

**EPHRATA BOROUGH COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 3, 2020**

The Ephrata Borough Council Work Session was called to order by President Susan Rowe on February 3, 2020, 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.

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, Interim Police Chief Thomas Shumaker and Borough Solicitor James R. McManus, III, Esq.

The following visitors were present:

Linda Kegerreis, 279 Windsor Drive, Ephrata  
Tim Auker, 542 N. State Street, Ephrata

**First Opportunity for Citizens to be Heard**

Linda Kegerreis, 279 Windsor Drive, Ephrata, advised upon receipt of her December electric bill, she observed the amount billed was abnormally high alerting her to have her heat pump checked and serviced which resulted in another large payment due. Ms. Kegerreis further advised she receives her pension and Social Security payments at the beginning of the month and with her electric bill being received toward the end of the month, she sometimes has difficulty making her payment by the designated due date. Ms. Kegerreis then inquired if a grace period could possibly be implemented to resolve these types of issues.

Ms. Kegerreis further advised she has explained her situation to a Customer Service Representative with the end result being receiving a brief extension to receive her payment; however, she was advised this request cannot be completed every month. Ms. Kegerreis then advised Council that she cannot afford the penalties which are added to her amount due on a regular basis.

President Rowe thanked Ms. Kegerreis for her comments and asked Mr. Thompson if a policy is in place regarding the establishment of grace periods. Mr. Thompson advised to the best of his knowledge, there is not a grace period policy in place; however, due to Ms. Kegerreis's situation being a recurring issue, he could inquire if it is possible to move her due date to a more convenient date. Mr. Thompson then acquired Ms. Kegerreis's contact information and advised a staff member will reach out to her for further discussion of her request.

Mr. Ressler advised he would like to see the topic of grace periods to go before the Budget and Finance Committee; at which, President Rowe requested Mr. Thompson add this topic to the Budget and Finance Committee's February meeting for further discussion.

Vice President Reinhold advised it was his understanding if a customer had a substantial bill that the amount was able to be spread out over a period of time for payment; in which, Mr.

Thompson advised if the bill was sizeable and there was a hardship to pay it in full at a given time, the customer would then be able to enter into payment installments. Mr. Thompson further advised he believes Ms. Kegerreis's matter is a timing issue and not a payment issue; in which, Ms. Kegerreis acknowledged he was accurate.

After an additional brief time being provided for citizen comments and/or remarks, President Rowe moved onto the discussion of Committee Actions.

### **Discussion of Committee Actions**

#### **Budget and Finance Committee**

Mr. Ressler advised Staff reviewed with the Committee the outstanding board positions: Police Civil Service Commission Alternate, EAJA Board, Zoning Hearing Board, Shade Tree Commission, and UCC Appeals Board. The Staff is recommending Robert Hoffman for the vacant UCC Appeals Board. He is qualified for the position and also serves on the Property Maintenance and Codes Appeals Board. President Rowe advised that Mr. Dale Hertzog is interested in serving on the Zoning Hearing Board. A staff member will reach out to Mr. Hertzog. President Rowe also suggested a staff member contact Mayor Mowen as he has a suggestion for Civil Service Alternate. The Staff will follow up with Mayor Mowen. Mr. Barr asked if a Council Member could serve on the Civil Service Commission. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council appoint Robert Hoffman to the UCC Appeals Board at the voting session on February 10, 2020.

Mr. Ressler advised Staff reviewed the Disposition of Assets for the 2013 Ford Escape that was involved in an accident in 2019. The salvage value of the car is \$2,000 and the staff recommendation is to allow the insurance company to retain the salvage. The Committee recommends that Borough Council approve the Disposition of Assets at the voting session on February 10, 2020.

Mr. Ressler advised Staff discussed Resolution 2020-2, exonerating the Borough from paying real estate taxes on various Borough properties. The Committee will recommend adoption of this resolution as part of the consent agenda at the February Council meeting.

Mr. Ressler then provided a brief overview of the Discussion Items listed on the Committee's Report.

Mayor Mowen questioned Lt. Shumaker as to the status of Jansen Honberger being a possibility to join the Civil Service Commission; in which, Lt. Shumaker advised he has not had an opportunity to make contact with him.

#### **Development Activities Committee**

Mr. Zimmerman advised the Committee reviewed a request from Mainspring of Ephrata to use Whistle Stop Plaza for the 2020 Party on the Plaza on four Saturdays between May and September. The request includes using the entire property from East Main Street to Rose Alley, providing electric for the event and selling beer and wine during all the dates. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the request at the February meeting to use the plaza and to sell beer and wine only subject to the receipt of a certificate of insurance naming the

Borough as an additional insured, an incident support plan approved by the Emergency Management Coordinator and receipt of a copy of a PLCB special occasion permit.

Mr. Zimmerman advised the Committee reviewed the annual professional services agreement with HRG. HRG provides review services for Subdivision and Land Development and Stormwater Management. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council execute the annual agreement with HRG for 2020 at the February Council meeting and authorizes the President of Borough Council and the Borough Secretary to execute the agreement subject to it being in a form acceptable to the Borough Solicitor.

Mr. Zimmerman advised the Rec Center is making repairs to the whirlpool room. These repairs are necessary before the transfer of the property from the Rec to the Borough can occur. The repairs require a building permit and inspections. Mr. Zimmerman suggested that Council might want to consider waiving the building permit fees since the property will be turned over the Borough. The fees for the building permit are \$1,057.50. That includes a building permit fee, inspection fees, and a state required UCC fee of \$4.50. The UCC fee is an out of pocket expense. The Committee is recommending that Borough Council waive all the fees except the UCC fee of \$4.50 at the February meeting.

Mr. Zimmerman advised the Committee reviewed a proposal from Hanover Engineering to provide engineering design services for the salt storage shed to be located at the Public Works Facility. Hanover will design the building and prepare plans for bidding for a fee of \$24,500. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council authorize the President of Borough Council to sign the proposal with Hanover Engineering at the February meeting subject to it being in a form acceptable to the solicitor.

Mr. Zimmerman then provided a brief overview of the Discussion Items listed on the Committee's Report.

Mr. Barr sought clarification as to the whirlpool room being referenced and if it is actually the former whirlpool room; in which, Mr. Zimmerman advised he is correct.

Solicitor McManus advised he received notice from the Court of Common Pleas that the appeal of Roger Leed to the Zoning Hearing Board's decision regarding the variance that was granted for the brew house was dismissed by the court. Solicitor McManus further advised the reason for the dismissal was due to failure to adhere to the briefing schedule that is required by the rules of the court.

Mr. Zimmerman sought clarification regarding which brew house Solicitor McManus was referring to; in which, Solicitor McManus clarified he was referring to the Black Forest Brewery.

Mayor Mowen, in referencing the Haller Dam discussion item, requested that when Ms. Harris makes contact with American Rivers to please keep him informed as he would like to be in attendance when the meeting occurs.

President Rowe, in referencing HRG's annual Professional Services Agreement, advised their hourly rate is increasing \$5/hour and there is no field agent specified on the agreement. President Rowe inquired as to how often a field agent is utilized; in which, Mr. Thompson advised minimally.

President Rowe, in referencing the transfer of the Ephrata Recreation Center to the Borough, sought clarification that the property is currently owned by the Ephrata Borough Authority; in which, Mr. Thompson advised she was correct. President Rowe then requested the Committee Report be updated to state as such.

President Rowe, in referencing the Haller Dam discussion item, sought clarification that there are three dams located on the Haller Property; in which, Mr. Thompson clarified there are two dams and a millrace on the property. President Rowe inquired if one of the dams were to fail, would the remaining dam "hold up" or would that cause an issue. Mr. Thompson advised if one of the two dams failed, it would impact as if the dams were removed. President Rowe then inquired if Council needs to be concerned about either of the two dams being further damaged or failing; in which, Mr. Thompson advised there is no need to be concerned at this time. Mr. Zimmerman then clarified that at the Committee meeting, Ms. Harris advised that only the coping was damaged and not the structural integrity of the dam.

#### Highway Committee

Mr. Richard advised the Committee reviewed a request from Kim Malmer received December 26, 2019 via e-mail and heard details about the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Pain in the Butt 5K/10K Run for Colon Cancer Awareness from Mark Malmer. The event will use various streets in the Lincoln Heights section of the Borough to conduct the benefit 5K & 10K runs and a quarter mile fun run on Saturday, March 28, 2020 beginning at 8:40 AM. The run route is comparable to the route used in 2019. There will be signs and volunteers at each intersection to direct runners and assist with traffic control. Interim Police Chief Shumaker has endorsed this event. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council conditionally approve the request subject to Borough receipt of a satisfactory certificate of insurance naming Ephrata Borough as additional insured at their February 10, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Richard advised the Committee reviewed the results of Bid #20-1 Traffic Signal Upgrades for emergency vehicle pre-emption installation at the intersections of West Main Street & Market Street, West Main Street & Academy Drive, and South State Street & Fulton Street. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council award Bid #20-1 to apparent low bidder: Wyoming Electric & Signal, Inc. from Wyoming, PA in their total bid amount of \$36,540 as part of the Consent Agenda at their February 10, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Richard advised the Committee reviewed the results of Bid #20-2 Traffic Signal Systems Maintenance. This is a multi-year contract for semi-annual preventive traffic signal maintenance and inspection in accordance with current Borough and PennDOT requirements. The contract term begins February 18, 2020 and terminates December 31, 2023. Years 2 (2021), 3 (2022), and 4 (2023) are at the Borough's option subject to review of contractor performance. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council award Bid #20-2 to apparent low bidder: C.M.

High, Inc. from Myerstown, PA for \$4,000 for each year of a 4-year contract as part of the Consent Agenda at their February 10, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Richard advised the Committee reviewed a proposed commercial wide area mower purchase. The mower is a new model year John Deere 1600 Turbo Series III and will be purchased through the Pennsylvania Department of General Services COSTARS cooperative purchasing program from the delivering dealer: Deer Country Farm & Lawn, Inc. in Adamstown, PA for the contract price of \$55,199.25 less \$4,000.00 trade allowance for a 2009 John Deere 1600 mower for a total purchase amount of \$51,199.25 which is \$2,249.25 over the budgeted amount of \$48,950. The unbudgeted amount of \$2,249.25 will be paid from account #01-50-501-4360 Parks and Recreation Contract Services. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the purchase of a new model year John Deere 1600 Turbo Series III wide area mower at their February 10, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Richard advised the Committee reviewed a disposition of assets form for a 2009 John Deere 1600 Series II wide area mower, Serial #TC1600T070187, with 5,410 hours of use. The engine needs rebuilt and there are hydraulic issues. The mower currently works at approximately 50% of normal range/capacity. The mower has trade-in value of \$4,000. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve this asset disposal at their February 10, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Richard then provided a brief overview of the Discussion Items listed on the Committee's Report.

Mr. Thompson provided additional information regarding the ongoing parking meter discussion. Mr. Richard stressed the purpose of looking into increasing the parking rates in the downtown area is strictly to "keep the cars moving" allowing a rotation of patrons to shop and dine in the area. Ms. Martin added at the Committee meeting, there was representation of various businesses in attendance who advised they were in favor of the parking rate increase. Ms. Martin further added she believes it needs to be reiterated to citizens that "... what we're trying to do is to revitalize the downtown and make parking more business friendly." Mr. Weiler added the parking study showed that while there is lots of parking available in the downtown area, it seems that individuals prefer to park in specific areas. Mr. Weiler further added, "... what we're looking to happen is to have people come, shop, leave ... somebody else come." Ms. Martin added the study showed the parking that is available is not clearly marked and advised that Staff is working hard to get better signage in the area.

Mayor Mowen advised that Lancaster City has parking kiosks along their streets and that they have parking enforcement officers in place who check the kiosks on a regular basis. Mayor Mowen further advised other parking studies have been completed in the past which have shown there is a good amount of parking available in the downtown area. Mayor Mowen then stated, "... he believes this is an educational thing and they need to get out and walk and see what else is here."

Vice President Reinhold advised even with a possible increase in the parking rates, an individual (resident) may decide to pay the increased amount and continue to have their car be parked in a metered spot. Mr. Weiler commented, "... it's not a money maker ... but we want to have a tool

to turn the parking over.” Mr. Ressler advised he believes there is enough information available regarding the replacement of the six meters to add a “price not to exceed” so that a vote can occur; in which, Mr. Thompson responded, “... I would like to have that meeting with the meter manufacturer that had the dual coin and card option to understand what that is so that we could factor that in ... and be able to weigh that against what a kiosk system might offer so that we have all the options out there.”

Mr. Richard sought clarification regarding the reprogramming of the six broken meters stating “... maybe do the lenses with the cost being \$1,000 or \$2,000 ... and fix the broken ones ... but if we do the credit card, we’re looking at doing all 92 meters, correct?” In which, Mr. Thompson replied, “... not necessarily ... we have six meters we know are not working at all ... so rather than pay \$600 to find out how much it’s going to cost to repair them, maybe we would replace those with one of the upgraded meters ... and look for a specific block that might be shorter than the other ... then you could make like a pilot block to get a feel for that ... and the investment that you’re making would be in new technology and not replacing it with the current technology.”

President Rowe commented, “... I do understand the concept of increasing the rates to cause more of a turnover in the vehicles downtown to make it a better environment for the business owners and the businesses ... the merchants downtown ... my only question that I haven’t had a chance to hear any discussion on this ... we hear a lot about that the residents who live in apartments in the Central Business District are using our metered spaces for parking ... if increasing the rates ... it does nothing to assist them in the fact that they don’t have any other means of off-street parking for their residents ... so how are we going to address that ... I mean if we increase the rates, that’s not going to stop them from plugging an extra dime or an extra quarter or two into the meters and continuing to park there all day because they have nowhere else to park ... and I think that topic also needs to be addressed.” Ms. Martin advised these residents are able to park in the Franklin Street lot allowing them an additional place to park. President Rowe commented, “... some of the residents may be disabled and unable to walk a distance or they cannot carry six bags of groceries from a public parking lot to their residence ... we’re not doing anything to help those residents.” Ms. Martin advised there are handicapped parking spots available and there may be a need to increase the number of those spots. President Rowe commented that the handicapped parking spots are for people visiting downtown businesses; in which, Ms. Martin clarified that handicapped parking spots are for anybody who has a handicap placard or license plate. Ms. Martin further commented that maybe a conversation needs to be held with the landlord(s) and assess the needs of the residents and then determine the parking strategy based on a true assessment of the needs; in which, President Rowe stated, “... that’s the discussion I want to see ... I would like the Committee to take that discussion under advisement as well.” Ms. Martin reiterated, “... I think it’s a lot of educating people to understand that ... that there are other options.”

President Rowe, in referencing Mr. Richard’s request to have Phase I of this item, increasing the parking rates, brought before Council at next week’s Voting Session to move it from a Discussion Item to an Action Item. President Rowe then asked Committee members, Mr. Weiler and Ms. Martin, if they were in favor in moving this to an Action Item; in which, Ms. Martin advised she would rather take a look at the results of the meter manufacturer meeting to look at

available options prior to moving this forward for a vote. Mr. Weiler agreed with Ms. Martin's comments. Mr. Richard advised he is fine with waiting another month to move forward with the topic.

Municipal Enterprises Committee

Ms. Martin advised the Committee reviewed the American Municipal Power Schedule to the Master Services Agreement for Participation in Safety and Training Programs which will allow for the Borough's participation in American Municipal Power's Apprentice Lineman Program. Borough Solicitor McManus reviewed the schedule and asked the staff to verify with Delaware Valley Trust the \$50,000 limit of liability in Section 2 and the waiver of the right to subrogate in Section 4. Staff will verify these items with Delaware Valley. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council conditionally approve the Schedule to the Master Services Agreement subject to the satisfaction of the Borough Solicitor.

Ms. Martin then provided a brief overview of the Discussion Items listed on the Committee's Report.

Vice President Reinhold, in referencing the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Pilot Program, stated, "... this is just another shining moment of why we have our AMP membership and how we have a Board seat there because, I believe, they (Mr. Thompson and Mr. Merkel) were both out there in Columbus that week ... had a conversation and the cost you see there ... just the initial cost ... and there will be some additional costs ... but it was pennies on the dollar compared to what we were budgeting (a 6-figure dollar amount)."

Mr. Weiler, in referencing AMP's Safety and Training Programs, inquired as to how many employees will be participating in their programs; in which, Mr. Thompson advised the Borough's Apprentice Lineman will be participating in the programs over a 4-year period. Mr. Thompson further advised the Apprentice Lineman will receive training at AMP, gain on-the-job experience, as well as textbook theory work, and will take examinations to move up through the program. Mr. Thompson stated, "... it's a pretty extensive program ... but the schedule also allows for us to send other employees to other AMP training events ... so it's a good opportunity for us to partner with AMP ... many times they'll bring the training here to Pennsylvania and multiple AMP communities will be able to participate in those as well."

Mayor Mowen, in referencing the Comcast discussion item, stated, "... the other week on a Sunday, I was going out East Main Street and there were numerous bucket trucks around one of the poles there and one of them was a Borough truck ... it was on a Sunday ... and I'm thinking, "Wow!"" Mayor Mowen inquired as to if Comcast is paying the overtime for the Borough workers; in which, Mr. Thompson clarified that any work the Borough does regarding the Comcast project is reimbursed to the Borough in its entirety.

Mayor Mowen, in referencing the solar field, inquired if it is working up to capacity; in which, Mr. Thompson advised it is not and that the Committee has reviewed a schedule of the work. Mr. Thompson stated, "... be mindful that the contracted price in place is competitive or even a bit higher than the market, so it's not necessarily that critical for us that they are operating during a sunny day ... it's critical that they're operational during a coincident peak so we can shave our

demand off of it ... and beginning in year six of the 25 years that we have agreed to, we then own the renewable energy credits which are far more valuable than the actual energy. Mayor Mowen inquired if the Borough's term has started; in which, Mr. Thompson advised it has begun and the Borough is guaranteed that a penalty will be paid if the contracted amount of energy is not achieved.

Community Services Committee

Mr. Weiler advised the Committee reviewed the 2020 Cultural Arts Grant proposed awards recommended by the Ad Hoc Art Grant Committee. The Committee recommended approval of the following awards for the February Council meeting.

Ephrata Public Library	\$3,050
EPAC	\$1,800
Ephrata Concert Band	\$2,000
Ephrata Cloister Associates	\$800
Historical Society	\$950
Ephrata Rec Center	\$1,200
Eicher Arts Center	\$700

Mr. Weiler then provided a brief overview of the Discussion Items listed on the Committee's Report.

Ms. Martin, in referencing the Music for Everyone Program discussion item, advised that Kelly Withum, Mainspring of Ephrata, is working on getting sponsors. Ms. Martin further advised this would be a community effort and any funds raised would be given to the Ephrata Area School District to purchase new instruments.

Mr. Richard, in referencing the Cultural Art Grants funds, advised he had requested the Committee increase the Ephrata Cloister Associates amount to \$850 which is the amount they have been given in years past and inquired as to if any thought has been given to his request. President Rowe advised the Committee unanimously approved keeping the amounts as presented. Ms. Martin further advised the Committee sought clarification as to why the amount was decreased \$50. Mr. Weiler commented he received an email from Staff advising the additional \$50 was given to the Ephrata Public Library due to the amount of free programs they offer; therefore, the Ad Hoc Committee recommended the awards as outlined in the Committee Report.

Mr. Richard advised the amount requested by the Ephrata Cloister Associates is to cover the cost of the programs; in which, President Rowe stated, "... they gave the \$50 to the Library and took it from the Cloister Associates because the Library's program are free ... so that was the Ad Hoc Committee's rationale for making that change."

Mr. Weiler added that the \$10,500 award amount has not increased over a number of years and that the Committee would like to see the amount increased in future budgets.

After a brief discussion amongst Committee members regarding if the matter needs to be taken back to the Committee for further review, it was decided to move forward with the Ad Hoc Committee's recommended award amounts.

President Rowe advised at the Committee meeting, the members requested they be provided information as to who serves on the Ad Hoc Committee as well as the methodology and/or eligibility requirements for their decisions; in which, Mr. Weiler confirmed the requested information was provided by Staff.

Mayor Mowen, in referencing the Dog Park, stated, "I've had more residents ask me about a Dog Park than anything in the past several months ... since it was mentioned in Council some months ago ... and I keep hearing, "When's the Dog Park coming? Where's the Dog Park going to be?" Mayor Mowen then commented that he is hopeful the planning process is moving forward.

Mayor Mowen, in referencing the Music for Everyone Program, advised that Lancaster City has several pianos placed throughout the city and he believes they last more than a year. Mayor Mowen further advised he has been near one of the pianos as it was being played which drew a number of people to the area to listen. Mayor Mowen ended his comments by stating, "... I think it's a great idea to have a piano down there at the plaza." Ms. Martin advised when Ms. Withum made her presentation to the Committee, she stated, "... you're going to be surprised when there's these mysterious piano players that can really play the piano walking amongst all of the residents and you can't pick them out until they sit down and play that piano." Ms. Martin advised that Ms. Withum was pretty adamant about the piano only lasting a year due to it being placed out in the elements.

#### Public Safety Committee

Vice President Reinhold advised there are no Action Items to be brought before Council for a vote.

Vice President Reinhold then provided a brief overview of the Discussion Items listed on the Committee's Report.

Mr. Ressler, in referencing the Pioneer Fire Company's ladder truck discussion, advised their current ladder truck is/has been out of service and a purchase of a new ladder truck will become an urgent need. Mr. Ressler further advised recommendations may be coming "sooner rather than later."

Mr. Richard, in referencing the siren activation and paging system upgrade discussion item, inquired if information was asked for and received by Lincoln Fire Company; in which, he was advised to date they have not approached the Borough. President Rowe referenced Mr. Richard's inquiry at the Committee meeting regarding if County money is available for this upgrade; in which, Vice President Reinhold advised he does not know the answer. Mayor Mowen advised he believes there is no County money available as none has been available for radio purchases. Vice President Reinhold advised he got the impression that no money was being expected from the County.

Personnel Committee

Vice President Reinhold advised there are no Action Items to be brought before Council for a vote.

Vice President Reinhold then provided a brief overview of the Discussion Items listed on the Committee's Report.

Special Projects Committee

President Rowe advised the Special Projects Committee did not meet in January. Mr. Barr advised he has nothing to report; however, he advised there are a few items to be addressed at the February Committee meeting.

**Opportunity for Citizens to be Heard**

**Discussion/Announcements**

Mr. Zimmerman requested an update on the Pine Street repair; in which, Mr. Thompson advised the issue was caused by a water main break and that the affected area has been stabilized. Mr. Thompson further advised there is about 30'-50' feet of water main that needs to be replaced; after which, crews will be able to fully backfill. Mr. Thompson advised it is hopeful within the next two weeks for the street to be reopened. In concluding his comments, Mr. Thompson advised there are no costs for the repairs to the Borough as they all fall under the Ephrata Area Joint Authority.

Mr. Barr advised he will not be in attendance at the February 10, 2020, Borough Council Voting Session.

Mr. Richard advised he will also not be in attendance at the February 10, 2020, Borough Council Voting Session.

Vice President Reinhold apologized for not attending the Workshop that was held previous to this meeting. Vice President Reinhold then stated, "... if we really want to get those \$50 to the Cloister Associates ... if everybody up on this table is willing to give five bucks, I'll put in the ten and we'll have fifty right there ... no obligation ... but just something to consider ... if anybody wants to, I'm willing to that charge ... but again, I don't want to make that a common occurrence if somebody gets shorted out \$50 every year."

Vice President Reinhold, in referencing the area's fire companies, stated, "... we talk about the Pioneer Fire Company ... we also have the Lincoln Fire Company ... two outstanding departments and we all know the percentage of donations that they receive from the community ... I think the other week when I was thinking about it at that fire study meeting ... if everybody could just give \$50 ... and that's tough ... even in a Borough like ours where the median household income is probably less than \$50 grand a year ... but if we could do that, that would be quite a bit of money."

Lt. Shumaker, in referencing the LERTA Program, inquired if there is such a program for residential properties within the Borough; in which, President Rowe advised the area has to be

designated by Borough Council, and therefore, LERTA could apply to a residential area. Lt. Shumaker advised that could be an opportunity to make Ephrata very competitive in the real estate market versus other communities by expanding beyond downtown. President Rowe further advised it is her understanding that the idea was to start with the retail district downtown and then expand from there to the rest of the Borough. Lt. Shumaker concluded his comments by stating, "... the market is booming right now and it just seems it would give us a little bit ... a step ahead of other communities around us if we want to draw in people who are interested in buying homes, revitalizing homes ... we got them ... you can go two, three, four blocks out from the square ... I think there's a very rich market for that."

Mr. Thompson advised at the very end of last week, notification was received from the Lancaster Housing and Redevelopment Authority of their annual Community Development Block Grant Program. Mr. Thompson further advised that Staff has a conference call scheduled with them and based on the information received, Staff may be coming to Council at next Monday's meeting with a project or two and request a Letter of Intent be issued. Mr. Thompson advised there is not much time between the notification of the grant and the deadline of the Letter of Intent.

President Rowe advised she has observed two unknown younger individuals, possibly in their 20's, walking through town and picking up trash and/or cleaning underneath bushes in public areas. President Rowe further advised she wants to commend those two individuals and when she has an opportunity to thank them in person, she will do so.

President Rowe advised next week's Municipal Moment will be the Friends of Eberbach at the suggestion of Mayor Mowen.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Ms. Barr and seconded by Ms. Martin to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

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D. Robert Thompson, Secretary