

*Leo S. Lutz, Mayor
Kelly Murphy, Council President*

*Robert L. Pfannebecker, Solicitor
Greg Sahd, Borough Manager*

group representative not present. Request reviewed pending the receipt of Certificate of Insurance and the submitting party acceptance of conditions of approval (Only N 8th Street, from Walnut to Alley intersecting N 8th Street South of Church will be barricaded. No other blocking of Roads or walkways on Walnut will be permitted). Borough Manager, Greg Sahd, to follow up with the responsible organizational official.

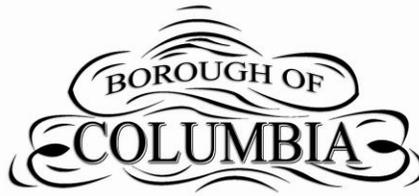
Full Council was present at the Safety Committee Meeting and the fore mentioned F.U.R. was reviewed. Fran FitzGerald presented a motion to approve the request for the Grace E.C. Church, located at 63 N 8th Street to barricade a portion of N 8th Street from Walnut Street to Avenue H for a community event to be held on their Church property from Noon until 9:00pm on Saturday, September 10 ,2016 pending the required Certificate of Insurance and without any blocking/barricading of any other streets or walkways. Seconded by Kelly Murphy and unanimously approved by all Council.

Note: Facility Use Requests require full Council review and approval (Council requests that all Facility Use Requests be presented a minimum of six (6) weeks in advance so the request can be presented to the proper Committee and forwarded to Council for review and majority approval).

A discussion was held on the importance of submitting Facility Use Request the recommended six (6) weeks in advance for the reasons four mentioned and to stress to organizations to consider the use of parks vs. street closures. A review of 2016 (Y-T-D) approved requests showed that approximately that 53% of request required street closures, 40% were for park use and 7% for other facilities. Going forward Facilities Use requests will be review in advance of Committee Approval to forward to Council, for the possibility of the use of parks within the Borough vs. street use. Discussion presented by Chair and comments by the Vice Chair, Mayor and citizen comment.

Continuing Business Discussion: A review of The Columbia EMC (Emergency Management Center/Co-coordinator). Recent event of July stimulated focus on this safety issue. Chair mentioned the importance of a EMC and directed questions to the current EMC coordinator – Jeff Helm. An, almost, 40 minute discussion ensued on its importance, perceived use and value to the community and its related agencies. Comments and discussions were received from the majority of those in attendance, including Mayor Lutz, CBFD Chief Scott Ryno, CBFD Deputy Fire Chief Doug Kemmerly, Jeff Helm, Borough Manager Greg Sahd, Borough Council Members and citizen, Frank Doutrich among others.

Key Points: The importance the EMC plays in the safety of Borough citizens and the community at large. The current working status of the EMC. The current equipment incorporated in the EMC Center and its functionality. Current communications and what communications should be. Recommendation included; to review other local Borough's functionality of their EMC and gather possible ideas that may benefit the operation of Columbia Borough's EMC. Seek help from successful EMC coordinators in neighboring Boroughs and Cities. Develop a board/committee or group to oversee a functioning EMC. Develop, at minimum, a "Back to Basics" with an EMC. Look at successful Regional EMCs.



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Conclusion: The Chair will spearhead a review of comments, recommendations and idea to move forward with re-establishing a functioning and effect EMC center through research, fact finding with a committee to include, but not be limited to, Law Enforcement, Fire Protection, Current EMC coordinator, EMS, and any other support groups and agencies that could affect a positive resolution to create a functioning EMC in the Borough.

Chair requested of the Manager of Zoning/Planning/Codes to provide Committee with information regarding blighted/vacant properties in Columbia (in response to a citizen request at the 8/8/18 Borough Council session). Jeff Helm noted there are currently twenty-five (25) blighted properties in the borough (and by definition they are vacant). Jeff Helm committed to establishing a way to know where these properties are located via a map, which he will present to the Safety Committee.

Chair requested of Jeff Helm to discuss the “Columbia Neighborhood Program”, a program under the umbrella of the Columbia Board of Health and the Columbia Community Life Network. Jeff discussed its concepts, it’s current status and how it can affect neighborhoods in the Columbia Community. A program not fully underway at present. Jeff committed to moving forward with the program as a support to the Borough and its citizenry.

Closing remarks:

Chair – a reminder to all agencies that the 2017 Borough Budget is now in process. All submission requests for budget consideration should be submitted by prior to the September 7, 2016 first public budget review meeting. Each agency will be requested to appear at a public budget review meeting to formally review their request and intent of request.

Mayor Lutz remarked that the Veterans Memorial Bridge lights would be relit that evening (Wednesday, August 10th) through the cooperation of both the Borough of Columbia and Wrightsville. The lights had been extinguished several weeks ago due to the May Fly “invasion”.

Next Safety Committee meeting to held on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 6:00pm in Borough Chambers.

The Safety Committee adjourned at 7:25pm. Motion to adjourn was made by Fran FitzGerald and seconded by Kelly Murphy.