

**EPHRATA BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020**

The regular Ephrata Borough Council meeting was called to order by President Susan Rowe at 7:00 PM on September 14, 2020, in the Council Chambers of the Borough Office, 124 South State Street.

In attendance in addition to the President were Vice President Thomas Reinhold, President Pro Tem Melvin Weiler, Council Members Timothy Barr, Linda Martin, Victor Richard, Greg Zimmerman and Mayor Ralph Mowen. Council Member Ricky Ressler was not in attendance.

Also in attendance were Borough Manager D. Robert Thompson, Police Chief John Petrick and Lieutenant Thomas Shumaker.

Due to the Coronavirus – COVID-19 guidelines set forth by Governor Tom Wolf and in the respect of the practice of social distancing, James R. McManus, III, Esq., and designated Staff participated via a video conference.

The following visitors were present within Council Chambers:

Joy Ashley, Ephrata Area Social Services  
Tim Auker, 542 N. State Street, Ephrata  
Teresa Caruthers, 229 Railroad Avenue, Ephrata  
Ginny Dillio, 30 Kings Court, Ephrata  
Michelle Gibbs, 241 Railroad Avenue, Ephrata  
L. J. Kohl, 858 N. Maple Street, Ephrata  
Amy MacKenzie, 311 Jeff Avenue, Ephrata  
Greg Martin, 1304 Marilyn Avenue, Ephrata  
Kory Musser, 340 Washington Avenue, Ephrata  
Harold Spatz, 536 E. Main Street, Ephrata  
Tim Stuhldreher, One United Lancaster  
Dan Sweigart, 129 E. Franklin Street, Ephrata  
Leah Volker, 1420 W. Main Street, Ephrata  
Tom & Brenda Werner, 532 E. Main Street, Ephrata  
Susanna Wurtz, 33 Akron Road, Ephrata

The following visitors participated in the meeting via video conferencing:

James Sandoe, Northern Lancaster Stands Up  
Marylouise Sholly, The Ephrata Review  
Lead Pastor Peter C. Cook, Alive Church Ephrata  
Penny Talbert, Ephrata Public Library  
Robert Wolpert

Lead Pastor Peter C. Cook, Alive Church Ephrata, offered the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT ROWE CONCERNING HOLDING A PUBLIC MEETING VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

“While we do have a quorum of Ephrata Borough Council physically present tonight, this meeting was advertised in accordance with Act 15 of 2020. This enables residents that wish to participate in the meeting virtually to do so for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency declaration. The Governor of Pennsylvania further extended the Declaration of Emergency for the Commonwealth until November 30<sup>th</sup> unless rescinded earlier. The Declaration of Emergency declared by the Honorable Mayor also remains in effect. This meeting and instructions to allow for citizen comment were advertised as

stipulated in Act 15. Any virtual participant that is unable to hear this meeting shall please make us aware as soon as possible.”

President Rowe inquired if those participating via Zoom can hear the meeting; in which, she was advised all can do so. President Rowe, addressing Mr. Thompson, inquired if any residents are participating remotely that have requested to speak during tonight’s meeting; in which, he advised one resident wished to speak, that being Mr. Sandoe and that Ms. Talbert, Ephrata Public Library, and Ms. Werner, HUB, will be speaking on the Municipal Moment. President Rowe then inquired if any written comments were received; in which, Mr. Thompson confirmed none had been received.

### **STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT ROWE OUTLINING HOW MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED**

“First, I want to thank you all for you attending the Voting Session of Ephrata Borough Council. I realize many of you are attending regarding Resolution 2020-15 which began the process by which Ephrata Borough Electric Division reinstated disconnections and penalties imposed on customers. While all meetings of Ephrata Borough Council are structured and follow Rules of Order, I want to make you all aware of what this structured meeting will be like.

If you wish to address Council and have not yet signed in, please do so. No one, including Staff, elected officials or those in attendance will be permitted to speak until I have turned the floor over to you. Anyone participating in this meeting virtually will be granted a chance to speak. I have a list of those attendees. I will be calling on you when it is your time to address Council.

During public comment, we will follow Section 7101(a) of Title 65 known as the Sunshine Law. This stipulates that public comment can and will be limited to residents and/or taxpayers of the Borough of Ephrata. When public comment is open, please wait to be recognized by me. You should then step to the podium and state your name and address. At that time, I will ask if you are a resident or an electric customer of the Borough of Ephrata. An affirmative answer will begin your time to speak. If you give a negative response, I will ask that you return to your seat.

As is our usual practice, you’ll be granted no more than 3 to 3-1/2 minutes for your comments. Mayor Mowen will be tracking the time and will raise his hand when you have approximately one minute remaining. If you exceed your time, be prepared I will tap the gavel and notify you that you are out of time.

Anyone repeatedly stating previous comments will be interrupted. I will ask if you have any statement that has not yet been heard. If you do not, I will ask that you return to your seat. Profanity will not be tolerated from the public, Staff or any elected official.

As this is a Voting Session of Ephrata Borough Council, we will follow the Rules of Order and Public Comment will be closed as we conduct the business of our agenda. If you disrupt the meeting, you will be given a warning, then called be out of order. If you continue to disregard the rules, I will ask or you will be removed from the meeting.

A member of the Borough Staff may be called upon to provide information. I will request that Staff refrain from speaking until directed to do so.

I again want to thank everyone for being a part of this meeting.:

President Rowe inquired if all in attendance understand the Rules of Order; in which, she did not receive any inquiries. Prior to moving onto the agenda items, President Rowe provided some additional comments including:

“This is the Borough Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This book contains law relating to Boroughs. Ephrata Borough does not make up its own rules. We abide by these regulations. Many of you are acting on incorrect or only partially correct information. When things are discussed by word of mouth or on social media, that can happen.

Ephrata Borough Council did not decide one day in August to begin sending out delinquent notices to electric customers nor did we decide one day in August to just begin disconnecting electric customers. The Resolution that began this process was discussed at both the July 6<sup>th</sup> and the July 13<sup>th</sup> public meetings. The meetings were advertised in the local newspaper and on the Borough website. The agendas were made available to the public well in advance of the meetings. The codes to attend the meetings virtually were also made available.

Ephrata Borough Council did publically discuss and deliberate the content of the Resolution. We did allow for and take public comment at all meetings prior to the vote. It was not an easy decision for anyone on Council to make. We absolutely do not want to shut off electric to any customer. Think about it ... is not in the best interest of the Borough to keep the electric on for all of our residents? Payment plans are available. Not just for a few or for those that pay months of past due bills in full. That is simply untrue. I know firsthand if a customer receives an invoice and realizes they are unable to pay, the Staff in the Customer Service area will work out a payment plan for you. Again, think about it ... is it not in the best interest of the Borough to offer and accept payment plans?

The majority of utility customers do pay their bills in part or in full. Utilities are not shut off if someone has made an effort on their payments. For those of you that were unwilling to participate in the discussion preceding the July 13<sup>th</sup> vote on Resolution 2020-15, I will repeat a brief part of the statement I made prior to that vote:

“We will and do work with our residents with the understanding that those residents also work with us to find the best solution for their needs.”

One of the comments I hear repeatedly is, “But you have a balance in the electric fund?” Well that is true. The Commonwealth recommends municipalities keep a balance of approximately six months in reserve. Our Electric Fund Balance is near 50% of our expenditures. Through the pandemic, we have not laid off employees or cut hours of service. Not one of our employees has tested positive for COVID-19. The community should be celebrating that data.

Another line item supported indirectly by that balance is funding given to our local non-profits. For example, the local fire departments and the Ephrata Public Library. Would you prefer we defund those contributions? Last week, Ms. Ashley asked a few members of Borough Council to not judge those that have neglected to make any utility payments for the past three to eight months. That was fair.

I am asking you to not judge the volunteers of Ephrata Borough Council for making a decision the majority believes are in the best interest of all of our utility customers. You are well within your right to disagree with us, but do not judge us. We are also customers and have the same responsibility to pay our utility bills as everyone else. We all have the same struggles as other individuals. Some of us struggle with health issues, some struggle with employment/unemployment issues, some struggle with

the failing health of family members, some are dealing with separation from family or grieving the loss of a close friend or loved one. Do not judge us.

Disagreeing with our decision does not guarantee the majority of the residents in this municipality concur. In fact, most of those that have spoken directly with me about this issue believe Borough Council made the decision that was in the best interest of the Borough. While residents of nearby communities have a right to their opinion; in truth, their opinion that Ephrata Borough Council is heartless and cruel means little just as my opinion of the decisions of say the Mayor of New York City means absolutely means nothing to him.

There is a procedure in place if you disagree with a resolution that has been passed by Council. We cannot simply vote to rescind. A new resolution would have to be written, debated and possibly revised before the full Council can vote. Reach the Borough Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Learn how local municipal government works before condemning the process. The reason we have committees of Council is because that is where those decisions should commence.

In conclusion, I want to state I do understand and sympathize with those unable to pay their utility bills for whatever reason. My heart aches for them. I am part of the demographic considered living below the poverty level. Instead of calling Council heartless and uncaring, how about we reach across our divide. There are many people in our community living in an abusive situation. Use your energy to assist them. Some are depressed especially with the condition of the world around us to the point where they have difficulty even getting out of bed. Help them. Abuse of drugs continues to plague our community. Do what you can to stop that. If you have the time and energy to stage a protest of Council for making a business decision, you have the time and energy to make the difference in the life of a neighbor that needs your help.”

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Mr. Barr, seconded by Ms. Martin, and unanimously passed that Borough Council approve the August 3, 2020 Work Session Meeting Minutes and the revised August 10, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes.

### **MUNICIPAL MOMENT – EPHRATA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Ms. Penny Talbert, Ephrata Public Library, extended her appreciation to Council for allowing her to an opportunity to provide an update on the library. Ms. Talbert, in referencing their mission statement, highlighted “we are virtual community center for many years” stating, “... suddenly, we’ve become very virtual.”

Ms. Talbert advised that the Library is conducting a couple of on-site services as well as virtual services and provided an overview of those services including: (1) a locker service where individuals can drop off and/or pick up what they have put on hold; (2) grab and go bag service; (3) a 30-minute browsing appointments (followed by a 30-minute cleaning of the library); as well as (4) Passports.

Ms. Talbert then provided an overview of what steps have been taken regarding the implementation of COVID-19 safety precautions including the quarantining of materials for a specified time, no public use of conference rooms, and installation of Plexiglas at checkout area.

Ms. Talbert spoke about the virtual services stating that funding has been provided for the remainder of the year by the local community as well as the PA CARES Grant with the focus being on after-school programs and supplemental education. Ms. Talbert discussed the implementation of an eSports Team as a result of large interest in doing so. Ms. Talbert advised “Story Times” is being broadcasted on Blue Ridge Cable once a week for those who do not have access to the internet.

Ms. Talbert advised their newest project, Parking Lot Hotspots, is being implemented in where hotspots are being added to parking lots at local churches allowing people to have internet access.

Ms. Talbert overviewed the following additional virtual services including: (1) a tutoring platform available for preschool up to college level; (2) Scholastic BookFlix and TumbleBooks – eBooks for children ; (3) JobNow - which provides assistance with resumes and interviews; (4) AtoZdatabases – a job searching database; (4) Mango Language - an online language learning course; and, (5) Hoopla and OverDrive – eBooks, Audiobooks, Comics, Movies, Music and Television.

Ms. Talbert advised due to an increase in online usage and funds received from the County, the Library has started to add a lot of eBooks and eAudio Books to their inventory.

Ms. Talbert highlighted some upcoming events including their next drive-thru book sale on October 3<sup>rd</sup> with past events being very successful. Additionally, Ms. Talbert highlighted their hosting of a virtual after-school program being sponsored by Compass Mark and in collaboration with Ephrata Cares.

In concluding her presentation, Ms. Talbert showed Council a picture of the Library’s new mascot and stated, “... you will see her doing all kinds of neat things on social media.” Ms. Talbert then opened the floor for any comments and/or questions.

Ms. Martin, in referencing Job Now, requested additional information on how CareerLink interfaces with it as well as inquired if a library card is needed to utilize that service. Ms. Talbert advised a library card is needed to log onto the service. Ms. Talbert further advised it is really supplemental to CareerLink. Ms. Talbert advised if someone is really have a difficult time with the interview process, they can hook themselves up with a career coach through JobNow and they will review their resume for them and will work with the individual one-on-one in addition to what services CareerLink provides. Ms. Talbert further advised it is extra help for people who are competing right now for jobs.

Ms. Martin, in referencing the Parking Hot Spots, requested additional information on how that works; in which, Ms. Talbert advised individuals can access Wi-Fi while in the parking lots of the churches. Ms. Talbert further stated church parking lots are a safe place for individuals to go and they are empty most of the week. Ms. Martin inquired if the program can be successful during the winter months; in which, Ms. Talbert advised she believes it can be.

President Rowe extended her appreciation to Ms. Talbert for her time and informative presentation.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mr. James Sandoe, Northern Lancaster Stands Up, requested Council to begin the process of reverse their decision regarding water and electric shutoffs due to the residents who are struggling during this time of economic- and pandemic-related emergencies. Mr. Sandoe advised he believes it is the moral obligation of Council to go above and beyond its normal guidelines. Mr. Sandoe further advised with the wave of expected evictions looming on the horizon, this situation is not going to get any better and stated, “... the current approach is the equivalent of putting a Band-Aid on a gaping wound and it is bound to fail.”

Mr. Sandoe further stated, "... only aggressive action by the whole community can put a stop to this crisis." Mr. Sandoe advised he has proposed such a plan and urged Borough Council to study it and vote on it. Mr. Sandoe further advised all he is asking for is that the Borough assists with recruiting Ephrata's best leader and assign one Council member to a workgroup with no Borough funding being required. Mr. Sandoe stated, "... a community-led independent work group to discuss and come up with long-term solutions could help us solve this problem ... the course we are on now will just keep repeating itself as every month more families fall behind."

Mr. Sandoe advised he is asking Council to be proactive and get in front of the problem and he believes his plan does that. Mr. Sandoe further advised he believes both of these actions can be enacted and should be enacted. Mr. Sandoe concluded his comments by thanking Council for their time.

President Rowe thanked Mr. Sandoe for his comments. President Rowe advised Kelly Werner, to participate via Zoom, had requested to speak to Council; however, she is not active on the Zoom call.

President Rowe then opened the floor for visitors attending within Council Chambers to address Council.

Ginny Dillio, 30 Kings Court, Ephrata, approached the podium and read her personal statement: "As a long-time member of the Ephrata community – almost 50 years now – as a member of Northern End Stands Up, I come before you to strongly urge that you do what you need to do to reinstate the very appropriate moratorium that you instituted in the spring. Whether the people who haven't paid utility bills are chronically late or have just recently experienced job reductions or loss as a result of the pandemic, the current economic situation in Lancaster County does not lend itself to fix the situation. As you are our elected officials, we look to you for leadership in times of crisis. Leadership means that you are responsible for setting the bar and for looking for solutions to stressful situations as they arise. You also have a moral leadership role as individuals and as a body. Our county is one with a reputation for accepting refugees, helping our neighbors and rallying around those who are facing difficulties in their lives. We believe in caring for least of these in our midst. Our Mayor leads Ephrata Cares which seeks to help people struggling with addiction; the Elks, the VFW, the American Legion and others work with many who struggle. I know Tim Barr has been trying to work with the Elks and the VFW to try to find sources of income for these people. Ephrata Area Social Services and the HUB provide remarkable help to many people in our areas. Unfortunately, they are running out of funds because of the great need.

What we need from you now is twofold. First of all, and foremost, stop disconnecting the utilities immediately to give us time to find more funding for Ephrata Area Social Services and for the HUB. Second, call for one member of your group to join with others in the community to work for a long-term solution. Jim Sandoe has laid out a plan for the community group and with the connections and influences that you have as Borough Council, one or more of you can be instrumental in making this change for our community. You as a body have the leadership obligation, you have the morale duty and you have the power to do the right thing here and your community asks and expects that you will make the most of this opportunity."

President Rowe extended her appreciation to Ms. Dillio for her comments.

Teresa Caruthers, 329 Railroad Avenue, Ephrata, approached the podium and stated, "... after listening to your (President Rowe) introduction, I feel remiss for not being around in July ... I was listening to a

speech by the Lancaster Mayor today and she was talking about mental health ... and mental health is impacted by homelessness, lack of utilities, water ... a lot of this links back to mental health.” Ms. Caruthers further commented that it is incomprehensible to her as to how people are coping with not having electric and/or water – basic human needs. Ms. Caruthers informed Council she supports their efforts in trying to resolve this issue by following the guidelines provided to them, but stated, “... maybe they need to be re-written too.”

President Rowe extended her appreciation to Ms. Caruthers for her comments.

Leah Volker, 1420 W. Main Street, Ephrata, approached the podium and advised she works in the health care industry, apologized she was not in attendance at July’s meeting, and stated she was not aware of this being an issue until her friend’s water was shut off. Ms. Volker advised her friend did not receive notice prior to her water being shut off stating, “... that is a problem.” Ms. Volker further stated, “... I want you guys to realize when we say that this is a cruel and heartless decision, we are not saying you are cruel and heartless, we’re saying this decision is ... we really need to find a way to come to a solution.”

Ms. Volker further stated, “... no one is saying that we want these debts to be erased ... we understand there is a fundamental nature of our country that you pay what you owe ... we understand that ... we get that ... but we got to find a different solution ... shutting off the water ended up spiraling her to a place where she almost was really in a bad situation where she wasn’t going to be able to pay for food for her kids ... like it really put her in this terrible bind ... it could’ve easily been fixed if we just gone a different way about it ... I don’t know why it happened that her water got shut off ... I don’t know the whole story ... I’m sure there’s more that I don’t understand ... but she and I had conversation about it and I asked her, “Did you get notices? Did they call? Did they tell you today is your last day?” ... no ... and she’s got two kids ... so if people are falling through the cracks and getting their water and power shut off that are not supposed to, we’ve got a problem ... but the first thing is this is an incredibly stressful time ... we are an incredibly stressed out society and I work in healthcare and I know the toll that that’s going to take on people ... it’s going to take a huge toll ... when people are stressed, they don’t feel well ... they get sicker ... they make mistakes that cause more issues to happen and what we’re doing is digging a hole and saying, “Sorry, you got to get yourselves out of it” ... can we please ... please work together as a community to find a solution so that this doesn’t happen ... especially right now ... we’re in a pandemic ... we’re in a really vicarious situation where we could go either way any time ... let’s try and keep these numbers down ... I want to go back to my real job ... right now I’m screening at the hospital which means every day I get to ask people about COVID, but I don’t get to ask them if they’ve been able to wash their hands today or have clean clothes or took a shower ... and those things are important too if we want to stop the spread of this disease ... I’m asking you guys for your help ... you need to come up with a solution for this ... I realize that it is hard, but just for a minute put yourself in the situation and think what would you have to have happen to your life to make it so you would be behind in your bills.”

Ms. Volker concluded her comments by stating, “... I would really hope that my city would have my back and help me get back on my feet” and thanked Council for their time.

Mayor Mowen asked Ms. Volker to provide the name of her friend so that can be looked into as that is not the procedure in place. Ms. Volker replied that she would ask her friend to make contact with him with Mayor Mowen encouraging her to do so as he will look into the matter further.

President Rowe extended her appreciation to Ms. Volker for her comments.

Michelle Gibbs, 241 Railroad Avenue, Ephrata, approached the podium and advised she is a concerned resident of Ephrata. Ms. Gibbs advised referenced a past incident where she found herself to be at a low point and needed public assistance – something that she never thought she would need as she prided herself on being a hard worker. Ms. Gibbs advised over time, she was able to “get over that hurdle” with the help and support of her community. Ms. Gibbs then advised everyone in this room has been affected, regardless of how small or how big, by this pandemic in some way or another.

Ms. Gibbs further advised her family has lived in Ephrata for the past eight years and she loves living here. Ms. Gibbs then stated, “... with what is going on right now, it is not the Ephrata that I know and it’s not the Ephrata that I have grown to love ... so I’m asking you to please just reconsider because I can’t even imagine these families who are without electricity cannot take a shower or a bath ... children ... to be put in a situation where you have to choose between putting food on the table, paying your rent, maybe medication ... it just doesn’t seem right ... and so I respectfully ask you to change that decision and help the families of Ephrata.”

President Rowe extended her appreciation to Ms. Gibbs for her comments.

Susanna Wurtz, 33 Akron Road, advised she was in attendance at the September 8, 2020, Work Session where she spoke to Council. Ms. Wurtz further advised she is not present at tonight’s meeting as a member of an organization, but rather as an Ephrata resident, a working-class woman, as well as a mother. Ms. Wurtz advised she has been thinking this past week about some of the narratives she has seen regarding the current situation where people are saying, “Oh, why can’t these people get a job?” Ms. Wurtz continued by stating, “... that’s great if you can find a job, right?” Ms. Wurtz advised unemployment rates according to the US Department of Labor have been between 11.4% and 11.2% in Lancaster County since May.

Ms. Wurtz advised she spoke to a member of Council last week about why and how the decision was made to reverse the moratorium on electric bills and was told it was because the County moved to green.

Ms. Wurtz then provided an overview of the research she conducted regarding getting a job within our area: (1) the average pay per hour for a working-class project is \$13.83; (2) after State, Federal and Payroll taxes, that amount drops to just over \$10 an hour; and that (3) the average rental rates in Ephrata are \$1,000+ per month. Ms. Wurtz then stated, “... the pay is not compatible with life ... you need the community around you really ... and I know you guys are not in the position to address income and equality and minimum wage at this time, but just a little bit of clarity of why people might have been late with their payments.” Ms. Wurtz concluded her comments by stating, “... please reinstate the moratorium.”

President Rowe extended her appreciation to Ms. Wurtz for her comments.

An unidentified gentleman in attendance stated “... last week Borough Council was asked what the latest numbers were on people who are still without power or without water” and requested an update. President Rowe requested Vice President Reinhold provide an update on the numbers; in which, Vice President Reinhold highlighted the following information received from Staff (as of 4:07 PM on September 14, 2020):

- Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> was the third and final cycle of the disconnects;
- 66 customers had their power disconnected;
- Of the 66 customers, there are 13 who still do not have power;

- Seven of those 13 customers are vacant properties;
- Of those 66 customers, all except three of those were habitually delinquent;
- Customer Service Representatives had approximately 30 people ask for payment plans over the phone;
- As of 4:07 PM, there remains four payment plans in place (the others have either been fulfilled or broken);
- Customer Service Representatives have received approximately 300 calls from residents since the disconnection notices started;
- Total penalties applied to Electric Accounts in August were \$13,310.53; and,
- Total penalties applied to Electric Accounts in September (to date) are \$3,410.22

Ms. Martin sought confirmation that it is accurate that six people within the Borough currently have their power disconnected; in which, Mr. Thompson advised she is correct and that there is a total of 6,700+ Borough customers. Additionally, President Rowe confirmed those six customers is the total number resulting from all three rounds of electric cutoffs.

After a brief time allotted for additional citizen comments and with no one in attendance coming forward, it was moved by Vice President Reinhold, seconded by Mr. Barr, and unanimously passed that the public comments section of the meeting be closed until the end of tonight's agenda.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

It was moved by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Mr. Barr, and unanimously passed to approve the Acceptance of Reports consisting of the following documents:

### **Budget and Finance Committee**

The Budget & Finance Committee met on August 24, 2020, and discussed the following:

#### **Action Items:**

1. The Staff presented the 2021 Pension Certification Report identifying the Borough's minimum municipal obligation to each pension plan. The 2021 defined benefit Police Pension Plan amount will be \$687,066. The 2021 defined benefit Non-Uniform Borough Pension Plan amount will be \$599,781. The 2021 defined contribution Retirement Plan amount will be \$61,111. The Certification will appear on the September Consent Agenda recommending that the Borough Manager execute the certification.

#### **Discussion Items:**

1. The Staff presented an estimated COVID-19 budget impact for 2020. The largest risk is with the Earned Income Tax and the Local Services Tax. In addition to the two taxes, there are a number of other smaller accounts at risk which when combined equals an estimated loss to the General Fund of \$379,700. The General Fund balance will be used to cover this shortfall. The Staff will not recommend a tax increase to cover COVID-19 expenses. We maintain a healthy fund balance to cover emergency situations like this. The Staff will continue to monitor the situation and will provide updates as they are available.
2. The Staff provided the Committee with the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter finance reports. Since finances were just reviewed in the above presentation, there were no additional questions. No further action is required.
3. The Staff provided the Morgan Stanley reports on the two pensions and the retirement plan for review. No further action is required.

4. The Staff provided a copy of two reports on the solicitor's invoices. The first report is sorted by invoice and the second report is sorted by project. No further action is required.
5. The Staff provided the Check and ACH registers to the Committee for August to date. An addition of a BA or EJ was added to the list so the Committee knows which checks are for the Ephrata Borough Authority and EAJA. The Committee requested details on the account charged for Check 42709. It was coded to rental expense for drone battery charges, but the expense should have been charged to tools and equipment. The Staff will move the expense to the correct account.

**Old Business Items:**

1. The Staff will provide the breakout of contributions for the September Committee meeting.
2. The Staff will begin the process of reviewing our collection process.
3. The Staff provided an update on the credit card fees. The Springbrook upgrade could be completed now for \$10,000 and the system would still reside on the Boroughs server, or we could wait until March 2021 (estimated) and complete the upgrade for \$8,000 and the system would reside on the Cloud. The Staff will work with Springbrook on dates for the upgrades. We will have to provide sufficient notice to our customers of the change to customer pay for credit card fees. Considering the current state of the economy due to COVID-19, we would not want to add the fees right now. We try to coordinate the implementation of changes like this with the Spring since most customers would have lower utility charges overall at that time. If the upgrade to the server would be completed next year anyway, then we should wait until we can upgrade to the Cloud. The Staff will provide an update at the September meeting.
4. The rental abatement will continue until the end of this year.
5. The Staff is working on the Borough parking project and will provide updates as they are available.
6. The Staff is working on the potential revenue sources and will provide an update when it's available.

**Miscellaneous Items:**

1. The budget presentation workshop has been moved from October 8<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.
2. Tim Barr volunteered to fill the vacancy on the EAJA board. This will be moved to an Action Item.
3. The Staff submitted the documentation for the PA Cares Grant on Friday, 08/21/20.
4. The alternate to the AMP board of trustee's position remains vacant.

**Development Activities Committee**

The Development Activities Committee met on August 24, 2020 and discussed the following:

**Action Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed a letter from the VFW regarding the Phase III of the Ephrata Honors banners. At the end of this three-year rotation the current banners will be retired and the VFW will offer a new set of banners to the community which will be available for the summer of 2021. The

banners will be part of the current banner rotation. The Committee had no objections and will recommend approval at the September Council meeting.

2. The Committee reviewed a sketch plan for the Ephrata High School, 803 Oak Boulevard. The District is proposing several additions to the existing high school building to accommodate expansion of the district office and several school programs. They will be removing some impervious surface and relocating the existing tennis courts to comply with maximum impervious surface coverages. New tennis courts will be constructed on the athletic field located across the street from the high school. They will also be constructing a small parking lot and stormwater management facilities next to the new tennis courts. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council authorize the staff to issue the sketch plan comments from the staff and HRG to the applicant at the September Council meeting.
3. In May 2020, a sprinkler head broke in the Ephrata Performing Arts Center (EPAC) and caused damaged to the interior of the structure. The Borough owns the building and is responsible for the repair. The repairs were bid and the apparent low bidder is Restoration Relief, Inc. with a bid of \$83,059.79. The cost of the repairs is covered by the Borough's insurance. The only cost to the Borough is the deductible. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council award the bid for the EPAC repairs to Restoration Relief, Inc. in the amount of \$83,059.79 at the September Council meeting.
4. The request for temporary sales at the Eicher Indian Museum was withdrawn. No action is required.
5. The Committee reviewed a request to place three (3) monitoring wells on the Borough's property at the Ephrata Public Library. The Turkey Hill Minit Market located next to the library is investigating various volatile organic compounds (VOCs) found in the groundwater of the Turkey Hill property. The environmental contractor will install and monitor the wells following all PADEP guidelines. They will also remove and restore the wells once DEP approves the closure. The applicant will need to execute an agreement with the Borough that provides for removal, restoration and escrow of funds should the applicant fail to remove and restore the area disturbed. The Committee is recommending that Borough Council approve the request to install monitoring wells subject to the execution of an agreement prepared by the solicitor.

**Discussion Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed the first quarter budget report for activities under their purview. There were no concerns regarding the budget report.
2. The staff updated the Committee on the Gross Run Streambank Restoration project. The staff will be contacting owners to review the project with them and ask for permission to perform the work on their property. Councilwoman Martin requested that the staff provide a copy of the letter to Council so they know what information is being provided to the residents. Any questions residents may have will be directed to the staff.
3. Harris reported that all the repairs to the Rec Center have been completed and inspected. The transfer of ownership that Council previously approved will move forward.
4. Councilman Barr mentioned that a Census Taker found some code enforcement issues. Councilman Barr provided the information to Harris who will make sure the code enforcement staff follows up on the three concerns.

5. There were no decisions from the August Zoning Hearing Board meeting. (Note this item was omitted from the agenda and was not discussed at the Development Activities Committee meeting)
6. There are no new applications for the September Zoning Hearing Board meeting. (Note this item was omitted from the agenda and was not discussed at the Development Activities Committee meeting)

### **Public Safety Committee**

The Public Safety Committee met on August 17, 2020 at 6:30 PM and discussed the following:

#### **Action Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed the certified list of eligible police applicants as provided in the letter from the Ephrata Borough Civil Service Commission dated July 2, 2020. The Committee will recommend the approval and acceptance of the certified list of applicants for the position of police officer at the September council meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed the background investigation of Jeffrey Evan King for the position of Police Officer and at the September council meeting will recommend the hiring of Mr. King effective October 12, 2020. This will be a conditional offer of employment pending Mr. King's successful passing of a physical, psychological and drug screening examinations. Mr. King will be subject to a one-year probationary period commencing September 28, 2020 and ending October 12, 2021.
3. The Committee reviewed the background investigation of Robert Michael Wolpert, Jr for the position of Police Officer and at the September council meeting will recommend the hiring of Mr. Wolpert effective January 11, 2021. This will be a conditional offer of employment pending Mr. Wolpert's successful passing of a physical, psychological and drug screening examinations. Additionally, Mr. Wolpert must attend and graduate the Reading Police Academy and successfully complete all necessary Municipal Police Officer Education and Training Commission certification requirements. Mr. Wolpert will be subject to a one-year probation period commencing upon the date he receives his MPOETC certification number.

#### **Discussion Items:**

1. Fire Department Insurance – C. Moore briefly discussed insurance cost disparities between Lincoln Fire and Pioneer Fire due to different methods and types of apparatus that each department insures. The needs will likely be clarified upon completion of the fire study.
2. 2020 Second Quarter Budget Report – Lt. Shumaker presented the 2020 second quarter budget report. All expenditures are within the expected parameters for the year with no concerns noted.
3. Monthly Police Report – Lt. Shumaker presented on the monthly police report noting the highest profile case for the month was the quadruple shooting that occurred earlier in the month.
4. Emergency Management Report– EMC Gockley presented on the EMC report noting COVID issues affecting our area and the activation of the Emergency Operations Center on August 4<sup>th</sup> due to Tropical Storm Isaias.

5. Public Comments – Members of Northern End Stands Up briefed the Committee regarding issues they will bring up at the September PSC meeting regarding posting police policies online, banning choke holds and banning carotid artery restraints.

**Executive Session:**

The PSC Committee discussed a personnel matter in Executive Session.

**Highway Committee**

The Highway Committee met on August 24, 2020 and discussed the following:

**Action Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed a Resolution establishing parking meter rates for on-street metered parking with parking meter zones. The new parking meter rate programming is tentatively scheduled for the weeks of September 21 and September 28, 2020. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council adopt this Resolution at their September 14, 2020 meeting.
2. The Committee discussed an existing parking restriction along a portion of the 500 block of the north side of East Main Street to 610 East Main Street previously approved by Borough Council on January 26, 1987 but never ordained. Several residents wanting this parking restriction ordained and enforceable were present to describe their departure concerns onto East Main Street from their private, common driveway. A Resolution permitting a 90-day experimental parking prohibition will be presented at the September 8, 2020 Council Work Session. The Committee will then recommend that Borough Council adopt this Resolution at their September 14, 2020 meeting.

**Discussion Items:**

1. The Committee discussed the South Oak Street Bridge pedestrian railing following review of prior e-mail discussion between Borough staff, Scott Stock from Mackin Engineering (Bridge Inspector), and Peter Erndwein from DVIT (Borough's Liability Insurer). Committee directed staff to contact and discuss concerns with PennDOT's Lancaster County Maintenance Manager as they have the same railing on their bridge immediately upstream.
2. Borough Manager Thompson reviewed with Committee the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2020 budget report for those activities under their purview and noted no concerns at this time.

**Municipal Enterprises Committee**

The Municipal Enterprises Committee met on August 17, 2020 and discussed the following:

**Action Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed the Year 5 extension of the Waste and Recyclable Materials Collection contract with Eagle Disposal of PA, Inc. The Committee will recommend approval of the contract extension thru September 30, 2021 at the September council meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed Bid #20-5 for a new pole building at the wastewater treatment plant #1. The project was budgeted at \$100,000 and the lowest bid is \$118,848.75 from Dutchman Contracting, LLC. The additional funds to complete the project will come from the process control meters for phosphorous and ammonia nitrogen project planned at WWTP#2 for \$79,000, which has been postponed. The Borough Authority approved the pole building at their August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and recommend Borough Council approve it at their September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Discussion Items:**

1. Borough resident, John Stewart, submitted a written concern regarding the rate that is being charged to a small business owner on Main Street. He states there is no benefit to small customers from the all-electric rate. He is requesting the rate be reviewed or eliminated. The Staff requested the account number or address for the small business so we can review their account and determine if they are in the best class for them. Once the account information is provided the Staff will research this issue. Mr. Stewart also asked why the borough requires a fee of \$125 for meter removal and he wanted to know if the peaking generators are finished. The Committee said they would invite him to the September Committee meeting so he could present his questions in person and they could be answered. The Staff will wait for an account number to review the small business account.

**Old Business Items:**

1. While discussing the electric vehicle charging stations, a question was raised regarding the cost effectiveness of the Borough purchasing an electric vehicle. The staff will look into this as part of the normal fleet budget process.

**Miscellaneous Items:**

1. One of our residents, Teresa Caruthers, asked the Committee why the school didn't put solar panels on their roof. She said it would be educational and provide cost savings. The Committee advised that the school board would have to first decide to pursue a solar panel project and then contact the Borough for information.

**Community Services Committee**

The Community Services Committee met on August 24, 2020 and discussed the following:

**Action Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed a written request, dated July 9, 2020, from Josh McCracken, Principal of Fulton Elementary School, to place flags at the Winters Leadership Plaza for Veterans Day (2020) and Memorial Day (2021). The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the request as part of the Consent Agenda at their September 14, 2020 meeting. The Borough is in receipt of a certificate of insurance naming the Borough as additional insured.

**Discussion Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed and discussed the 2020 second quarter budget report for those areas under the Committee's responsibility. Capital projects were discussed and Borough Manager, Robert Thompson reported as follows:

Public Library Improvements	Deferred
Railroad Right of Way	Deferred to 2021
Playground Improvements	2020 (RDA)
Pool Improvements	2020 (Completed)
Playground Surface Improvement	2020 (RDA)

There was also a brief discussion regarding revenue loss at the Ephrata Community Pool. Recreation Center Director, Jim Summers reported that the estimated loss of revenue will be

approximately \$20,000. The final numbers are not calculated yet. The Committee had no additional budget concerns. No further action is required by the Committee.

2. Jim Summers reported that the 2020 Dog Swim has been cancelled.
3. Council took action to extend the summer season an additional week due to school starting a week later. Councilman Reinhold was contacted by a pool member that a sign was posted stating that the pool will be closed on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Reinhold requested an explanation. Jim Summers explained that they do not have enough lifeguards to open the pool.

An email was sent out on Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> informing Committee Members that the pool would be open on Wednesday, but will not open on Thursday. A Rec Center lifeguard will be pulled to work at the pool on Wednesday, but there were no lifeguards available for Thursday.

The Committee will consider keeping it membership only and membership guests only for the 2021 season. The topic will be discussed closer to the pool season.

The last day for the pool to be open is Sunday, August 30, 2020.

### **Personnel Committee**

The Personnel Committee met on August 10, 2020 and discussed the following:

#### **Action Items:**

1. There were no action items for discussion.

#### **Special Item:**

1. Borough Manager Bob Thompson updated the Committee on the status of the goals/objectives received from Borough Council in December 2019. The first goal was discussed previously at the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting and the Borough Manager received direction from that Committee. The remaining two objectives were discussed in detail. The Committee thanked Mr. Thompson for the update, indicating they were satisfied with the progress of the second goal, but wanted additional time to discuss the third objective.

#### **Discussion Items:**

1. The Committee began a discussion of the future and priority of workshops. These were scheduled to be held Bimonthly on even-numbered months; however, due to COVID-19 and Declarations of Emergency no workshops have been hosted. Rowe explained the April Workshop facilitated by Bob and Steph on Right to Know was placed on hold. The Workshop scheduled for June led by Rowe on the Explanation of Evaluation Guidelines was also placed on hold. Additional workshop topics need prioritization. Suggestions for restarting workshops included creating a PowerPoint video for council viewing or holding workshops via Zoom. This discussion was tabled.
2. Discussion Items 2 (Policies and Guidelines), 3 (Retreats for 2021) and 4 (Personnel Committee members ideas for priorities) were not brought forward by Chairman Reinhold due to the late hour. These will be discussed as discussion items at the next meeting.

#### **Executive Session:**

Chairman Reinhold called the Committee into an Executive Session to discuss two personnel matters.

**Miscellaneous Reports:**

- ◆ August 2020 General Ledger Report
- ◆ Ephrata Pioneer Fire Company August 2020 Report
- ◆ Lincoln Fire Company August 2020 Report
- ◆ Ephrata Community Ambulance Association August 2020 Report
- ◆ Ephrata Emergency Management August 2020 Report
- ◆ Mainspring of Ephrata July 2020 and August 2020 Meeting Minutes

**NEW BUSINESS ITEMS****Consent Agenda**

Vice President Reinhold advised the items on tonight's consent agenda have been discussed in detail at the September 8, 2020, Work Session. These items are considered routine in nature and voted upon under one umbrella. These items are not open for discussion unless an individual or Council Member wishes to have the item removed from the consent agenda. If an item is removed it will be handed over to the Committee under which it was originally discussed during the Standing Committee Recommendations.

1. That Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to execute the 2021 Pension Certification Report identifying the Borough's minimum municipal obligation to each pension plan. The 2021 defined benefit Police Pension Plan amount will be \$687,066. The 2021 defined benefit Borough Pension Plan amount will be \$599,781. And the 2021 defined contribution Retirement Plan amount will be \$61,111. (Budget & Finance)
2. That Borough Council approve the July 9, 2020 written request from Josh McCracken, Principal of Fulton Elementary School, to place flags at the Winters Leadership Plaza for Veterans Day (2020) and Memorial Day (2021). The Borough is in receipt of a satisfactory certificate of insurance naming the Borough as additional insured. (Community Services)

It was moved by Mr. Weiler, seconded by Mr. Richard, and unanimously passed that Borough Council adopt, authorize and/or approve/conditionally approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda.

**STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS****Budget and Finance Committee**

It was moved by Mr. Weiler, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, and unanimously passed that Borough Council appoint Timothy Barr to the Ephrata Area Joint Authority Board.

**Development Activities Committee**

It was moved by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Mr. Barr, and unanimously passed that Borough Council approve the request from the VFW to proceed with another 3-year cycle of Ephrata Honors Banners.

It was moved by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Vice President Reinhold, and unanimously passed that Borough Council authorize the release of comments for a Sketch Plan for Ephrata High School Building Additions and Tennis Courts.

It was moved by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Vice President Reinhold, and unanimously passed via roll call vote that Borough Council award Bid #20-6, Interior Water Damage Repairs at Ephrata Performing Arts Center to Restoration Relief, Inc., Ephrata, PA for \$83,059.79.

It was moved by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Mr. Barr, and unanimously passed that Borough Council approve the request to install monitoring wells on the Borough's property at the Ephrata Public Library and to authorize the Borough Secretary to execute an agreement for maintenance, removal and restoration of the wells in a form acceptable to the Borough Solicitor.

### **Public Safety Committee**

It was moved by Vice President Reinhold, seconded by Mr. Richard, and unanimously passed that Borough Council approve the acceptance of the certified list of eligible police applicants as provided in the letter from the Ephrata Borough Civil Service Commission dated July 2, 2020.

It was moved by Vice President Reinhold, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, and unanimously passed via roll call vote that Borough Council approve the hiring of Jeffrey Evan King for the position of Police Officer effective October 12, 2020. This will be a conditional offer of employment pending Mr. King's successful passing of a physical, psychological and drug screening examinations. Mr. King will be subject to a one-year probationary period commencing October 12, 2020, and ending October 12, 2021.

It was moved by Vice President Reinhold, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, and unanimously passed via roll call vote that Borough Council approve the hiring of Robert Michael Wolpert, Jr., for the position of Police Officer effective January 11, 2021. This will be a conditional offer of employment pending Mr. Wolpert's successful passing of a physical, psychological and drug screening examinations. Additionally, Mr. Wolpert must attend and graduate the Reading Police Academy and successfully complete all necessary Municipal Police Officer Education and Training Commission certification requirements. Mr. Wolpert will be subject to a one-year probation period commencing upon the date he receives his MPOETC certification number.

### **Highway Committee**

It was moved by Mr. Richard, seconded by Mr. Weiler, and unanimously passed via roll call vote that Borough Council adopt Resolution No. 2020-17 establishing parking meter rates for on-street metered parking with parking meter zones.

It was moved by Mr. Richard, seconded by Ms. Martin, and unanimously passed via roll call vote that Borough Council adopt Resolution No. 2020-18 establishing experimental traffic and parking regulations for a period of up to 90 days along a portion of East Main Street on the north side just east of Akron Road.

It was moved by Mr. Richard, seconded by Mr. Weiler, that Borough Council conditionally approve the September 8, 2020, request from the VFW Cocalico Valley Post 3376 to close South State Street from Fulton Street to West Franklin Street from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, (Rain Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020) for the annual Jack Frost parade subject to Borough receipt of a satisfactory certificate of insurance naming the Borough as additional insured.

Prior to the vote occurring, Amy MacKenzie, VFW, approached the podium; in which, President Rowe advised that the Public Comments portion of the meeting has been closed and asked if she needed to address Council at this time or could she wait until the second opportunity for public comments was provided. Ms. MacKenzie replied she, in fact, did need to address Council prior to their vote on this matter. At this time, President Rowe requested a motion from Council to re-open Public Comments; in which, Vice President Reinhold made a motion, seconded by Ms. Martin, and unanimously passed to re-open Public Comments at this time during the meeting.

Amy MacKenzie identified herself and advised she is representing the VFW Cocalico Valley Post 3376. Ms. MacKenzie further advised their ask was to close the road from Fulton Street to Sugar Alley to encourage social distancing; in which, President Rowe requested the Recommendation be revised to reflect the change as stated by Ms. MacKenzie.

It was moved by Mr. Barr, seconded by Ms. Martin, and unanimously passed that the public comments section of the meeting be closed until the end of tonight's agenda.

It was moved by Mr. Richard, seconded by Mr. Weiler, that Borough Council conditionally approve the September 8, 2020, request from the VFW Cocalico Valley Post 3376 to close South State Street from Fulton Street to Sugar Alley from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 (Rain Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020) for the annual Jack Frost parade subject to Borough receipt of a satisfactory certificate of insurance naming the Borough as additional insured.

It should be noted prior to the vote, Mayor Mowen volunteered himself and Chief Petrick to be the judges for the Jack Frost parade.

### **Municipal Enterprises Committee**

It was moved by Ms. Martin, seconded by Vice President Reinhold, and unanimously passed that Borough Council authorize the President of Borough Council to execute the contract extension of the Waste and Recyclable Materials Collection with Eagle Disposal of PA, Inc. through September 30, 2021.

It was moved by Ms. Martin, seconded by Mr. Richard, and unanimously passed via roll call vote that Borough Council approve Bid #20-5 for a new pole building at the Wastewater Treatment Plant #1. The Borough Authority approved the pole building at their August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and recommend approval by Borough Council.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Thompson advised the overage is going to be paid for by deferring a project not being done this year for Plant #2 for the installation of phosphorous and ammonia nitrogen meters estimated at \$79,000. Mr. Thompson then provided additional information regarding who the bid is being awarded to and for what amount. President Rowe requested the Recommendation be revised to reflect the changes as stated by Mr. Thompson.

It was moved by Ms. Martin, seconded by Mr. Richard, and unanimously passed via roll call vote that Borough Council approve Bid #20-5 to Dutchman Contracting, LLC, in the amount of \$118,848.75 for a new pole building at the Wastewater Treatment Plant #1. The Borough Authority approved the pole building at their August 10, 2020, meeting and recommend approval by Borough Council at their September 14, 2020, meeting.

### **Personnel Committee**

It was moved by Mr. Reinhold, seconded by Mr. Richard, and unanimously passed that Borough Council approve discontinuing the stipend of \$1,200 per month extended to Lieutenant Thomas Shumaker for serving in the role of Acting Chief of Police. The stipend will cease effective October 5, 2020.

### **APPROVAL OF CHECKS 42697 THROUGH 42990 AND THE ACH REGISTER DATED AUGUST 27, 2020**

It was moved by Mr. Richard, seconded by Mr. Barr, and unanimously passed that Borough Council ratify the payment of bills performed by the Staff since the last regular Council meeting in the aggregate amount of \$673,289.74.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Jody Kohl, 858 N. Maple Street, Ephrata, approached the podium and advised she is in attendance representing herself and her neighbors. Ms. Kohl advised there are a lot of individuals who speed on her street; further advising some going up to 60 to 70 miles per hour in a 25 per mile speed limit zone. Ms. Kohl advised there are small children and pets in the area as well as individuals who utilize the roadway for walking and/or bicycling. Ms. Kohl further advised there is an individual who uses his motorized wheelchair on the roadway.

Ms. Kohl then expressed her concern of the safety of the children who reside in the area and fears that one day an accident will occur. Ms. Kohl advised she understands that the police cannot be everywhere all of the time and stated she appreciates everything they do; however, she is trying to prevent something bad from happening.

Ms. Kohl concluded her comments by advising that any consideration given to her concern will be greatly appreciated.

President Rowe requested Chief Petrick make contact with Ms. Kohl and have the Police Department look into her concerns; in which, Chief Petrick advised the Department does take her concern very seriously and will deploy radar speed boxes in the area. Ms. Kohl thanked Chief Petrick and stated that she has some additional recommendations to relay to him and will do so during their upcoming conversation.

Harold Spatz, 532 E. Main Street, Ephrata, extending his appreciation to Borough Council for "... doing some changes on (East) Main Street." Mr. Spatz advised that he understands there has been talk of putting parking spaces in the area. Mr. Spatz further advised there is a lot of traffic in the area of the intersection Akron Road and East Main Street where people are "coming out of that really hard." Mr. Spatz advised that there are times where "... they are coming in so hard, they can't pull the light ... they're going into that space and coming back out."

Mr. Spatz advised he is hopeful that the parking situation "... helps clear us ... we have a right of way on the other side of Akron Road that is kind of nightmare to pull out and I'm hoping this helps us." Mr. Spatz concluded by stating, "... so my main thought was thank you."

President Rowe extended her appreciation for Mr. Spatz's comments.

An unidentified male approached the podium and asked if any member of Council wishes to react to Mr. Sandoe's proposal he made earlier in the meeting; in which, President Rowe advised Mr. Sandoe's request has been sent to a Committee for further discussion. Mr. Thompson confirmed the matter will be discussed at the upcoming Budget & Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Barr advised that Committee is scheduled to meet on September 28, 2020, at 6:30 PM.

With no other visitors approaching the podium, President Rowe moved onto the Discussion/Announcements portion of the meeting.

### **DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Zimmerman thanked the members of the community who attended the meeting and stated their

comments are appreciated.

Ms. Martin dittoed Mr. Zimmerman's comments further stating, "... it is nice to see the community participate so I do appreciate that as well."

Ms. Martin then advised that Mainspring of Ephrata will be holding a "Party on the Plaza" event on Saturday, September 19, 2020 from 4:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Ms. Martin advised the event has been moved to Grater Park in efforts to encourage social distancing. Ms. Martin further advised Mainspring will be following the CDC guidelines of only allowing 250 individuals in attendance and that no-cost tickets are necessary for entry.

Mr. Barr advised those in attendance that each Council member does their own due diligence in obtaining the necessary facts to make the best decision possible. Mr. Barr referenced his wife, who in her early 30's was a single mother and diagnosed with cervical cancer which resulted in her employer terminating her employment thus resulting in the cancellation of her health coverage. Mr. Barr advised although she never expressed it to him, he is sure bills were tight for her. Mr. Barr then advised this year she has taken on a second part-time job – that being a census taker. Mr. Barr advised he is currently semi-retired and is working part-time as well. Mr. Barr concluded his comments by stating, "... we on Council are very in tune to the situation and do not make any decision lightly."

Mr. Richard thanked Mr. Spatz for his comments and relayed the fact that the parking issue on East Main Street was an oversight from 30+ years ago. Additionally, Mr. Richard extended his appreciation to both Mr. Spatz and his wife for their researching the information as it will save time for the Borough to ordain the Ordinance and finally resolving the matter.

Mr. Richard, in referencing the water damage to the EPAC building and approval of the payment of the repair bill, provided clarification that the payment is being paid by the Borough's insurance carrier and is not being paid by the Borough itself.

Mr. Richard then congratulated Chief Petrick for "making it through his first Voting Session" and for Lieutenant Shumaker for "taking care of us before you got here."

Vice President Reinhold reiterated Mr. Richard's comments in welcoming Chief Petrick and in thanking Lieutenant Shumaker.

Vice President Reinhold added he wanted to give credit to and thank Northern End Stands Up as he does appreciate their peaceful protest at tonight's meeting stating "... that is how it should be."

Vice President Reinhold expressed his appreciation to Ms. Moore for the information she provided to Mr. Thompson (who then shared with Council) regarding the shutoffs. Vice President Reinhold inquired, "... of the six remaining properties that right now do not have power ... of the three that were not habitually delinquent ... are they within that six or no?" Ms. Moore advised she would have to look into his inquiry and will provide a response to Council.

Vice President Reinhold then inquired if it would be possible for the Customer Service Representatives to reach out to those six customers without power and see if they could fall within a payment plan as well rather than wait for them to contact the Borough; in which, Ms. Moore advised his request can be completed.

Vice President Reinhold advised he and his family utilized the Bike Share located on the Rail Trail this

past Saturday, had a good experience with it and highly recommends to experience the features of the trail.

In concluding his comments, Vice President Reinhold advised the Personnel Committee will have a meeting immediately following tonight's Voting Session.

Mayor Mowen, addressing Vice President Reinhold, stated, "... I have to say ... I'm impressed if you went all the way to Lititz your first time riding the bike ..." and provided some comical commentary regarding his personal experience with his bicycle and its "small seat."

Chief Petrick extended his appreciation to Lt. Shumaker for his efforts in "holding down the fort" and "taking the reins." Chief Petrick further stated Lt. Shumaker did an excellent job and that he, as well as the entire Department, has been extremely helpful in his job transition.

Chief Petrick advised he wanted to remind residents that the Department does has a prescription drop-off box in their lobby and encouraged them to discard their old prescriptions in that box.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Ms. Martin, seconded by Mr. Barr, and unanimously passed that Borough Council adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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D. Robert Thompson, Secretary