilmember Jenckes reiterated that Council has been weighing the pool decision based heavily on public safety of residents and their families. He commended Kate Fanning for her work on opening policies and procedures. He indicated that discipline was going to have to be strictly enforced to ensure policies and procedures are being followed. He noted that Berkshire Country Club has been using the scheduling timeslot system for pool use and it appears to be working.

Councilmember Derr expressed his concern that work should have begun a little earlier to get the pool ready.

Councilmember Brunner expressed his concern that kids need a place to go for the Summer. He noted that kids are not social distancing unless there is adult supervision.

Borough Solicitor Christopher Hartman indicated a waiver is helpful, but will not be a solution to the legal risks, however opening the pool would not be a significant legal risk. He specified the Borough's efforts with regulations and enforcement, manages the legal liability exposure; waivers reinforce the seriousness of the situation for users of the pool.

WYOMISSING POOL:

Councilmember Brunner made a motion seconded by Councilmember Menon to open the Wyomissing Swimming Pool for the 2020 season during the "Green Phase" as indicated by Governor Wolf's reopening plan, operate under state and CDC guidelines, pool patrons would be required to sign a Solicitor approved waiver unless one is on file already, sufficient staffing availabilities, and the pool being in working order, roll call vote, 4-3 motion carries.

The Wyomissing Borough Council meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

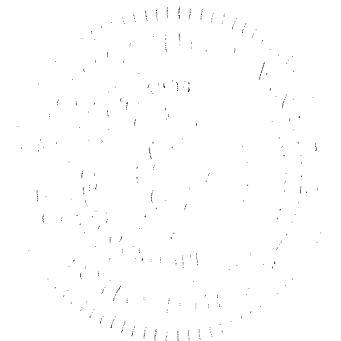


Melissa Miller  
Assistant Borough Secretary

Approved by:



Thomas M. Moll, President  
Wyomissing Borough Council



# Daily New Cases in the United States

## Daily New Cases

Cases per Day  
Data as of 0:00 GMT+0

