

**EPHRATA BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 8, 2024**

The regular Ephrata Borough Council meeting was called to order by President Thomas Reinhold at 7:00 PM on January 8, 2024, in the Council Chambers of the Borough Office, 124 South State Street.

In attendance in addition to the President were Vice President Linda Martin, President Pro Tem Victor Richard, Council Members Nancy Aronson, Timothy Barr, Alan Buohl, Kory Musser and Greg Zimmerman as well as Mayor Ralph Mowen.

Also in attendance were Borough Manager Nancy Harris, Police Chief Christopher McKim, Borough Solicitor Isaac P. Wakefield, Esq., Salzmann Hughes, and Stephanie Fasnacht, Recorder.

The following visitors were present within Council Chambers:

Larry Alexander, The Ephrata Review  
Steve Aronson, 424 Lake St., Ephrata  
Tim Auker, 542 N. State St., Ephrata  
Thomas Carr, Revelations of Freedom Ministries

Pastor Thomas Carr, Revelations of Freedom Ministries, offered the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Harris provided confirmation of the following:

1. The meeting agenda was posted on the Borough's website and at Borough Hall no later than 24 hours in advance of the time of the meeting.
2. The meeting agenda included a listing of each matter of Borough business that will be or may be the subject of deliberation or official action at the meeting.
3. There were no changes made to the meeting agenda after it was posted.
4. The meeting agenda was made available to individuals in attendance at the meeting.

President Reinhold asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, President Reinhold asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted.

Mr. Barr moved and Vice President Martin seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Aronson moved and Mr. Barr seconded that Borough Council approve the December 4, 2023, Work Session Meeting Minutes and the December 11, 2023, Regular Session Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **OATH OF OFFICE**

Mayor Mowen administered the Oath of Office to Linda Martin who was duly elected to the Office of Council Member from the Fourth Ward for a 4-year term. Ms. Martin presented her signed Affidavit of Residency to the Borough Secretary and took the Oath of Office.

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

After offering an opportunity for citizen comments and with no one in attendance wishing to speak, President Reinhold called for a motion to close the public comments section of the meeting until the end

of the meeting agenda. Vice President Martin moved and Mr. Barr seconded to close public comments until the end of the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

Vice President Martin moved and Mr. Barr seconded to approve the Acceptance of Reports. Motion carried unanimously.

**December 2023 Borough of Ephrata Management Report**

**December 2023 Borough of Ephrata Operations Reports**

**December 2023 General Ledger Report**

**December 2023 Ephrata Pioneer Fire Company Report**

**December 2023 Ephrata Community Ambulance Association Report**

**Ephrata Community Ambulance Association 2023 Annual Operations Report**

**December 2023 Emergency Management Activity Report**

### **NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Municipal Enterprises Committee**

Vice President Martin moved and Mr. Richard seconded that Borough Council adopt Resolution 2024-3 expressing the Borough's commitment to the Electric Division Facility Project and authorizing the filing of an electronic application to the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program as the Applicant and the Grantee requesting funding from the Office of the Budget and designating officials to execute the associated grant documents. Motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF CHECKS 52700 THROUGH 52971 AND THE ACH REGISTER DATED JANUARY 3, 2024**

Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Zimmerman seconded that Borough Council ratify the payment of bills performed by Staff since the last regular Council meeting in the aggregate amount of \$2,321,929.84. Motion carried unanimously.

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

With no visitors wishing to address Council, President Reinhold moved onto the Discussion/Announcements portion of the meeting.

### **DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Aronson recognized both Police Chief McKim and Fire Chief Kiefer, Pioneer Fire Company, expressing her appreciation to them for the time they shared with her to provide her with a tour of the police department and fire company.

Solicitor Wakefield extended his appreciation to Borough Council for the reappointment and opportunity to represent the Borough.

Vice President Martin extended a warm welcome to Ms. Aronson to Borough Council. Additionally, Vice President Martin advised that Mainspring of Ephrata will be holding their annual public meetings on January 17, 2024, at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM at the Pioneer Fire Company and encouraged Council member attendance.

Mayor Mowen reiterated his comments from the January 2, 2024, Reorganization Session regarding Mainspring's New Year's Eve events stating, "... I can't wait until next year."

President Reinhold advised that Committee assignments were distributed at the January 2, 2024, Reorganization Session. President Reinhold noted that the Personnel Committee will now be meeting on the third Monday of the month starting at 4:30 PM and encouraged Council member attendance at the various Committee meetings.

President Reinhold further advised that he has received confirmations for this year's Municipal Moments which Casey Ellis, Ephrata Area Social Services, will kick off on February 12, 2024.

Mr. Zimmerman sought clarification if the Personnel Committee will be meeting at 4:00 PM on January 15, 2024; in which, Vice President Martin confirmed the time further commenting that the meeting time was changed due to Municipal Enterprises Committee meeting at 5:00 PM on that date. Vice President Martin advised the change in meeting times will only occur on January 15<sup>th</sup> and that beginning in February, the Personnel Committee will resume their normal meeting time of at 4:30 PM followed by the Municipal Enterprises Committee meeting at 5:30 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Martin moved and Mr. Barr seconded that Borough Council adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy E. Harris, P.E.  
Secretary

SJF