



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Borough of Chambersburg

*A full service municipality in Franklin County celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service over 120 years of community electric and a regional wastewater, water, storm sewer and municipal solid waste utility*

## UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING ACCESSIBLE IN-PERSON OR VIA INTERNET

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**Chambersburg** – When Chambersburg Town Council meets next on Monday, January 11, 2021, the meeting will be available to participate in by the public and Council officials in person at City Hall or on-line via a video meeting system. This is the first time that Chambersburg has permitted virtual meeting access. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 health emergency, the Town Council has continued to meet, at least once per month during the spring and summer 2020, and then more often in the fall of 2020, despite the requirements of social distancing and face coverings required by the pandemic.

“It is important” explained Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill, “that Town Council meet in person whenever possible and that citizens have access to their elected officials. We have been working for almost a year in unique circumstances to protect the health and safety of Council as well as visitors, while maintaining access. I am pleased that we have installed a system to provide a hybrid setup, where a meeting can take place both in-person and on-line.”

Staff successfully interconnected the Council Chambers using a laptop and five webcams to the existing sound system to allow participants to have two-way remote interaction. Called “hybrid” because it provides a simultaneous in-person and internet setup for public meetings. It is more technically challenging than if all participants were merely accessing the system remotely, but preserves the availability for in-person participation as well.

State law permits virtual governmental meetings, but there are requirements to allow elected officials to participate in a virtual meeting. Specifically, elected officials must be able to see, hear, and participate in what is occurring in the live in-person meeting for their remote votes to count. This is a technical challenge when much of the meeting will be taking place in-person in Council Chambers at City Hall.

Obviously, citizens are welcome to attend in-person, as are the Council members, and the meeting will be "run" in-person from Council Chambers. The Borough’s agenda is available on-line at [www.chambersburgpa.gov](http://www.chambersburgpa.gov); click on Transparency. Chambersburg has obtained a government license from the Zoom meeting platform, which is free and can be downloaded at [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us).

Citizens are welcome to log on and witness/ask questions using the Zoom meeting platform. Any citizen can email the Borough Secretary ([boroughsecretariesoffice@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:boroughsecretariesoffice@chambersburgpa.gov)) to obtain the Zoom meeting login information. The public is also welcome to attend in-person, although Borough policies regarding the need for social distancing, use of face-coverings, limited occupancy, and temperature checks will continue for in-person participation.

If you have any questions about this information, contact Jamia Wright, Chambersburg Borough Secretary at [jwright@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:jwright@chambersburgpa.gov).

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### **About The Borough of Chambersburg**

Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions, Chambersburg is Pennsylvania’s only municipality supplying electric and gas. Chambersburg is 1 of 35 Boroughs to operate a municipal non-profit electric utility. Chambersburg is the largest municipal electric utility in the State, twice as large as the second largest, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and, the only one to operate generation stations. Chambersburg is 1 of 2 municipalities in PA to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is 1 of 2,000 communities to have its own electric system and 1 of 800 communities to have a natural gas system but 1 of only about 50 to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent Authority), and a new storm sewer utility; one of the first storm sewer utilities to form under the new Federal mandate to regulate stormwater. Chambersburg currently has 20,508 residents (2013).