

**EPHRATA BOROUGH COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 2, 2018**

The Ephrata Borough Council Work Session was called to order by President Susan Rowe on January 2, 2018, in the Council Chambers of the Borough Office, 124 South State Street.

The meeting began with a moment of silence.

The Honorable Magisterial District Judge Tony Russell advised he would like to thank the Borough Council members stating he has been associated with the Borough for approximately 40 years and wanted to take the opportunity to thank all members for their time. MDJ Russell stated our Borough shows for the hard work that is being done.

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, Police Chief William L. Harvey, and Borough Solicitor James R. McManus, III, Esq.

Opportunity for Citizens to be Heard

There were no comments or remarks from attendees.

Discussion of Committee Actions

Budget and Finance Committee

Mr. Richard advised the Budget and Finance Committee has one item to move forward with, that being Resolution 2018-1 – Appointment to Boards and Commissions which will be discussed at the January 8, 2018, Voting Session.

Mr. Thompson pointed out there are two Exhibits in the Resolution. The reason for Exhibit A is we have been advised by the Solicitor with a change in the Borough Code that we need to ratify existing members of committees that are currently serving even those whose expired December 31, 2017. Exhibit B is the new appointees to the commissions and boards.

Highway Committee

Mr. Ressler said the Highway Committee met on December 27, 2017, and they have two action items to bring forward for consideration.

The first one the committee reviewed was Ordinance #1540 to amend the Code of the Borough of Ephrata, Vehicles and Traffic, Article XI, Chapter 305-103, Schedule XX: Special Purpose Parking Zones by adding certain authorized parking for a loading/unloading zone at 333 N. State Street. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council enact Ordinance #1540 at the January 8, 2018, Voting Session. Mr. Ressler did note that the Committee heard from a citizen who was concerned about line of sight issues on State Street coming out of the private drive of the old Donecker's store as a few vehicles that were parked at that location moved down further, but the committee didn't feel the issue was impactful enough to not allow for a loading/unloading zone for a business at that location.

The Committee reviewed six applications for traffic signal improvement permits associated with previously approved PA Green Light-Go Grant Agreement 2015GLG112 to install emergency

vehicle preemption and upgrade signal head sizes at six signalized intersection in the Borough. PennDOT requires the Borough complete all six applications to move the project forward to the final design, bidding and construction phases. The Committee will recommend the Borough Council President and Secretary to execute the applications by adopting Resolution #2018-2 at the January 8, 2018, meeting.

Personnel Committee

Mrs. Rowe advised she wanted to pass along to the Personnel Committee the Rules of Order and the By-Laws.

Mr. Reinhold stated he wanted to make everyone aware that there is a requirement that we, as Council, are given a 28-day notice to amend or repeal any portions of the By-Laws and Rules of Order and asked if the 28 days could be waived to vote on the Rules of Order and By-Laws at the January 8, 2018, meeting. Mr. Reinhold advised the only changes made to these documents were grammatical, punctuations and expanded clarifications. Mr. Reinhold advised we have been operating with these in place and not a lot has changed. Mr. Richard requested that to receive a document noting what the changes were made so that the entire document will not have to be gone through. Mrs. Rowe advised she will obtain the previous version, scan it and email it. Mrs. Rowe advised changes were made such as where the document stated, "Borough Code," she specified it was "Pennsylvania State Borough Code" so nobody was thinking we were referencing the Ephrata Borough Code which is a little bit different. Mrs. Rowe further advised there was one paragraph in the Rules of Order, Rule 10, where she elaborated a little more making it clear to council members what is to be expected during the Rules of Order of the meeting. Mrs. Rowe requested hard copies of the documents be handed out for voting at the January 8, 2018, meeting.

Discussion/Announcements

Mr. Reinhold stated we as a council received very good news on December 19, 2017, advising the Borough has a power purchased agreement and lease with Turning Point Energy for the development of a solar energy facility with the intent to have in place a year from now an operational solar farm. Mr. Reinhold advised it was a lot of hard work for the staff to get this achieved. Mr. Reinhold stated we are a step closer to generating our own power which will only help our customers.

Mayor Mowen wished the council a Happy New Year.

Mr. Thompson advised of another announcement made in December which was the receipt of an \$85,000 grant from the Department of Environmental Protection for Storm Water Management MS4 for a critical aquifer for recharge area. Mr. Thompson stated the MS4 team did a lot of hard work and it will also be on the solar site.

Mrs. Rowe advised she received two complaints, one from somebody in the First Ward and one from somebody in the Second Ward, regarding the snow incident that we had over the weekend. Mrs. Rowe provided copies of the complaints to Mr. Thompson to pass along to Public Works. Mrs. Rose advised, if needed, these topics can be included on the Highway Committee meeting agenda.

Adjournment

It was moved, and seconded, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.

D. Robert Thompson, Secretary