

BOROUGH OF MCSHERRYSTOWN

338 MAIN STREET

MCSHERRYSTOWN, PA 17344

(717) 637-1838

Statement from Council President regarding the meeting on 5/27/2020

The Borough has been advised that neither it nor its officials should publicly disclose personnel matters. Despite that advice, at the May 27, 2020 Borough Council meeting, a council member chose to ignore that advice and launched into his own commentary regarding a personnel issue which, I believe, was misinformed. A second council member took advantage of the chaos created by the outburst, also ignoring those instructions. In my opinion, sensitive and potentially legally-protected information concerning current and past borough personnel was discussed publicly.

During these statements, the technology used to host the meeting did not permit me, as the Council President to comment, to caution or otherwise interact with these council members. Although order was eventually restored, it is my opinion that the civility and decorum residents expect from their Council was lost. Equally concerning to me is that employees may feel as if the privacy, to which they are entitled as employees, was compromised.

While we are grateful for the ability technology grants us to bring these meetings to you, the unfortunate circumstances that occurred during this meeting has resulted in new measures that we will be implementing immediately to assure, should there be an additional attempt by any member(s) to cause a disruption, there will be immediate actions to stop disturbances followed swiftly by any corrective action which the Borough Code may permit.

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The Borough's response to an evolving personnel situation was meant to be deliberate and transparent, and we will attempt to regain the composure, resolve, and patience needed to do what is best for our Borough, which includes its taxpayers, residents, staff, and its elected officials. Sometimes what is best for all stakeholders takes time and patience to discern clearly.

We are currently researching options and developing a plan to move forward, cautiously, and deliberately. Our focus is to assess our current strengths while creating a comprehensive overview, which will outline the qualifications which will best serve the needs of our Borough moving forward. When we are ready to advertise for this position, we will notify the community and publish the qualifications we are seeking. In the meantime, our staff and Council will manage affairs appropriately and effectively. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we navigate this period of transition.

Sincerely,

Wm F. Smith, Jr.

William Smith, Jr.
President, McSherrystown Borough Council
338 Main Street
McSherrystown, PA 17344