

**EPHRATA BOROUGH COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 7, 2019**

The Ephrata Borough Council Work Session was called to order by President Susan Rowe on January 7, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Borough Office, 124 South State Street.

The meeting began with a moment of silence which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Rowe advised that Borough Council, along with the Mayor, met in a closed session to receive information from Staff regarding the ongoing negotiations with Ephrata Township for policing services prior to this evening's meeting.

In attendance in addition to the President were Vice President Thomas Reinhold, President Pro Tem Melvin Weiler, Council Members Timothy Barr, Linda Martin, Ricky Ressler, Victor Richard, Greg Zimmerman and Mayor Ralph Mowen.

Also in attendance were Borough Manager, D. Robert Thompson, Director of Finance and Administration, Christine Moore, Police Chief William Harvey and Borough Solicitor James R. McManus, III, Esq.

Visitors included:

- Raymond Boynton, 145 Bellevue Avenue, Ephrata
- Tim Auker, 542 N. State Street, Ephrata

Opportunity for Citizens to be Heard

Raymond Boynton, 145 Bellevue Avenue, advised his development is prone to flooding and he was looking to see if anything could be done to give residents early notification that the creek has come over its banks, possibly an alert system that could send a text message, so property owners would have an opportunity to gather belongings and pets and leave their residences. Mr. Boynton advised that this past August, they experienced two floods which occurred during the night. Mr. Boynton advised that due to the heavy rain before Christmas, he missed a day at work due to him staying up all night watching the creek. Mr. Boynton advised he knows there is nothing that can be done to prevent the flooding of the creek; however, he would appreciate a system be put into place to make residents aware of the rising water and the imminent threat for flooding.

Chief Harvey advised he will obtain additional information from Mr. Boynton and will discuss the matter further at the January 21, 2019, Public Safety Committee meeting.

Discussion of Committee Actions

Highway Committee

Mr. Barr advised the Committee is looking at Becker Engineering to monitor the UGI gas lines installation and had a discussion regarding the contract. Mr. Richard further advised any expenses related to this project will be fully reimbursed to the Borough by GMS.

Mr. Barr advised the Committee received a request from Cocalico Place that they want to close an area on Franklin Street for installation of an HVAC system on the roof. Mr. Ressler further

advised the residents will be notified well in advance that they will need to find alternate parking for that day.

Personnel Committee

Vice President Reinhold requested all members of Council to review the Bylaws and Rules of Order so they can be approved for the upcoming year.

Committee Recommendations

Highway Committee

It was moved by Mr. Barr, seconded by Mr. Ressler, and unanimously passed that Borough Council award a professional services agreement to Becker Engineering, Lancaster, PA, for time and expenses associated with their construction period services proposal dated December 17, 2018, to provide construction observation services for the “UGI GET Gas” gas main extension project.

It was moved by Mr. Barr, seconded by Mr. Ressler, and unanimously passed that Borough Council conditionally approve a request from Cocalico Place to close East Franklin Street from Lake Street to South Maple Street and restrict parking on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM for safety reasons to replace a rooftop HVAC unit subject to neighbor notifications, provision of a satisfactory Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as additional insured and attendance at a meeting with Borough Staff to discuss traffic control, emergency vehicle access and safety concerns.

Public Safety Committee

It was moved by Mr. Ressler, seconded by Mr. Richard, and unanimously passed that Borough staff be directed to submit a proposal to Ephrata Township for the provision of Ephrata Borough police services to Ephrata Township for a period of five years commencing on January 1, 2020, and that no final agreement or contract amount for police services shall be effective until its acceptance by the Township and approval by vote of the Council of the Borough.

Opportunity for Citizens to be Heard

There were no comments or remarks from attendees.

Discussion/Announcements

Mr. Zimmerman advised he has a couple questions, referring to the check register, as to what the approximate total cost of all of the uniforms that are cleaned throughout the year. Mr. Zimmerman further advised he noticed the Borough is paying individuals, Cleaning/Rental Services, Inc., and Modern Cleaners and he questioned if all of the cleaning services can be completed by one vendor which may result in cost savings. Secondly, Mr. Zimmerman referred to check #36626 payable to Business Cards inquiring as to what that expense was for. Ms. Moore advised the payment Mr. Zimmerman is referring to is that of the Borough’s credit card.

Vice President Reinhold advised he took the month of December off and thanked all who covered for him.

Ms. Martin congratulated fellow council member, Mr. Richard, on his retirement.

Mayor Mowen advised that he is looking forward to working with everybody in 2019.

Chief Harvey advised to be careful driving home as there is some spotty freezing on some of the bridges.

Mr. Thompson advised the Economic Development Organization voted in a permanent board to take effect at their January 15, 2019, meeting. Mr. Thompson advised the interim board served their purpose which got economic development across the finish line. Mr. Thompson further advised that Downtown Ephrata, Inc., EEDC and the Alliance cease to exist and their assets will be transferred to the EDO with the EDO being recognized as the economic development entity for Ephrata Borough.

President Rowe advised Council will meet in Executive Session led by the Personnel Committee regarding personnel matters following this evening's meeting.

Adjournment

It was moved by Ms. Martin and seconded by Mr. Richard to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.

D. Robert Thompson, Secretary