

**EPHRATA BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 13, 2023**

The regular Ephrata Borough Council meeting was called to order by President Thomas Reinhold at 7:08 PM on February 13, 2023, in the Council Chambers of the Borough Office, 124 South State Street.

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

Also in attendance were Borough Manager Nancy Harris, Interim Police Chief Christopher McKim and Borough Solicitor Isaac P. Wakefield, Esq., Salzman Hughes.

The following visitors were present within Council Chambers:

Liz Ackerman, 124 W. Main St., Ephrata	Ian Frey, 154 W. King St., Ephrata
Dawn Alanso, 1023 Mt. Vernon Rd., Gap	Michelle Gibbs, 241 Railroad Ave., Ephrata
Larry Alexander, The Ephrata Review	Sue Glick, Akron
A. Armstrong, 106 Hummer Rd., Ephrata	David Graham, 316 Coventry Ln., Ephrata
K. Armstrong, 106 Hummer Rd., Ephrata	Mona Graham, 316 Coventry Ln., Ephrata
Joy Ashley, Mainspring of Ephrata	Trevor Graham, 920 Emerald St., Ephrata
Mackenzie Atkins, 17 Oaklawn Blvd., Ephrata	Conrad Graybill, 306 Willow Ln., New Holland
Ivon Auker, 25 W. Locust St., Ephrata	Gary Greene, 210 Sand Ct., Ephrata
Tim Auker, 542 N. State St., Ephrata	Patricia Greene, 210 Sand Ct., Ephrata
Deb B., 423 S. 6th St., Denver	Ben Gunzenhauser, Jr., 839 Martin Ave., Ephrata
Ed Behide, 1st United Methodist Church, Ephrata	Ray Guthrie, 137 Westbrook Dr., Ephrata
Amariah Benitez, 1023 Mt. Vernon Rd., Gap	Phyllis H., 380 E. Church St., Stevens
Rebecca Beres, 44 Brookfield Dr., Ephrata	Randall H., 418 W. Main St., Ephrata
Richard Bexter, Good Samaritan Services	Sheryl Hackel, 25 W. Locust St., Ephrata
Clair Bowman, 127 Cedar St., Ephrata	Scott Hackman, 237 Ammon Ave., Elizabethtown
Ray Brubaker, 6 Michael Ln., Denver	Christy Hambrick, 25 W. Locust St., Ephrata
Ruth Brumbach, Shelter	Rebekah Hamilton
Abby Burkholder, 98 W. Mohler Church Rd., Ephrata	Karen Heffner, 2 Ash Dr., Manheim
Gini Burkholder, 113 Washington Ave., Ephrata	Monica Hersh, 491 S. 9th St., Akron
Kevin Burkholder, 113 Washington Ave., Ephrata	Christy Hibbey, 25 W. Locust St., Ephrata
Cindy Cake, 78 Lake View Rd., Ephrata	Eric Hibshman, 217 S. State St., Ephrata
Tes Caruthers, 229 Railroad Ave., Ephrata	Heather Hibshman, 217 S. State St., Ephrata
Janessa Cline, 17 E. Chestnut St., Ephrata	Lisa Jean Hoefner, 110 W. King St., Ephrata
Randy Coldiron, 124 Wyneberry Dr., Ephrata	Grace Hoffer, 25 W. Fulton St., Ephrata
Stacey Coldiron, 124 Wyneberry Dr., Ephrata	Isaac Hoffer, 25 W. Fulton St., Ephrata
Lisa D., 141 Park Ave., Ephrata	Nate Hoffer, 25 W. Fulton St., Ephrata
Mark D., 141 Park Ave., Ephrata	Noah Hoffer, 25 W. Fulton St., Ephrata
Sarah D., 141 Park Ave., Ephrata	Rebekah Hoffer, 25 W. Fulton St., Ephrata
Lee Davis, Good Samaritan Services	Brian Hoffman, 162 W. King St., Ephrata
Sonya Del Rossi, 25 W. Locust St., Ephrata	Ryan Horning, 27 Westpointe Dr., Ephrata
George Dillio, 30 Kings Ct., Ephrata	Valerie Houtz, 406 E. Main St., Ephrata
Ginny Dillio, 30 Kings Ct., Ephrata	Ray Huber, Willow Street
Juliana Dudley, 146 Washington Ave., Ephrata	Sierra Hurbochak, Good Samaritan Services
Will Dukeman, 104 E. Main St., Ephrata	Deryl Hurst, 1755 W. Main St., Ephrata
Jackson Eichenlaub, 406 E. Main St., Ephrata	Scott Jackson, 100 S. 8th St., Akron
Mike Eichenlaub, 406 E. Main St., Ephrata	Joetta Keefer, 11 E. Main St., Apt. 2R, Ephrata
Mark Emerson, 169 Akron Rd., Ephrata	David Knowles, 1228 Pleasant View Rd., Ephrata
Curt Enck, 109 Washington Ave., Ephrata	Janina Knowles, 1228 Pleasant View Rd., Ephrata
Kaye Enck, 109 Washington Ave., Ephrata	Amy Kusnierczyk, 25 W. Locust St., Ephrata
Shelby Folk, 308 Washington Ave., Ephrata	Kristin Lapp, 25 W. Locust St., Ephrata
Zachary Folk, 308 Washington Ave., Ephrata	Sarena Lash, 25 W. Locust St., Ephrata
	Jean Lausch, 950 Hammon Ave., Ephrata

Carl Laws-Landis, 503 Westview Dr., Akron  
 Deb Laws-Landis, 503 Westview Dr., Akron  
 Stacie Leaman, Shelter  
 Dave Lefever, 509 S. 9th St., Akron  
 Greg Martin, 1304 Marilyn Ave., Ephrata  
 Jeff Martin, 59 Ephrata Ave., Ephrata  
 Cindy Mellinger, 40 Farm Ln., Ephrata  
 Brian Messler, Lead Pastor, Ephrata Church of the Brethren  
 Courtney Metzler, 30 E. Main St., Apt. A, Ephrata  
 Beth Miller, 522 Hemlock Cir., Lititz  
 Glenn Miller, 36 Audrey Ln., Fredericksburg  
 Hannah Miller, Good Samaritan Services  
 Jonathan Miller, 110 Monroe St., Denver  
 Jacob Mohler, 102 S. Line Rd., Ephrata  
 Kathryn Moley, Good Samaritan Services  
 Julie Morrow  
 Josh Morton, 26 E. Walnut St., Ephrata  
 Anthony Moyer, 333 N. State St., Ephrata  
 Lindsay Murphy, 975 Martin Ave., Ephrata  
 Crystal Musser, Washington Ave., Ephrata  
 Becca Nace  
 Emily Neff, 505 Lincoln Gardens Rd., Ephrata  
 Steven Nissley, 505 Sunnyside Rd., Newmanstown  
 David Nolt, Pastor, The Living Room Church  
 Dawn Nolt, 523 Farmwood Cir., Lititz  
 Noel Ornela, 116 W. Main St., Ephrata  
 Drew Pierce, 13 N. State St., Apt. 203, Ephrata  
 Jeni Rathman, 1395 Swamp Bridge Rd., Reinholds  
 Tina Rebman, 334 Southview Dr., Ephrata  
 Debb Redcay, 33 W. Sunset Ave., Ephrata  
 Patrick Reed, 1314 Marie Ave., Ephrata  
 Katy Roark, 185 Tom Ave., Apt. 6, Ephrata  
 Kyle Robinson, 148 Washington Ave., Ephrata  
 Dave Runek, 148 Gery Ct., Ephrata  
 Lillian Santiago, 56 E. Walnut St., Ephrata

Peg Schannauer, 34 Patience Ln., Ephrata  
 Nicole Schlegel, 277 Heatherwood Dr., Ephrata  
 Tricia Schlegel, 19 Blackberry Ln., Ephrata  
 Nelson Sepulveda, 404 S. State St., Ephrata  
 Rachel Shelley, 25 W. Locust St., Ephrata  
 Scott Shonk, 1st United Methodist Church, Ephrata  
 Barry Shumaker, 81 Brookfield Dr., Ephrata  
 Kyle Stauffer, 277 Heatherwood Dr., Ephrata  
 Diane Strawderman, 326 Duke St., Ephrata  
 Wanda Tussel, 420 W. Girl Scout Rd., Ephrata  
 Aslan Umble, 238 W. Franklin St., Ephrata  
 Bethany Umble, 238 W. Franklin St., Ephrata  
 Kai Umble, 238 W. Franklin St., Ephrata  
 Ryan Umble, 238 W. Franklin St., Ephrata  
 Isaac Valentin, 152 Linda Ter., Ephrata  
 Sarah Valentin, 152 Linda Ter., Ephrata  
 Susan Vater, 229 Church Ave., Ephrata  
 Corissa Vichi, G830 Broad St., Ephrata  
 Amanda Wagner, Shelter  
 Dena Waltman, 4 Madison Cir., Ephrata  
 Jeff Waltman, 4 Madison Cir., Ephrata  
 Kim Warner, City Gate  
 Pam Way, 38 Bloomfield Dr., Ephrata  
 Chelsea Weaver, 810 Grandview Rd., Akron  
 Marianna Wenger, 177 Church Ave., Ephrata  
 Micah Wenger, 177 Church Ave., Ephrata  
 Erin Will, Westpointe Dr., Ephrata  
 Suzy Wurtz, 33 Akron Rd., Ephrata  
 Bob Wyble, 986 Hammon Ave., Ephrata  
 Tania Zaliznock, 103 Washington Ave., Ephrata  
 Brendan Zieset, 205 W. Franklin St., Ephrata  
 Deb Zimmerman, 351 Spring Garden St., Ephrata  
 Lynn Zimmerman, 351 Spring Garden St., Ephrata  
 Ella Mae Zimmerman  
 Barb Zoster, 15 Market View Dr., Ephrata  
 Carolyn, 122 Marion Ter., Ephrata

Pastor Duane Metzler, New Life Fellowship, offered the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prior to beginning the meeting, President Reinhold made the following announcement:

- The Personnel Committee met in an Executive Session on February 7, 2023, to discuss a personnel matter.

**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.

In response to President Reinhold asking if there were any requests to add an item of Borough business to

the meeting agenda, Mr. Richard advised of the following:

1. Addition of Proclamation by Mayor Ralph Mowen for Black History Month

President Reinhold asked for a motion to accept the additional agenda item. Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Ressler seconded to approve the additional agenda item. The motion carried unanimously.

President Reinhold asked for a motion to accept the revised meeting agenda. Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Ressler seconded to approve the revised meeting agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

### **RULES OF ORDER ANNOUNCEMENT**

President Reinhold announced the following:

“Ephrata Borough Council follows Rules of Order and By-Laws. We have adopted Roberts Rules of Order as our parliamentary authority. Anyone wishing to speak must wait to be recognized before speaking. This applies to elected officials as well as any member of the public in attendance. This will be enforced.

If you are addressing Borough Council, you must be a resident or taxpayer of the Borough of Ephrata or represent an organization of the Borough of Ephrata. Please wait to be recognized. You must sign in to speak; if you have not signed in, please do so following the adjournment.

The Sunshine Act does allow for video recording of the meeting; however, there are rules associated with this. Out of respect for attendees that may not wish to appear on video, you are asked to announce that you are recording or taking pictures after notifying the individual presiding over the meeting of your intent to do so.”

### **PROCLAMATION – BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Mayor Mowen proclaimed February 2023 as Black History Month in recognition of African American heritage and achievements past and present and called upon all to recognize this important observance and to continue to work toward the goal of liberty and justice for all.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Barr moved and Mr. Richard seconded that Borough Council approve the January 3, 2023, Work Session Meeting Minutes and the January 9, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Prior to receiving citizen comments, President Reinhold read the following statement:

“We have a very well-attended meeting this evening and I understand a number of folks may be here to speak on the particular issue of addressing homelessness in the community. Because we have such a packed house and a full agenda, I wanted to note a few items at the outset.

As I said before, there are two opportunities for public comment at this meeting, one at the beginning of the meeting before Council acts on agenda items and one after. There are no matters related to shelters on this evening’s agenda nor are any currently under consideration by Council. With that in mind, if your comments are unrelated to matters on tonight’s agenda, please consider reserving them for the second public comment period to allow Council to move efficiently through the items of business on tonight’s agenda.

That said, anyone is welcome to offer comments during the public comment periods. Members of the public are asked not to speak out audibly outside the public comment periods or to engage one another in argument. Doing so will allow those speaking a full opportunity to be heard.

We also ask that speakers be considerate of other members of the public who similarly wish to comment. In an effort to provide a speaking opportunity to those who wish to participate, each person will be allotted the standard 3 ½ minutes of uninterrupted time. Given the number of folks here, we ask that you be organized and refrain from repeating previous comments offered by others.

While we request that you be as brief as possible, we want to assure all who are participating in this meeting that your comments are being heard and considered.

When you come to the microphone, please state your name and address for the minutes.”

The following individuals provided comments to Council advising of their support of Good Samaritan Services, the Winter Shelter Program, as well as their plea to assist those who are less fortunate and are going through very difficult times in their lives:

- Hannah Miller, Good Samaritan Services
- Nate Hoffer, 25 W. Fulton St., Ephrata
- Deryl Hurst, 1755 W. Main St., Ephrata
- Ray Brubaker, 6 Michael Ln., Denver
- Nicole Schlegel, 277 Heatherwood Dr., Ephrata
- Kristin Lapp, 25 W. Locust St., Ephrata
- Brendan Zieset, 205 W. Franklin St., Ephrata
- Valerie Houtz, 406 E. Main St., Ephrata
- Kyle Robinson, 148 Washington Ave., Ephrata
- Janessa Cline, 17 E. Chestnut St., Ephrata
- Sonya Del Rossi, 25 W. Locust St., Ephrata
- Ray Huber, Willow Street

Hannah Miller, Good Samaritan Services, advised she wished “... to set the tone for what is going to be shared tonight.” Ms. Miller thanked Council members, “... who have been in support of the Winter Shelter ... we know this is not Council’s full opinion ... this is a select few ... and really what we want to do tonight is to peacefully advocate and to show the support in the community for homelessness and for supporting our community and truly giving a voice to the voiceless is what we’re very passionate about.” Ms. Miller further commented, “... it is not us against Council ... it’s just raising awareness of this great service that is in our community.”

Nate Hoffer, 25 W. Fulton St., Ephrata, opened his comments by stating “...I want to be part of a town ... I want to live in a community ... where everybody is seen ... where everybody is valued ... where people are seen for how God created them to be regardless of their plate ... regardless of their circumstances ... regardless of the economic opportunities that may have been afforded to them ... I don’t want to part of a community that frowns upon ... that is scared of ... that is fearful of people who look differently that what I do or what you do.” Mr. Hoffer, in referencing his family, further commented, “... I want them to see there are people who go through hard times in life, but how we respond is what is important ... that it is clear as followers of Christ ... our call is to see people ... recognize them for their humanity ... to not judge or criticize or shame people for being in the situation that they are in, but to see them for their

humanity and their beauty and their worth.” Mr. Hoffer further stated, “... I work very hard every single day at Good Sam to make sure that if my kids ever needed a shelter or help, that I would feel great about them going to Good Sam ... do you hear what I’m saying ... if it is not good enough for my kids potentially some day, then it is not good enough for everybody ... that is the care that we provide to people at Good Sam.” Mr. Hoffer commented, “... we’re here to advocate and to really encourage Council to understand that it is for the betterment of the community ... we understand that Good Sam and homelessness and our Winter Shelter, it is complicated ... it is messy ... that in essence is the parable to the good samaritan where Jesus instructs us what it is like to respond to people .. you roll your sleeves, get messy ... you do things that you don’t know what the outcome is quite going to be ... that is the work of the church ... that is the work of ministries like Good Sam and we are committed to doing it ... the reason why we are here - just to be clear to everybody - is that we haven’t always felt like the work that we do is appreciated ... we haven’t always felt like the work that we do is welcome in our town ... so that’s why we are here ... we are not here for any other reason ... we would love to dedicate all of our time and energy and resources to actually doing the work that we are supposed to be doing ... we are here for no other reason because we feel like it is time to stand up and to speak up and to give a voice for the voiceless ... this isn’t about today ... this isn’t about the women and men that are living in our winter shelter tonight ... it’s about 10, 15, 20 years from now ... and, friends, after any of us are long gone ... we want to make sure that those in this community that we all love ... if they’ve gone through a hard time ... they’re experiencing homelessness in the dead of winter ... that there’s a life-saving service that is available to them because they are worthy of it.”

Deryl Hurst, Pastor, Dove Westgate Church, commented it has come to his attention that there is an effort by some on Borough Council to consider a change in zoning regulations that would limit the ability of charity organizations to conduct the type of services that have been conducted the last number of years by Good Samaritan either at their property or at churches. Pastor Hurst stated, “... I believe this would be unwise, uncharitable and bad for the community.” Pastor Hurst further commented, “... it seems that the assumption that helping those in need draws others that might be considered by some as undersireables ... not taking into account that could potentially be considered by some to be a bit of a regrettable attitude to take ... I believe that our experiences indicate otherwise ... my experience would indicate that this is not the case, but rather that the relief efforts are a response to an already existing need.” Pastor Hurst referenced the Old Testament scripture from the prophet Issah where God has both the command and a blessing for those to serve others, “Share your food with the hungry ... give shelter to the homeless ... clothe those who are in need ... do not hide from relatives who may you need your help ... then your salvation will come like a dawn ... your wounds will heal quickly ... your Godliness will lead you forward and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind.” Pastor Hurst, in referencing Mathew 25 which states, “... we are to care for the underpriveleged” and to create a scenario that would be difficult or impossible, “... I believe would be a complete contradiction to the very foundational roots that this community was founded upon.”

Kristin Lapp, 25 W. Locust St., Ephrata, provided statistical information to Council highlighting that there are currently 1,332 individuals currently living in poverty in Ephrata. Ms. Lapp advised that according to Federal guidelines, poverty is defined as individuals making \$14,580 or less per year (updated January 19, 2023). Ms. Lapp further advised the 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit of Federal Court of Appeals has ruled that if there are no room in shelters, then members of the public must be allowed to sleep in public spaces without fear of arrest or prosecution. Ms. Lapp concluded her comments by stating that Good Sam and partnering religious organizations are aiding and offering services to Ephrata Borough, the Council members, and the community by providing much needed basic needs of residents who are underinsured, uninsured and experiencing poverty.

Brendan Zieset, 205 W. Franklin St., Ephrata, in response to the question, “What kind of community do we want to live in?” stated, “... I don’t want to be in a community that doesn’t value people and doesn’t take people into their homes when they need help ... that is not who I want to be and that is not what I want my kids to learn and observe as they grow up.” Mr. Zieset commented, “... I know a drug addict who lives right next door to me and I know a person that deals drugs right down from the street from me and they are living in a place ... that is nice they have a home, but there are some people who are not drug addicts and some people who have made mistakes like all of us ... and some of us have done little to no wrong at all, but our house still burnt down or an illness hits us ... and if we live through it, then we are left with the bills that crush us and we are left with nothing through no fault of our own ... what do we do about all of this?” Mr. Zieset advised that both Good Samaritan and his church have “stepped up” to help in whatever ways they can. Mr. Zieset concluded his comments by stating, “... I am proud that my children get to see how we treat people within the margins and how they are not strange ... they are not weirdo’s ... they may be a little different in some ways, but they are people and not commodities ... not liabilities ... they are people ... so if the goal here is to come up with a solution, then we all should come together with a solution ... but if the goal is just to get rid of them, that is not part of the community that I want to be a part of.”

Valerie Houtz, 406 E. Main St., Ephrata, advised she is a learning support teacher and “... every single day, it is my job to advocate for students who cannot advocate for themselves ... very much like our homeless population ... so I would just ask that you advocate for the people that cannot advocate for themselves.”

Kyle Robinson, 148 Washington Ave., Ephrata, commented, “... the challenge of homelessness is a complex issue with many contributing factors ... I believe the solutions have to equally have the same variety as the challenges that bring us homelessness.” Mr. Robinson further commented, “... while seeking solutions, we have to do it with that variety ... is the answer to the issue of homelessness that the Borough should regulate the way or regulate the opportunities for organizations to serve those people ... to enact policies that prevent that ... I think not ... the answer to the issue of homelessness has to be more cooperation, not regulation.” In concluding his comments, Mr. Robinson stated, “... I would encourage this body to work together with organizations like Good Sam and with the local churches to serve those in the community.”

Janessa Cline, 17 E. Chestnut St., Ephrata, commented that the work done by Good Sam is very important as she “... lived on the streets ... I’ve walked where everyone in our Winter Shelter has walked.” Ms. Cline encouraged Council members to visit the shelter to see the good work being done. Ms. Cline commented that these individuals are worried about losing a place of residency over the winter which “... is not okay.”

Sonya, a resident of the Shelter, informed Council that five months ago she had nowhere to go and no one to help her – including her family. Sonya stated that the services provided by Good Sam changed her life dramatically. Sonya, in referencing the program’s participants, encouraged Council to “... talk to them ... listen to them ... that’s all they want.” Additionally, Sonya advised after completing her full-time job, she helps out at the night shelter in an effort to provide love and comfort to the residents.

Ray Huber, Executive Council, Hopenet Fellowship of Churches, stated he wishes to address this matter from “a church side” commenting that caring for those who are disadvantaged “... is an integral part of church ministry ... it is an essential part of church ministry far beyond just worship on Sunday mornings ... it is something that the founders of our Country recognized and put in our first amendment ... the free exercise of our religious beliefs.” Mr. Huber further commented, “... to tell a church that they cannot minister to the homeless people ... I think would be a violation of the church’s rights.”

After additional time 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; in which, Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Barr seconded to do so. Motion carried unanimously.

President Reinhold began the Acceptance of Reports portion of the meeting; however, he paused to allow an opportunity for Borough Council members to respond to the public comments as attendees were beginning to leave the meeting.

Mr. Musser commented he is disheartened by the misrepresentation of his views and the personal attacks taken against him on social media. Mr. Musser stated, "... as an elected official, it is my job to represent the people in my ward." In closing his comments, Mr. Musser stated he believes that Good Sam does good work through the Winter Shelter program.

Mr. Ressler advised there are things that Borough government can do and are required to do by Pennsylvania's Borough Code such as police protection, fire protection, streets and utilities; however, the matter of helping people is not something Council is equipped to do nor is it in the Borough Code. Mr. Ressler further advised not only at the Borough level, but at higher levels within the government, churches and volunteer organizations are relied on to provide that support to individuals. Mr. Ressler concluded his comments by expressing his appreciation to those who do help people in need.

Mr. Barr advised he is in favor of the work Good Sam does by helping those who are less fortunate; however, he noted Council has received feedback regarding public safety concerns. Mr. Barr stated, "... I believe if I remember right, this proposed ordinance change has come about because of parents being concerned about their children and what they would call unsavory people coming in close contact in several reported incidents ... at the same time, as we are concerned about that as Council members, we are concerned about people's public safety." Mr. Barr concluded his comments by stating, "... you can think what you want, but please don't construe that because we must consider public safety, that we are against people needing help."

Mr. Buohl, in referencing comments received regarding a rumored change to the Zoning Ordinance, advised that he has not been made aware of any change(s). Additionally, Mr. Buohl advised he does get asked questions by the people of the second ward on a regular basis regarding their concerns pertaining to the Winter Shelter. Mr. Buohl commented, "... we need to have reasonable responses to those questions when people call us and when we meet with those people." Mr. Buohl expressed his disappointment regarding the comments he read on social media; especially, the "calling out" of specific names of Borough Council members. In concluding his comments, Mr. Buohl stated, "... I think a little more transparency by Good Samaritan would help this cause."

Mr. Zimmerman thanked everybody who attended tonight's meeting. Mr. Zimmerman commented, "... we do hear what you are saying ... there is only so much we can do ... as Mr. Ressler pointed out, it is a community issue." Mr. Zimmerman acknowledged the outstanding service provided by Good Samaritan to include the Winter Shelter. Mr. Zimmerman concluded his comments by stating, "... the more churches that get involved ... the more residents that get involved ... talk and share your thoughts and ideas with Good Sam and Council ... it's a long journey to get the resolution that we all want to get ... we need to support these people and do whatever we can."

Mr. Richard reiterated Mr. Buohl's comments that Council has not participated in any discussions regarding changes to the Zoning Ordinance. Additionally, Mr. Richard advised he was glad to see the

number of attendees at the meeting stating, "... we all share the same thing ... we all live in this town too ... the nice part was what most of you came to talk about tonight, we have no provision to do ... we have not discussed any zoning changes or changes with the shelters ... we have done nothing like that ... formally or informally ... we have proposed nothing ... there is nothing on paper ... there has been no dialog ... there is nothing like that ... so I'm glad to see that everybody is united for an item which we have not done ... and we do not plan to do ... so I'm glad for that ... I'm glad to know going forward where the community is at ... I'm just glad you came and told us what you think ... we heard it ... we are listening ... some information out there is misinformation and it is unfortunate that is what happened ... but nothing is in the books or on discussion that I have heard."

Mayor Mowen expressed his appreciation to all individuals who came to tonight's meeting. Mayor Mowen advised he started a coalition working with Good Sam approximately a year ago and "... we've made slow progress, but we are making progress ... we have some ideas in the works." Mayor Mowen further advised at the coalition's next meeting on February 22, 2023, there will be action to "zero in on a couple of projects." Mayor Mowen encouraged Council members to visit the Winter Shelter and take the time to talk with the residents commenting, "... they're great people ... talk to them ... don't make fun of them ... don't throw things at them ... don't swear at them ... they don't deserve it ... they didn't ask to be where they're at ... and as long as I have breath, I'm going to work to try to do something about it." Mayor Mowen concluded his comments by stating, "... we're going to keep that shelter working and when this (shelter) closes, we will have the second (shelter) set up ... these individuals are not going to be on the street."

President Reinhold read the following statement prepared by Vice President Martin:

"I would like to issue a statement for the record. I am currently out of state on a trip that was planned months ago, so I am unable to attend in person.

I have stated publicly, and I truly believe that it is important that we as a community provide a safety net for our local citizens who are vulnerable, facing homelessness or are homeless. It is just the right thing to do.

In fact, one of the very first things I did after I was elected to the Council was to initiate a visit with my fellow Council members to the Good Sam women's shelter. I was very supportive of this program, I have donated to it personally, and it was my desire for the Council to understand the good work that was being done in our community.

I am very disheartened by emails and Facebook posts that have been circulating as a result of a conversation I had with the Director of the Good Sam shelter. It saddens me to see such inflammatory, untrue remarks being issued by people that were not even involved in the conversation. Not one person has reached out to me and asked for my comments or to clarify any of my remarks.

I and many of my fellow Council members have been receiving complaints from citizens regarding the shelter. I will only speak on behalf of me and will not speak for other Council members. Most concerns I have received relate to: residency requirements, zoning, and community impact, so those are the main topics I discussed with the director.

Here are some facts and a summary of some of the discussions that took place:

1. The director approached me and said he was surprised that we are receiving as many complaints as we have been. I explained that I myself have been a recipient of many citizen complaints via emails,



texts and phone calls regarding the shelter and the homeless population in general. He asked me why I don't refer the complaints to the shelter. I responded that I have not because some of the complaints are not a direct relation to the operation of his facility, so I didn't think it fair to refer them. I offered in the future to do so if that is his wish.

2. On January 25<sup>th</sup>, I attended the monthly homeless coalition meeting that is an initiative of the Honorable Mayor Mowen. After attending the meeting, I reviewed some of my concerns and some key takeaways with the director.
  1. **Residency:** In response to comments that Council was hearing from concerned residents, the Mayor requested Good Sam to implement some sort of residency requirements so those that were being served were from our community and not being bussed in from out of town. It was my understanding they were agreeable to that. During the meeting, I inquired as to what the percentage of occupancy was from the Ephrata community. The number I received was 50%-70% of the attendees were local community members. Also discussed, was that as recently as one week prior to the homeless coalition meeting I attended, the representatives from the Good Sam shelter admitted two individuals that were "released from" which means kicked out of their homeless facility for noncompliant behavior. Additionally, there was also another individual from Chester, PA that was released from his shelter for noncompliance, was admitted to the Good Sam shelter and was subsequently arrested twice for breaking and entering an Ephrata facility. I mentioned that this was in direct conflict from what the Mayor had requested.
  - B. **Zoning:** Many residents that have contacted me have asked: if the zoning does not permit the use of a temporary shelter, why is the church able to do so. I researched our zoning ordinance, and it states: "**places of worship may include temporary accessory extreme cold weather emergency shelter.**" I have been asked by citizens to define this and I have been unable to do so based on how it is currently written. At the Development Activities meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, I asked for a clarification and a definition of the phrase. The discussion concluded that it was not clearly defined as written. I requested the definition be clarified, so as Council members, we can understand it and be able to explain it. AT NO TIME did I say there was a specific and formal proposal to change zoning.
  - C. **Impact:** The discussion at the homeless coalition meeting included many ideas for expansion of services to the homeless population, and yet there was no discussion on how to minimize any impact on the community.

In conclusion: **As a member of the Borough Council, it is my duty to respond to complaints and comments, that is what we are elected to do.** I believe all parties can work together to strike a balance between tending to our most vulnerable population, while simultaneously providing the taxpaying citizens and business owners a healthy and safe environment in which to thrive. When there is a conflict of that balance, that is when we as community members have to ask questions, come up with solutions, make changes and work to get that balance back.

That is why I would like to introduce the concept of a voucher program that could bring the entire community together, lessen the negative impact on the community, and better serve our vulnerable population. A program like this could encourage businesses to offer training opportunities, offer incentives for those to engage in the community and experience a sense of purpose and belonging, while simultaneously providing our homeless a safe environment during this time. I don't have all the answers,

but I am motivated to be a part of a better solution than we currently have and will look forward to moving this discussion forward.

Paramount to success is honesty, transparency and integrity and I pledge to bring all of these to the discussion table. It is my hope that all interested parties do so as well.”

President Reinhold then read a statement he prepared:

“I want to start by thanking everyone for your comments this evening and your interest in a very difficult topic. I also want to thank all of those who submitted emailed comments to the Borough Office over the course of this past week as Council was forwarded those emails to digest over this past weekend.

Now....I could probably count on one hand the number of times during my 13 years on Council where I have prepared written comments and tonight will be one of them because it's too important of a subject for me to react spontaneously to anything that may have been said earlier this evening.

I want to begin by saying I'm extremely disappointed on how things escalated through social media this past week since last Monday night's Work Session. My understanding is this all stemmed from conversations after the Executive Director of Good Samaritan Services approached a couple Council members after the Work Session had ended. **I can't be any more clear....there is not a movement within Borough Council to change any zoning ordinance related to Houses of Worship and temporary winter shelters!! We are all in agreement that our neighbors in need experiencing homelessness deserve our help! We can all agree on that!**

Now, understanding there are always two sides to every story and the truth falls somewhere in the middle doesn't excuse the fact that once something is thrown out there on social media, there will always be actors that jump into the fray and spin their own narrative...sometimes without even their name attached to the comments.

Interestingly enough one of those comments read **“An Ephrata Borough Council Member is leading the charge to change an existing zoning ordinance that allows churches to offer shelter to neighbors in need. If she gets her way, our winter homeless shelters would be eliminated. Why? Why with all the work our Council could be doing to improve our downtown - attracting new businesses and developing more affordable housing - is this what Council is focused on?”**

Let's start with **“if she gets her way, our winter homeless shelters would be eliminated.”** That is nothing more than a false accusation that I believe was borne out of baseless claims from parties that weren't even present last Monday night after the Work Session when the Executive Director of Good Sam spoke with Council Member Martin.

And, now let's address the comment in that post that mentions **“Why with all the work our Council could be doing to improve our downtown - attracting new businesses and developing more affordable housing - is this what Council is focused on?”**... focusing in on attracting new businesses. Yeah, that's we're focused on ... that's one of our focuses. Like it or not ... in my own personal opinion, it is going to be very difficult to attract businesses and further develop the downtown if we have individuals who willingly appear to have very little desire to improve their personal situation and are content with spending their days loitering on porch steps along Main Street or at the Whistle Stop Plaza. So, yes, Council is focused again on improving our downtown and making it attractive, and welcoming, for everyone which include citizens who have also reached out recently and mentioned they don't feel safe bringing their families downtown anymore.

And this isn't something that I just read about via emails that are forwarded to us from Borough Staff as they come in from concerned constituents. I see it with my own eyes almost every time I walk through town or drive through.

One of the basic tenets of government is to provide public safety to its residents and right now there are concerns. We've had instances of homeless individuals breaking into businesses and residences. And these are only the ones that the police department are called on. There have been situations with people squatting in abandoned homes, but the homeowner/landlord decides not to take action.

Now, I want to make it perfectly clear that I don't believe these instances are a direct result from the work that Good Sam, EASS or any other non-profit operating within the Borough provides.

However, I do struggle with my impression that because of all the services our community offers, it leads others from outside the Ephrata area to come into town to take advantage of the environment ... but not the services ... the environment, but not the services.

One other thing, I'm not naïve to know that the methadone clinic that operates right up the street here could be an issue with attracting individuals from outside of town and this is something that Council will look into and determine if they are following within the guidelines set forth by the PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs.

I'll end with saying it's categorically false to say there is a 'movement within Borough Council' to change the zoning laws. Everyone should be entitled to their own opinions and ask tough questions when necessary, but to paint a broad brush over all of Council is unfair and unprofessional and I'd expect more from its origins. I hear the term 'partnership' often when it comes to Good Sam and the Borough and what transpired over this past week resembles nothing close to that.

With all that being said, I like to think that all of us up here have the same thoughts and desires as everyone else who took the time tonight to stand up and speak for the 'least of these' and our vision should be on the future and how to forge a path forward to figure out what we all can do to help these people get back on their feet financially and build their self-esteem and confidence.

I think it's imperative that we have a community gathering ... we're having one tonight, but we need more ... to discuss the issues, allow our non-profits to share their missions and to encourage open dialogue from all participants. So, with that being said I would like to schedule that public meeting sometime within the next 4-6 weeks whether it be within these chambers or possibly across the street at Pioneer's Banquet Hall.

We need ideas from everyone no matter how big or small. I believe we need 'Empowerment over Enablement' as our core fundamental value as we take our next steps in this journey. Ephrata can become the model for all other communities, big or small ... they can emulate us ... we can make changes here. Just by tonight's attendance, I know the passion is there from every one of you that's out here ... now we just need to cultivate and harness it and move forward together. Thank you!"

Mayor Mowen, in referencing President Reinhold's action for a community meeting, advised that a call for, "... such a meeting is actually the thrust of our next coalition meeting which is to set up a symposium sometime in the next 4-6 weeks ... so maybe we can collaborate on that." President Reinhold commented, "... now is the time for such action to educate people on this issue ... that is where conversations occur ... that is where discussion occurs ... and that is where hearts can be changed."

Mr. Barr, in referencing the comments he made earlier, clarified he misstated when he used the words “proposed ordinance,” stating, “... that was wrong ... I should have stated “rumored” ordinance.”

President Reinhold concluded this portion of the meeting stating, “... I wanted you to hear from everyone up here at the table how we feel about certain things ... and we are very passionate as well ... and I do not think anyone is opposed or against this ... hopefully, this has been clarified 110% tonight ... the homeless shelters are not going anywhere ... there is no ordinance changes in the works ... there are just conversations that have to occur.” President Reinhold then returned to the Acceptance of Reports portion of the meeting.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

Mr. Barr moved and Mr. Zimmerman seconded to approve the Acceptance of Reports. Motion carried unanimously.

### Budget and Finance Committee

The Budget and Finance Committee met on January 23, 2023 at 6:30 PM at Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

Ms. Gerhart 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.

Committee Chair Ressler asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, Mr. Ressler asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted. Mr. Zimmerman moved and Mr. Musser seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Action Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed Resolution 2023-01 exonerating taxes on Borough-owned properties. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council adopt the resolution at their February 13, 2023 meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed Resolution 2023-02 adopting a schedule of attorney fees. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council adopt the resolution at their February 13, 2023 meeting.
3. The Committee reviewed Ordinance 1572 amending the police pension DROP ordinance section 11.4. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council adopt the ordinance at their February 13, 2023 meeting.
4. The Committee reviewed Ordinance 1573 establishing a schedule of attorney fees incurred in municipal claims and liens. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council adopt the ordinance at their February 13, 2023 meeting.

5. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council appoint Victor Richard as Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs' 2023 Annual Meeting Voting Delegate and Linda Martin as Alternate Delegate.
6. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council authorize attendance for the 2023 Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs' Annual Meeting for council member attendees and to authorize the payment of registration, lodging, meals, and mileage expenses in accordance with Section 703 of the PA Borough Code.

**Discussion Items:**

1. Staff provided the Committee a listing of purchase order carryovers from 2022 to 2023. Due to supply chain availability and staff shortage issues, this listing represents items not expended in the 2022 budget due to timing that will increase the 2023 budget. No further action is required.
2. Staff provided a memo related to the fuel usage and personal use of vehicles by the Ephrata Rec Center. After discussion, the Committee requested that Ms. Harris draft a letter to the Ephrata Rec Center to convey the need to discontinue using premium gas and personal use of vehicles. The Committee requested that this topic is kept on the agenda for follow-up in the coming months.
3. Staff provided a memo detailing the infrequent use, extra processing time, service fee that is incurred with utility payment collection by Ephrata National Bank. Noting the many other payments options available to customers, the Committee agreed with this recommendation and directed Ms. Gerhart to notify Ephrata National Bank of the discontinuation of this service.
4. The Committee discussed reinstating gifts for board/commission members. Mr. Richard recalled instances when a plaque was provided to outgoing council or board/commission members. He noted that he would like reinstate this as a token of gratitude for their service to Ephrata Borough. After discussion, the Committee decided that council would receive the same gifts provided to staff and members of boards/commissions would receive a gift card for their service.
5. Staff provided a copy of the grant success report from Government Municipal Services (GMS). The Committee noted the return on investment for their services and requested that this report is provided on a semi-annual basis.
6. Staff provided a copy of the solicitor's invoice. No further action is required.
7. Staff provided a copy of the assistant solicitor's invoice. No further action is required.
8. Check and ACH Register was provided. No further action is required.

**Old Business Items:**

1. Ms. Gerhart noted that the credit card fee project will proceed as discussions continue with Springbrook as we transition from the on premise software to the cloud based version. She anticipates having additional information to report over the next few months.

**Development Activities Committee**

The Development Activities Committee met on January 23, 2023 at 7:30 PM at Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

**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.

Committee Chair Zimmerman asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, Mr. Zimmerman asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted. Mr. Barr moved and Mr. Buohl seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Action Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed a Subdivision and Land Development Agreement for the 1300 West Main Street land development plan. The amount of the agreement is \$42,276.52. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council authorize the President of Borough Council and Borough Secretary to execute a Subdivision and Land Development Agreement with the developer, 1300 West Main LLC, subject to it being in a form acceptable to the solicitor at the February Borough Council meeting. This will appear on the Consent Agenda.
2. The Committee reviewed a request from the Ephrata Rec Center to sublet parking spaces to Weathered Vineyards. The Borough owns the land and per the lease the Rec must have permission from the owner to sublet anything. The Borough's insurance provider recommended exercising caution about subletting the spaces. We should have indemnification from Weathered Vineyards through a lease. Rebecca Gallagher explained that she has been doing this for at least 4 years. She does not need designated spaces. After much discussion the issue was tabled to get more information from the insurance provider to see what exposure the Borough would have if there is no lease.
3. The Committee reviewed a final drawdown request for land development improvements for Brian and Audrey McCarty at 1161 Steinmetz Road. The improvements have been completed and inspected. The applicant is requesting the release of all their funds. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council release \$28,753.45 at the February Borough Council meeting. This will appear on the Consent Agenda.
4. The Committee reviewed a final drawdown request for land development improvements for Nevin Horst at 131 Cherry Street. The improvements have been completed and inspected. The applicant is requesting the release of his funds. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council release \$6,418.50 at the February Borough Council meeting. This will appear on the Consent Agenda.

#### **Discussion Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed the Zoning Hearing Board decision from January and had no comments.

#### **Miscellaneous Items:**

1. Ms. Martin brought up concerns about the homeless shelter and the definition of "accessory severe weather emergency shelter." She is receiving a lot of complaints. Other Council members also expressed concern and mentioned issues in the neighborhood. Ms. Martin would like verification and interpretation of severe weather and that the temporary shelter is meeting the conditions in the Zoning Ordinance. The staff will investigate and provide additional information.

Public Safety Committee

The Public Safety Committee met on January 16, 2023, at 6:50 PM at Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Interim Chief McKim 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.

Committee Chair Buohl asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. There were none. Mr. Richard moved, and Mr. Ressler seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

**Action Items:**

1. None.

**Discussion Items:**

1. **EMA December 2022 Report:** Office of Emergency Management Leader Randy Gockley reported no major emergency events in 2022. He further reported that during large community events throughout the year, there were no significant issues. Mr. Gockley addressed a prior question reporting that RSV statistics are not being tracked. He provided an update on COVID patients in the Ephrata Area.
2. **EMA Activity Report and Church Survey:** Mr. Gockley reported that as part of the 2023 Municipal Emergency Plan he will be distributing a survey to Borough churches to assess their emergency preparedness.

Highway Committee

The Highway Committee met on January 23, 2023 at 5:30 PM at Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Mr. Burkholder 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.

Committee Chair Richard asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, Mr. Richard asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted. Ms. Martin moved and Mr. Musser seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

**Action Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed a disposition of assets request regarding a 2002 Chevrolet Truck Chassis with Altec Digger Derrick, VIN 1GBP7H1C12J512160, with 14,337 miles and 3,031 hours of use to be sold via public auction. The vehicle has an estimated value of \$7,500.00. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve this disposition of assets and authorize the President of Borough Council and Borough Secretary to execute Resolution #2023-03 at their February 13, 2023 meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed a disposition of assets request regarding a 2015 Toro GroundsMaster 4000D wide area mower, SN 314000197, with 4,188 hours of use planned for trade-in towards a new commercial wide area mower. This equipment has trade-in value of \$9,000. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve this disposition of assets and authorize the President of Borough Council and Borough Secretary to execute Resolution #2023-04 at their February 13, 2023 meeting.
3. The Committee reviewed a request to purchase a new model year John Deere 1600 Turbo TerrainCut commercial wide area mower to be used and maintained by Ephrata Recreation Center staff for Borough property grounds keeping purposes. Purchase price less trade-in is \$57,096.75. This is a \$57,000 budgeted purchase from the 2023 Mobile Equipment Fund. The over-budget amount of \$96.75 will be paid from Parks O&M fund. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council authorize the purchase of the mower for \$57,096.75 from Deer Country Farm & Lawn, Inc., Manheim, PA through Costars Contract #4400020085 at their February 13, 2023 meeting.
4. The Committee reviewed an Ordinance to amend the Code of the Borough of Ephrata, Chapter 305, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 305-101, Schedule XVIII Parking Prohibited Certain Days and Hours within designated locations of Railroad Avenue. The Committee was advised that Ordinances can be repealed as necessary. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council enact Ordinance No. 1574 at their February 13, 2023 meeting.

**Discussion Items:**

1. The Committee further discussed the West Main Street & Oak Street intersection regarding vehicles occasionally parking along the north side of West Main Street to close to the North Oak Street intersection. Citing existing similar conditions prevalent throughout the Borough the Committee agreed they will no longer pursue this issue and required it be removed from future Highway Committee meeting agendas.
2. The Committee reviewed updated parking meter/kiosk cost estimates provided by Steve Snyder with IPS Group and discussed leasing versus purchasing parking meters and kiosks as well as eliminating meters and using kiosks, exclusively. Committee asked staff to arrange for a different parking meter vendor presentation to be conducted at the next scheduled meeting of Highway Committee.
3. Committee Chair Richard inquired about the status of the damaged South Oak Street bridge railing and was advised that Public Works is checking with PennDOT to determine if they stock surplus sections of comparable railing that they would sell to the Borough. If no existing railing sections available from PennDOT, local metal fabricators will be contacted to provide cost estimates to repair the damaged railing. The Borough will pursue bridge railing damage expenses from the vehicle driver's insurance company upon obtaining costs to repair the railing.

**Old Business Items:**

1. Apple Street truck traffic continues to be monitored following completion of Garden Spot Auto Auction's (GSSA) construction project. Committee Chair Richard asked staff to contact Lt. McKim



to inquire if there are any complaints, issues, or concerns the Ephrata Police are aware of following completion of GSAA's construction project and report at the next scheduled meeting of Highway Committee.

### Municipal Enterprises Committee

The Municipal Enterprises Committee met on January 16, 2023 at 5:30 PM at Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

Mr. Morrison 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.

Committee Chair Martin asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, Ms. Martin asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted. Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Musser seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Action Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed a Staff recommendation regarding the Gross Run Streambank Restoration Project bid award. The Committee will recommend Council award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder, Flyway, at their February 13, 2023 meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed a request to authorize Staff/Council attendance at the 2023 APPA, AMP, and PMEA Conferences. The Committee will recommend Council authorize these expenditures at their February 13, 2023 meeting.

### **Discussion Items:**

1. The Committee discussed the possibility of a change in electric rates. Mr. Morrison provided potential options, as well as comparisons. The Committee discussed the possibility of a new rate class, to be designed in 2023. The Staff will have a recommendation for electric rates at the February Committee meeting.
2. Staff provided an update on the Comcast issue. Ms. Harris and Mr. Morrison expressed that they feel a path forward has been obtained and a resolution may be coming in the next few months. Updates will continue to be provided as needed.
3. The Committee discussed the issue of free electric accounts. Staff explained that there does not seem to be a consensus among other municipalities, but feels there should be a standard. Staff will put together recommendations for the Committee's review.

### **Old Business Items:**

1. The discussion around Electric Vehicle Chargers will continue as Staff works on potential solutions.

Community Services Committee

The Community Services Committee met on January 23, 2023 at 4:30 PM at Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Mr. Rineer 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.

Committee Chair Barr asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, Mr. Barr asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted Ms. Martin moved and Mr. Ressler seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

**Action Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed the 2023 Cultural Arts Grant proposed awards recommended by the Cultural Arts Grant Committee – Brubaker, Kimmel, and Bare. The Cultural Arts Grant Committee recommended the following awards:

Ephrata Public Library	\$3,300
EPAC	\$2,500
Ephrata Cloister Associates	\$ 700
Historical Society	\$1,000
Ephrata Rec Summer Camps	\$1,000
Ephrata Rec Concerts in the Park	\$1,000
Eicher Arts Center	\$1,000

The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the proposed art grant awards at the February Borough Council meeting. The Committee would like to see the criteria for recommending awarding of the Cultural Arts Grant; it will be added as a discussion item for February’s meeting.

2. Mainspring of Ephrata and Ephrata Unleashed Dog Park Committee requested that the Borough pay for the corral area of the dog park to be paved in concrete. Mainspring and Ephrata Unleashed provided a proposal from Alpha Dog concrete to pour a 19’ – 6’’ x 10’ – 6’’ concrete slab in the corral area. The proposal was \$2,915.00. This would be an unbudgeted expenditure. Mr. Ressler thought paving the corral would require less maintenance and it would make the park more ADA accessible. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council authorize an unbudgeted expenditure of \$2,915.00 to concrete the corral area at the Dog Park at the February Borough Council meeting.

**Discussion Items:**

1. Mr. Rineer gave an update for the dog park. He stated that Public Works will be installing three (3) dog waste stations and a trash receptacle in the next few weeks. Public Works is currently fabricating the dog park rules and the small dog and large dog signs for the park. The contractor still needs to install a stop sign at the access to Old Mill Road. Public Works will be installing six (6) benches at the dog park in the spring. A neighboring property owner has emailed on three (3) occasions with concerns of dogs jumping over the fence, their property value being decreased by the

dog park and unvaccinated dogs spreading disease. The gates are currently locked for the dog park. Once the dog waste stations, trash receptacle, and dog park signage are installed, the locks will be removed.

### Special Projects Committee

The Special Projects Committee met on January 16, 2023, at 7:30 PM at Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

### **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.

Committee Chair Musser asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, Mr. Musser asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted. Mr. Barr moved and Mr. Buohl seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Action Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed the branding guidelines. Sarah Leonard from QNTM presented suggestions for rolling out the new logo. The Committee had no objections to the guidelines. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the branding guidelines.
2. The Committee reviewed the taglines QNTM suggested for the logo. After discussions, the Committee agreed to Tagline Option #4 "Grow. Connect. Prosper." The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the tagline "Grow. Connect. Prosper." to be used with the new logo.

### **Discussion Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed the Branding Report from QNTM and had no comments.
2. The Committee reviewed the Public Relations Report from QNTM and had no comments.

### Personnel Committee Report

The Personnel Committee met on January 10, 2023, at 4:00 PM at Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

### **Approval of Committee 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.

Ms. Martin asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda. Mr. Ressler made a motion and Mr. Zimmerman seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

**Action Items:**

- 1. None.

**Discussion Items:**

- 1. Personnel Update: Khrista Dechert started this week as the Business Office Administrator. Kris Andoos will start on Monday, January 16, 2023, as a Lineman. WWTP Operator, Michelle Bachman, was hired and will be working out of Plant 2. Jane Jones was hired and will start soon as a P/T Codes Admin Assistant.

**Executive Session:**

- 1. The Committee went into Executive Session at 4:05 PM to discuss personnel matters. The Committee came out of Executive Session at 5:25 PM.

**Old Business Items:**

- 1. Salaried Employee Handbook: Ms. Harris mentioned that Personnel Partners has provided a draft of the recommended changes to the handbook. Staff will proofread and give an update to the committee at a future meeting.

- January 2023 Borough of Ephrata Management Report
- January 2023 Borough of Ephrata Operations Report
- January 2023 General Ledger Report
- Ephrata Pioneer Fire Company January 2023 Report
- Lincoln Fire Company January 2023 Report
- Ephrata Community Ambulance Association January 2023 Report
- Ephrata Emergency Management January 2023 Report
- Shade Tree Commission January 2023 Meeting Minutes
- The Ephrata Farmers Day Association, Inc., Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Reports

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2022 Department Reports:

- Finance
- Police
- Electric
- Inspection Codes
- Wastewater
- Public Works
- Water
- Sanitation

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2022 Organization Reports:

- Ephrata Public Library
- Ephrata Recreation Center
- Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley
- Mainspring of Ephrata

*\*NOTE: Ephrata Performing Arts Center did not submit a 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2022 Organization Report*

Mayor's Revenue Report

**NEW BUSINESS ITEMS****CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Richard advised the items on tonight's Consent Agenda have been discussed in detail at their respective Committee meetings and were brought forward for additional discussion at last week's 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. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council authorize the President of Borough Council and Borough Secretary to execute a Subdivision and Land Development Agreement with the developer, 1300 West Main LLC, subject to it being in a form acceptable to the Solicitor. (Development Activities)
2. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council release \$28,753.45 for land development improvements for Brian and Audrey McCarty at 1161 Steinmetz Road. (Development Activities)
3. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council release \$6,418.50 for land development improvements for Nevin Horst at 131 Cherry Street. (Development Activities)

Mr. Richard moved to approve the item listed on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Ressler moved and Mr. Zimmerman seconded that Borough Council adopt Ordinance No. 1572 amending the police pension DROP ordinance section 11.4. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ressler moved and Mr. Musser seconded that Borough Council adopt Ordinance No. 1573 establishing a schedule of attorney fees incurred in municipal claims and liens. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ressler moved and Mr. Zimmerman seconded that Borough Council adopt Resolution #2023-01 exonerating taxes on Borough owned properties. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ressler moved and Mr. Musser seconded that Borough Council adopt Resolution #2023-02 adopting a schedule of attorney fees. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ressler moved and Mr. Musser seconded that Borough Council appoint Victor Richard as Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs' 2023 Annual Meeting Voting Delegate and Linda Martin as Alternate Delegate. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ressler moved and Mr. Musser seconded that Borough Council authorize attendance for the 2023 Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs' Annual Meeting and to authorize the payment of registration fees, lodging, meals, and mileage expenses in accordance with Section 703 of the PA Borough Code. Motion carried unanimously.

**Highway Committee**

Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Musser seconded that Borough Council adopt Resolution #2023-03 authorizing the disposition of a 2002 Chevrolet Truck Chassis with Altec Digger Derrick, VIN

1GBP7H1C12J512160 by way of public auction. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Musser seconded that Borough Council adopt Resolution #2023-04 authorizing the disposition of a 2015 Toro GroundsMaster 4000D commercial wide area mower, S/N 314000197 by way of trade-in on a new mower. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Musser seconded that Borough Council approve the purchase of one new model year John Deere 1600 Turbo TerrainCut commercial wide area mower from Deer Country Farm & Lawn, Inc. of Manheim, PA through Pennsylvania DGS Costars Contract #4400020085 for \$57,096.75. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Musser seconded that Borough Council enact Ordinance No. 1574 amending the Code of the Borough of Ephrata, Chapter 305, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 305-101, Schedule XVIII Parking Prohibited Certain Days and Hours by adding designated locations within Railroad Avenue. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

**Municipal Enterprises Committee**

Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Zimmerman seconded that Borough Council award Bid #22-8 Gross Run Streambank Restoration Project to the apparent lowest bidder, Flyway Excavating Inc., in their total bid amount of \$1,327,629.90. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote. Prior to the vote, Ms. Harris noted that enough grant funds have been awarded to cover the total cost of this project.

Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Zimmerman seconded that Borough Council authorize Borough Council Members’ attendance and payment of registration, lodging, meals, and mileage expenses, in accordance with Section 703 of the PA Borough Code, for the following professional conferences:

- a. 2023 American Public Power Association National Conference
- b. 2023 Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association Annual Conference
- c. 2023 American Municipal Power Association Annual Conference

Motion passed unanimously.

**Community Services Committee**

Mr. Barr moved and Mr. Ressler seconded that Borough Council approve the proposed art grant awards for 2023, proposed by the Cultural Arts Grant Committee – Paul Brubaker, Jim Kimmel, and Gail Bare. The Committee recommended the following awards:

Ephrata Public Library	\$3,300
EPAC	\$2,500
Ephrata Cloister Associates	\$ 700
Historical Society	\$1,000
Ephrata Rec Summer Camps	\$1,000
Ephrata Rec Concerts in the Park	\$1,000
Eicher Arts Center	\$1,000

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Barr moved and Mr. Ressler seconded that authorize an unbudgeted expenditure of \$2,915.00 to concrete the corral area at the Dog Park. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

### Special Projects Committee

Mr. Musser moved and Mr. Ressler seconded that Borough Council approve the branding guidelines prepared by QNTM. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Musser moved and Mr. Barr seconded that Borough Council approve the tagline “Grow. Connect. Prosper.” to be used with the new logo. Motion passed via roll call vote. Prior to the vote, Mr. Richard, Mr. Zimmerman and Mayor Mowen expressed their desire to see the Historic Cloister represented within the logo as well as a reference to “history” within the tagline. After a brief discussion, Mr. Musser advised their request will be addressed at the upcoming Special Projects Committee meeting; however, he wished to pursue with Council members voting on the tagline which resulted in five yea and two nay votes.

### APPROVAL OF CHECKS 50118 THROUGH 50353 AND THE ACH REGISTER DATED FEBRUARY 1, 2023

Mr. Barr moved and Mr. Ressler seconded that Borough Council ratify the payment of bills performed by Staff since the last regular Council meeting in the aggregate amount of \$1,940,994.53. Motion carried unanimously.

### OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

The following individuals provided comments to Council advising of their support of Good Samaritan Services, the Winter Shelter Program, as well as their plea to assist those who are less fortunate and are going through very difficult times in their lives:

- Curtis Enck, 109 Washington Ave., Ephrata
- Ryan Horning, 27 Westpointe Dr., Ephrata
- Janina Knowles, 1228 Pleasant View Rd., Ephrata
- David Nolt, Pastor, The Living Room Church
- Nelson Sepulveda, 404 S. State St., Ephrata
- Scott Shonk, 1st United Methodist Church, Ephrata
- Suzy Wurtz, 33 Akron Rd., Ephrata

Curtis Enck, 109 Washington Avenue, Ephrata, expressed his and his wife’s safety concerns regarding the vetting of the low-barrier shelters. Mr. Enck questioned how these individuals are being “checked in” to participate in the shelter. Mr. Enck advised within three blocks of their home, they have a drug and alcohol rehab, behavioral services, a men’s shelter and transitional housing as well as ARS (methadone clinic) stating, “... what are we becoming in this town ... is it a mecca for this kind of thing ... where are we going?”

Susan Vater, 229 Church Ave., Ephrata, stated she and her husband are “... trying to embrace Ephrata as their home” and questioned Council as to “... what do we want to be known as?” Ms. Vater commented, “I think that is really important to speak to ... it is really important to digest ... I’m glad you guys are taking ... putting a lot of thought into what do we want our reputation to be because I care about that too.” Ms. Vater further stated, “I notice there seems to be a trend of almost like rebranding Ephrata which I think is great ... I feel like this whole homeless thing is coming at a really great time because these are all things that we need to factor into this decision ... every decision you guys make whether it is road related, trash related, homeless related ... even if it doesn’t seem like it is putting a mark on Ephrata’s reputation, it really is ... let’s be a town that really cares about people ... that doesn’t have to be specific to homeless, that should be across the board and into the future.” Ms. Vater concluded her comments by stating, “... think about how can our tagline hold true for hundreds of years to come ... I think that caring about

people is never something that is going to change or people are going to get tired of ... if we get everyone unified under one common goal ... I think it would be great to get more input from the community ... that is the way to go.”

Scott Shonk, Chairman, Leadership Team, 1st United Methodist Church, Ephrata, in addition to his comments relating to the support of Good Sam, related to Council that he is very disappointed to hear about the negative comments that were spread about them via social media posts. Mr. Shonk advised he feels that a community meeting in a public setting is needed to talk through the process as well as to answer questions. Additionally, Mr. Shonk, in referencing the new Borough logo, advised he would appreciate seeing a reference to the history of the town included within it.

Suzy Wurtz, 33 Akron Rd., Ephrata, in addition to her comments relating to the support of Good Sam, stated “... right now people on this Borough Council are doing their best to make it even harder for families to survive ... instead of doing the hard work of keeping everyone in our community safe, a Council member has attacked Good Samaritan for doing so - for doing the work that they were elected to do ... I’m really happy to hear from several of you on this Council tonight that you are publicly supporting the work that Good Sam does ... I thank you for that ... unfortunately, the kind of hostile behavior we have come to expect from the Vice President of Council is not new ... I have been in this room countless times over the past few years and I have seen ... I have seen one member of this Council attack programs and services over and over - programs and services that everyone regardless of race, class or political needs is getting behind ... from community safety officers, police transparency, the shower trailer, the library and now Good Samaritan ... you will be pressed to find community service or public good that this Council person hasn’t publically attacked ... in fact, I’ve seen her fight more to have alcohol served at our parties downtown than she has for Good Samaritan and the library ... Councilwoman Martin’s tactics are straight out the playbook of an out-of-touch politician ... protect the interests of the people at the top who have what they need and then feign ignorance under the guise of wanting more transparency when they are called out publically ... now more than ever, we need to find solutions that will solve the economic instability we all see around and that, my friends, is up to us ... it is up to you guys ... it is up to all of us ... I ask our Borough Council to stop their attacks on the invaluable work that Good Samaritan is doing in our community and join us in the work of building a community that works for every one of us.”

Joy Ashley, Executive Director, Mainspring of Ephrata, advised she wanted to address two things: (1) a community survey was completed in August 2022 with the results showing that an overwhelming 80% of the community saw Ephrata’s Main Street as a safe place which should be encouraging; and, (2) in reference to Vice President Martin’s comments regarding “additional services were mentioned at the last coalition meeting,” Ms. Ashley advised she felt that to be an unfair assessment and clarified during that meeting, one of the additional services mentioned was the possibility of installing public lockers (off of Main Street) for homeless individuals to store their belongings. Ms. Ashley advised she recommended it because she has received complaints from business owners who were cleaning up clothing items left behind by individuals who had no place to store them. Ms. Ashley noted this is in the very beginning stages; therefore, there has been no discussion regarding community impact because “... we are only at the point of researching the models that work.”

Nelson Sepulveda, Associate Pastor, The Living Room Church, began his comments by advising when he first came to Ephrata, he was viewed as an outsider and was not very well accepted by the community. Mr. Sepulveda advised staying in Ephrata “was hard” as he was labeled as a drug dealer because of the people he was serving. Mr. Sepulveda advised he decided to not to “give up” on Ephrata and remained in town. Mr. Sepulveda advised even though it was a little dysfunctional at first, after time, he was able to “connect” with others stating, “... once I was connected, I grew.” Mr. Sepulveda commented, “... that’s



what the homeless people are looking to do ... is to connect ... if you can connect them the right way, then they become a functional member of society ... just like the young lady who came up and said, “I was homeless ... now I have job ... not only do I have a job, but I help those who helped me ... now I’m helping those who helped me help others.”” Mr. Sepulveda concluded his comments by stating, “... yes, I read emails that were against the shelter ... I read emails that said I don’t know why you’re doing this or who gave you permission to do so ... but, I don’t like it ... I stand here today to say that if we as a community are willing to put in the work and give the grant money or whatever money we can use not to hand out ... it’s not about handing out, it’s about handing up ... if we can “hand up” to someone and bring them up to a place where we can put them as a functional member of society, I believe that Ephrata will grow than just more than shops and churches ... we can be the destination place.”

David Nolt, Pastor, The Living Room Church, stated, “... we love this town as a church ... we desire to work with Council, not against Council ... we desire to have a great relationship with every one of you on Council to the best of our abilities.” Pastor Nolt, in referencing the personal attacks on Council members, apologized on behalf of those who are doing so commenting, “... you don’t deserve that ... just as much as everybody else in this room doesn’t deserve that.” Pastor Nolt, stated, “... I implore the community to be respectful in how we disagree because I think that we have lost the art of being able to agree to disagree ... and when we cannot agree to disagree, we tear the community in half ... and we’re not here to tear a community apart ... we’re here to work together to solve the problems that we see within our community ... and I know that every single one of these members sit on Council because they want to solve the problems that are in our community ... I don’t doubt that for any one of them ... and I would just implore us as members of the community to have our disagreements ... and that’s okay because we don’t get progress if we don’t have disagreements ... to have our disagreements, but to do it respectfully and let me say social media is not the place to do that ... do it in person ... do it in a way that is respectful to all and we will see progress happen in this town.”

Rebecca Beres, 44 Brookfield Dr., Ephrata, commented that this matter is “... not just an individual standing against “the machine” because that’s sort of what Borough Council has become ... it has become a “machine” ... it is not just the eight of you on Council ... what you were elected to do was represent the individuals of this town and it is clear that the individuals of this town – they care ... one of the things that is ironic is tonight we were talking about the historical values ... but we want to know and be known as a town that does have history ... we are rich in history ... but also ironically, Ephrata’s history is not perfect ... it is not picture perfect and squeaky clean ... it was complicated ... people came, people went ... they didn’t necessarily like some of the new ideas, but what came out of it was a pretty amazing place ... it is really hard to think that the eight of you ... even though you don’t share similar values because some of you went on record saying that you very much support the giving and the caring that this community does ... it is sad ... it is disappointing ... it is historically painful to think that the way this office ... the way this room is represented doesn’t look like what our town is ... I mean ... I’ll be real transparent ... “eight old white guys ... not you, Kory – you’re still youngish” ... that’s not what this town looks like anymore ... and I remind everybody else, these are elected officials ... they are supposed to represent what we want ... so remember that in November.”

Ryan Horning, 27 Westpointe Dr., Ephrata, apologized to Council for those actions of community members who are posting negative comments about them on social media. Additionally, Mr. Horning advised he supports Good Sam as well as the work his church is doing to help the homeless population.

Brian Messler, Lead Pastor, Ephrata Church of the Brethren, requested in going through this process to “...connect together, grow together and prosper together ...” and not to “... connect apart, grow apart and prosper apart.” Pastor Messler commented, “... when a community is divided against itself, it will fall ... giving space for non-profit organizations, churches, supporters and all of those define ways to grow and

connect and prosper together only enhances opportunities for each person to feel welcome, supported and loved in this community.” Pastor Messler further commented, “... it reaches beyond Ephrata ... the surrounding communities are watching us ... waiting ... anticipating what will be happening here ... I believe this ... they watch us because they see something amazing happening in our community ... a reawakening of a community that desires to love its neighbor ... we have an opportunity to set the tone for our region ... to demonstrate love for all people ... to show respect to those who struggle daily to live ... and to demonstrate dignity to those who are seeking just to be accepted as they are. Pastor Messler concludes his comments by stating, “I appreciate the clarity you gave, Mr. President ... and appreciate the two sides ... it is really important for us to hear and to ask forgiveness for the lack of communication or perhaps false claims that were spread ... this encourages to discover for ourselves what is true rather than waiting for social media to dictate to us what we believe it to be about ... I desire and appreciate the opportunity for further discussion ... that is what it needs in order for us to move forward ... to grow and to connect and to prosper together.”

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

#### **DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Richard commented, “... it was good to see all the people” who were in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Barr, in referencing the homeless issue, commented that Council has received information from concerned parents regarding the safety of their children and he is hopeful that Good Samaritan Services has policies in place to ensure public safety as well as their temporary residents.

Mayor Mowen advised he will be participating in an upcoming PSAB webinar, “Proper Supervision of Municipal Police Departments.” Mayor Mowen additionally advised that he will work with President Reinhold to organize a community meeting/symposium. Mayor Mowen ended his comments by thanking all individuals who attended tonight’s meeting.

President Reinhold commented if his tone was viewed as harsh during the meeting, he is a “little bitter” due to the Philadelphia Eagles loss to the Kansas City Chiefs at this year’s Superbowl.

President Reinhold concluded his comments by stating, “I guess I’m meant to apologize for myself and everyone else up here (except for Kory) for being a white middle-aged cisgender male! I just find it unfortunate that on a night where I really felt community in this chamber and in the foyer that we end on a comment that encourages the premise that we live in a world that wants race to divide us under the guise of ‘everyone rises.’”

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Zimmerman moved that Borough Council adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy E. Harris, P.E.  
Secretary