

**EPHRATA BOROUGH COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2016**

The Ephrata Borough Council Work Session was called to order by President Susan Rowe at 7:10 PM on January 4, 2016 in the Council Chambers of the Borough Office, 124 South State Street.

The meeting began with a moment of silence.

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

Also in attendance were Borough Manager D. Robert Thompson, Police Chief William Harvey, and Borough Solicitor James R. McManus, III, Esq.

Attending for the press was Gary Klinger of The Ephrata Review. The following visitors were present:

Dennis Rowe, 214 East Main Street, Ephrata
Jean Lausch, 950 Hammon Avenue, Ephrata
George Dillio, 30 Kings Court, Ephrata
Joanne Ressler, 245 Mason Drive, Ephrata
Tim Auker, 542 North State Street, Ephrata
Tom Matteson, Diehm & Sons
Greg Martin, 1304 Marilyn Avenue, Ephrata

AOppportunity for Citizens to be Heard

There were no comments or remarks from attendees.

Discussion of Committee Actions

Mr. Richard discussed the Development Activities Committee information discussed at their meeting in December.

Mr. Matteson from Diehm was available to discuss the Bethany Road project. Mr. Matteson said this is the former WIOV site. At this point they would like to divide the property in half as noted in the report. The intent is to develop the properties one at a time over the next couple years. The nature of that development is still being worked out but is likely to be residential in nature.

What is before Council tonight is a subdivision to break the property in half and do no more. There are no improvements proposed on this plan.

Chairman Reinhold reviewed the Municipal Enterprises Committee AMP Smart Grid Project.

Opportunity for Citizens to be Heard

There were no comments from attendees.

Recommendations

Municipal Enterprises Committee

It was moved by Mr. Reinhold, seconded by Mr. Hertzog, and unanimously passed that Borough Council authorize the Borough Secretary to send a non-binding letter of intent expressing interest on behalf of the Borough to participate in the AMP AMI Smart Grid Program.

Discussion/Announcements

Mr. Weiler said as Chairman of the Highway Committee he announced we fortunately didn't invest any more money in snow removal or salt in the previous year so we're ready to fly into 2016 without having to do any additional funding.

Mr. Barr welcomed the new Council members.

Mrs. Martin said she is happy to be here and happy to learn.

Mayor Mowen congratulated Mrs. Rowe, and Messrs. Reinhold and Weiler for their election and congratulations and welcome to Linda and Ricky.

Chief Harvey said on New Year's Eve at 11:40 there was a residential fire in the 600 block of East Main Street. Chief Harvey congratulated the fire departments for their aggressive interior attack. Even though the gentleman was critically injured they probably saved his life.

Chief Harvey said Saturday night from 9:00 to 5:00 PM at the VFW is the second annual Ephrata chili cook off, which is the qualifier from the Lititz Fire and Ice big chili competition.

President Rowe said she does have the committee lists prepared and will be sending them out to look over. If you are not happy with the committee assigned to you Mrs. Rowe asked that you give it a few months. If you really have a problem with the committee Mrs. Rowe will take it under advisement as possibly changing a committee assignment.

Mrs. Rowe said the Personnel Committee will be meeting immediately after the Work Session very briefly maybe 15-20 minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Weiler, seconded by Mr. Barr to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Robert Thompson, Secretary