

**EPHRATA BOROUGH COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 1, 2021**

The Ephrata Borough Council Work Session was called to order by President Susan Rowe at 7:00 PM on March 1, 2021, in the Council Chambers of the Borough Office, 124 South State Street.

Due to the Coronavirus – COVID-19 guidelines set forth by Governor Tom Wolf and in the respect of the practice of social distancing, President Susan Rowe, President Pro Tem Melvin Weiler and Council Members Linda Martin, Ricky Ressler, Greg Zimmerman, Mayor Ralph and Borough Manager D. Robert Thompson, as well as the Solicitor, James R. McManus, III, were present within Council Chambers while the remaining Council Members including Vice President Thomas Reinhold and Council Member Timothy Barr, as well as the Police Chief John Petrick participated via a video conference. Absent from the meeting was Council Member Victor Richard.

The following visitors were present within Council Chambers:

- Tim Auker, 542 N. State Street, Ephrata
- Larry Alexander, The Ephrata Review
- Vincent Klopp, 37 E. Walnut Street, Ephrata
- Adam Mertz, 205 Miller Road, Akron
- Roy Weaver, 616 Springville Road, Ephrata

The following visitor(s) participated via video conferencing:

- Teresa Caruthers, 229 Railroad Avenue, Ephrata
- Julia Yoder, 407 Main Street, Akron
- Rebecca Beres, 44 Brookfield Drive, Ephrata

Before beginning the meeting, President Rowe requested all to keep Councilman Victor Richard and Marylouise Sholly, news correspondent from The Ephrata Review, in their thoughts and prayers. The meeting then began with a moment of silence which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

“This meeting was advertised in accordance with Act 15 of 2020 enabling residents that wish to participate in the meeting virtually to do so through the duration of the COVID-19 emergency declaration. Although the mandates have been lifted, there are still restrictions on the number of people we can have at a gathering in a building, so we are meeting those standards.” President Rowe, addressing Mr. Thompson, inquired if any citizen participating virtually wished to address Council; in which, Mr. Thompson advised he received a request from Ms. Caruthers to speak. Mr. Thompson further advised that Ms. Caruthers has not yet joined the meeting.

President Rowe advised on February 16, 2021, an Executive Session of the Personnel Committee was held to discuss a personnel matter.

President Rowe welcomed a group of Boy Scouts who are in attendance to observe the meeting.

First Opportunity for Citizens to be Heard

President Rowe advised due to Ms. Caruther's not yet being in attendance (online), she will revisit her request at the second opportunity for citizens to be heard.

With no citizens in attendance wishing to address Council, President Rowe moved onto the Discussion of Committee Actions.

Discussion of Committee Actions

Budget and Finance Committee

Mr. Ressler advised the Committee met on February 22, 2021, and has four Action Items:

1. The Committee discussed financing options related to the Borough's pledge to contribute 64% of the estimated \$1,522,000 cost for the aerial fire truck for the Pioneer Fire Department. Since all financial details are not available, Staff discussed an option that provides the most flexibility to all parties. Tim Horstmann from McNees Wallace, the Borough's bond counsel, discussed an ordinance which would allow the Borough to borrow up to \$2.5M. While the amount to be borrowed is not expected to be that high, it provides flexibility to fix the actual dollar amount to be borrowed at a future time. Mr. Horstmann also discussed a resolution that would allow the Borough to pay some portion to the fire truck's cost from cash reserves and then reimburse itself upon the final borrowed amount for the truck. Scott Kramer from RBC Capital Markets, who will shop and secure the loan, discussed the proposed terms for the loan. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the following documents at their March 8, 2021 meeting:
 - a. Ordinance #1558: Authorizing and Directing the Incurring of Non-Electoral Debt Through the Issuance of a General Obligation Note in the Maximum Principal Amount of \$2,500,000 for the Purpose of Providing Funds for a Project Consisting of (1) the Financing of All or a Portion of the Costs of Purchasing a Fire Truck and (2) Paying the Costs of Issuing the Note
 - b. Resolution #2021-5: Declaring Intent to Reimburse its General Fund for Amounts Paid to Finance a Portion of the Costs of the Purchase of a Fire Truck with Funds Received from a Tax-Exempt or Other Debt Financing
2. The Committee was informed that Councilman Greg Zimmerman has expressed interest in filling the vacant position on the Ephrata Borough Authority board. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council appoint Mr. Zimmerman to fill the vacant board seat.
3. The Committee reviewed a letter from Mainspring Board President requesting the second payment from the Borough for fiscal year 2020/2021 to fund Mainspring operations in the amount of \$63,605. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council authorize the release of the \$63,605 as request at their March 8, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Ressler then provided an overview of the Discussion Items as listed on the Committee Report.

Mr. Zimmerman inquired if there is an additional update on the status of the fire truck situation

since the meeting; in which, Mr. Thompson stated, "... we still need to have a sit down with the department, but I did have a discussion last Thursday at the Strategic Planning Committee meeting with the fire department's finance committee chairman ... their thoughts were it would be their preference that the fire department use the revenue from the sale of the old truck and some fund balance to pay their share ... the 36% share of the fire truck debt service going forward ... so rather than pay it at one time, they are going to take their ... and its around \$45,000-\$47,000 ... so the Borough would contribute its \$70,000-\$75,000 toward the annual debt service ... they would pay the difference with the revenue from the sale of the truck and some fund balance going forward for the next 15 years ... that would be their preference ... still need to sit down and hammer that out and make sure that's adequate and that the Budget and Finance Committee is going to support that recommendation going forward." Mr. Thompson then advised the plan now is to have that ironed out before the April 2021 payment is due. Mr. Thompson further advised, referencing the proposed Ordinance and Resolution, it allows for the Borough to pay one or more payments via cash from the fund balance and then reimburse itself upon the proceeds of the loan being distributed back to the Borough. Mr. Zimmerman thanked Mr. Thompson for the update.

Mr. Weiler, in referencing past due utility accounts, inquired if the groups that worked with these individuals last fall are aware of the current situation and if they are again going to provide assistance; in which, Mr. Thompson advised a meeting will be held within the next several weeks and this matter will be discussed.

Mr. Thompson provided the following informational update as a follow-up to the Committee's meeting:

- Q. What is the percentage of delinquencies that are tenant-occupied versus owner-occupied?
- A. Approximately 54% of the properties subject to disconnection are tenant-occupied and 46% are owner-occupied.

- Q. Can payment plans be extended longer than the 12-month period?
- A. Staff reviewed data from January/February 2021 as well as for the entire year of 2020. As of last week (week of February 22, 2021), there are no active payment plans in place; however, when reviewing 2020 payment plan history, there are very few payment plans (plans where the customer agrees to make a certain payment amount each month to reduce the arrearage that they have) in place. The policy is the customer needs to be able to pay their current bill plus an additional amount to start reducing the arrears. In reviewing accounts, there are approximately ten customers in total who actually made additional payments on a monthly basis with none actually completing their agreements. Mainly these customers inquired as to how much they need to pay (now) to prevent from being disconnected with no consideration of looking to the future of what needs to be done to make their account whole. Monthly minimal payments are typically made to "keep the lights on."

Mr. Ressler, in referencing unpaid accounts, advised that part of the federal program that was passed, along with part of the program that is currently proposed, in addition to a state program that offers grants to people who are in arrears of rent and utilities, but it is incumbent on those residents that need the assistance to apply for it. Mr. Ressler advised that organizations such as

Ephrata Area Social Services, Northern HUB, as well as the County, can offer direction on how to apply; however, we as a Borough are not involved in that process. Mr. Ressler concluded his comments by stating, "... there is help out there and, hopefully, they'll reach out and get it."

Ms. Martin, in referencing unpaid accounts, advised a discussion occurred regarding the possibility of including an informational flyer along with utility bills advising customers with past due balances of assistance available to them. Ms. Martin, addressing Mr. Thompson, inquired if that suggestion is going to be implemented; in which, Mr. Thompson advised he will have to follow-up on the request.

Development Activities Committee

Mr. Zimmerman advised the Committee met on February 22, 2021, and has five Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed the annual professional services agreement with HRG. HRG provides review services for Subdivision and Land Development and Stormwater Management. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council execute the annual agreement with HRG for 2021 at the March Borough Council meeting and authorize the President of Borough Council and the Borough Secretary to execute the agreement subject to it being in a form acceptable to the Borough Solicitor.
2. The Committee reviewed an access easement request from the new owners of 1 East Main Street. 1 East Main Street currently has a number of parking spaces along the trail side of their building. The parking spaces are on private property, but drivers must use the curb cut and trail to access the spaces. The owners would like to formalize the access with a recorded easement to ensure they will have access to their parking spaces. The owner's attorney will draft the easement agreement for the Borough Solicitor's review. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council authorize the President of Borough Council and Borough Secretary to execute an access agreement with WMJ Properties, LLC, subject to it being in a form acceptable to the Solicitor at the March Borough Council meeting.
3. Kelly Withum, Executive Director of Mainspring of Ephrata, reviewed a Wayfinding PowerPoint presentation with the Committee. Mainspring would like to move forward with adding wayfinding signage at key places in the Borough and is asking permission to erect wayfinding signage to connect people to places. The first phase of the signage will be to guide pedestrians and cyclists to various destinations. They are proposing 10 locations. Two of the signs will be on private property and the rest will be on Borough-owned property. Ms. Withum will consult with the WERT Committee since several of the signs will be along the trail. Ms. Withum would also like to have Mainspring install 6 small bike racks in the "bump-outs" downtown and at the plaza. The racks and bikes will not impede pedestrians. Mainspring will pay for the signage and the bike racks. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the request to install 8 signs and 6 bike racks subject to Staff reviewing the locations for both improvements at the March Borough Council meeting.

4. The Committee reviewed RFP #EB21-1 Building Cleaning Services. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council award the contract to low quote, M & H Cleaning of Stevens, PA. RFP amount is \$25,200 for year 1, \$25,200 for year 2 and \$25,200 for year 3. Years 2 and 3 are optional based on the contractor's performance. The Committee will recommend awarding the contract for all three years subject to providing a certificate of insurance naming the Borough of Ephrata as an additional insured at the March Borough Council meeting
5. The Committee reviewed additional information provided by the Ephrata Public Library regarding the observation beehive at the library. The installation will result in modifications to the library's exterior wall. The Committee is supportive of the request, but wants the library to escrow funds sufficient to cover the cost of the restoration. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the request subject to the condition that the Library escrow funds to cover the cost of the restoration and execute a restoration agreement in a form acceptable to the Solicitor at their March Borough Council meeting.

Mr. Zimmerman then provided an overview of the Discussion Items as listed on the Committee Report.

Mr. Ressler, in referencing the access easement request from the new owners of 1 East Main Street, advised he is surprised an agreement is not already in place as the only way for those parking spaces to be utilized would be to access along the rail trail. Mr. Ressler, addressing Solicitor McManus, inquired if he has received and/or reviewed the agreement; in which, Solicitor McManus advised he has not yet received the agreement to review. Mr. Ressler then stated, "... if this is an action item for next week's vote, it's just a matter of whether we're far enough in that process to actually vote on it or not."

Mr. Ressler, in referencing the Ephrata Public Library's request regarding the observation beehive, inquired if the bees are going to have access inside/outside and would there be any liability issues if an individual was allergic to bees and may get stung. Mr. Thompson advised the observation beehive is an enclosed unit (referencing the picture of a hive included in the meeting packet) and the bees would come through a 2" tube in the wall to get to the hive. Mr. Thompson further advised the bees would not have any access to the inside of the building; however, the bees do have access to the outside of the building.

Mr. Thompson, in referencing Mr. Ressler's inquiry regarding the easement request, advised the Borough secured an easement for the trail to go through the property. Mr. Thompson further advised there was a "very broad" agreement for the Lancaster Newspaper building employees to cross over to get onto the property. Mr. Thompson advised the easement the Borough has for the trail is not exclusive and does not prevent a vehicle from traversing across. Mr. Thompson advised the current agreement is with the property owner, Mr. Latchaw. Mr. Thompson further advised the new property owners "just want to button that up" and the recommendation from Staff was to provide access across the trail, but it would be in a form acceptable to the Borough Solicitor.

Mr. Weiler, in referencing the easement request, advised he recalls seeing in the newspaper where the trail crosses Rothsville Road and cars were stopping to allow pedestrian traffic inquired if there is some sort of protocol that people using the trail will know who has the yield sign and has the “I go first” sign. Mr. Thompson responded, “... it has been operational that way since the existence of the trail and we have not had any conflicts ... it is almost like the “unwritten laws” of driving in a parking lot ... there’s generally courtesy and allowing someone the right of way ... I think the rules along the trail is that there is no given rights to anyone on the trail especially when crossing and having interactions with motor vehicles.” Mr. Thompson further stated, “... there is nothing in there now ... there is nothing planned at this point in time, but if you see the need the formalize something, then we’ll have to do that and we’ll bring it back for Council to review.”

Mr. Weiler responded, “... it looks like there is going ... they’re looking for something here and perhaps that ... I don’t know if that needs to be addressed or not ... just curious if we had considered it.” Mayor Mowen advised, “... this is a little different than a street ... this is parking lot ... it’s not like the traffic is flying through like a road.” Mr. Thompson then advised, “... up to this point and throughout my career, the Solicitor has been very, very conservative about protecting the Borough and the Borough’s liability so I think we’ll just put all the weight on his shoulders to make sure that we’re properly protected.”

Public Safety Committee

Vice President Reinhold advised the Committee met on February 16, 2021, and has three Action Items:

1. Adamstown/Ephrata Office Space Lease: The Committee approved the Adamstown/Ephrata Office Space Lease Agreement. Adamstown Borough will provide office space at the Adamstown Borough Municipal Building for use solely for the Ephrata Police Department.
2. Ephrata Public Library’s Bee Hive Waiver Request: The Committee approved the Library’s request for a waiver of Section 123-1 of the Code of the Borough of Ephrata as it pertains to the keeping of “hives of bees” within the Borough limits. This issue will be forwarded to the Development Activities Committee.
3. Disposition of Assets: 2016 Dodge Charger; VIN# 2C3CDXKT7GH238102: The Committee approved the disposition of assets for (1) 2016 Dodge Charger by accepting the winning bid of \$14,900.00 submitted by Matthew Santiago of Allentown, PA.

Vice President Reinhold then provided an overview of the Discussion Items as listed on the Committee Report.

Mr. Ressler expressed his appreciation to Adamstown Borough for making space available for the Ephrata Police Department.

Mr. Zimmerman, referencing the feral cat discussion item, stated, "... I think we need to be mindful too of the number of residents who are allergic to cats ... so whatever we do, we just got to make sure we've got both sides of the coin, that's all."

Highway Committee

Mr. Weiler advised the Committee met on February 22, 2021, and has four Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed a January 7, 2021, letter request from Maria Rotella, Program Assistant at the Ephrata Recreation Center, to conduct the 3rd Annual Memorial Day 5K Race utilizing various streets in the Lincoln Heights area of the Borough on Monday, May 31, 2021, beginning at 8:00 AM. Maria Rotella discussed the event with Committee and provided a copy of the notification letter which will be delivered to residents of Lincoln Heights making them aware of this event. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council conditionally approve the request subject to EMC review and approval, Borough receipt of a satisfactory certificate of insurance naming the Borough of Ephrata as additional insured, and compliance with current PA Department of Health and CDC guidelines associated with COVID-19 at their March 8, 2021, meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed a February 4, 2021, letter request from Michael Lillis and Kim Swinko representing the Ephrata War Memorial Association as Co-Directors of the Firecracker Run asking to use the streets of the Borough on Sunday, July 4, 2021, beginning at 8:00 AM, for the 44th Annual Firecracker Run event. Following a brief discussion regarding the planned event date being a Sunday, the Committee tabled further discussion for their March 22, 2021, meeting at which time the event organizers are expected to provide a revised request for Committee review.
3. The Committee reviewed an Ordinance to amend the Code of the Borough of Ephrata, Chapter 305, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 305-D and Section 305-113.1: Schedule XXXI by amending the days and time or times designated by official traffic control devices indicating the beginning and end of each school zone for segments of South Academy Drive, Oak Boulevard, East Fulton Street, Highland Avenue, and Terrace Avenue. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council enact Ordinance No. 1559 at their March 8, 2021, meeting.
4. The Committee reviewed a budgeted vehicle purchase in the form of a new, leftover 2020 Ford Transit-250 Cargo RWD Medium Roof Van replacing a 2007 Ford Ranger to be rotated in the fleet to the Water Filter Plant replacing Truck 80 which will be removed from the fleet through auction or sealed bid. A disposition of asset form will be provided for Council approval at a future Highway Committee meeting. This new vehicle will be used for meter installations and sign installations/replacements. This new vehicle is planned for purchase from Whitmoyer Auto Group in Mount Joy, PA through COSTARS 025-162 Purchasing Agreement for \$37,775.00 per Whitmoyer's Quote ID 012921-1 dated February 19, 2021, plus \$1,000.00 upfitting costs for decals, safety equipment, floor mats, etc. to be provided by Borough Staff. The budget amount for this purchase is \$50,000. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the purchase of this new vehicle at their March 8, 2021, meeting.

Mr. Weiler then provided an overview of the Discussion Items as listed on the Committee Report.

Ms. Martin, in referencing the Ephrata Recreation Center's 5K, advised she lives in the neighborhood where the race is conducted and stated, "... they do a great job with managing the intersections and sending a letter out ... it is a very well-organized run ... it is fun to watch."

Vice President Reinhold, in referencing the Ephrata War Memorial Association's request, advised he believes the War Board is possibly looking at the date of Saturday, July 3rd to hold the event; however, the date has not been confirmed and this matter is to be discussed at the March Public Safety Committee meeting.

Municipal Enterprises Committee

Ms. Martin advised the Committee met on February 16, 2021, and has two Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed a tolling agreement between the Ephrata Borough Authority, Clay Township and the Borough regarding ongoing negotiation for a successor sewer service agreement with the Ephrata Borough Authority and managed by the Borough. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the agreement at their March 8, 2021, meeting.
2. The Committee discussed appointing Stephen Morrison, Technical Support Manager for the Borough, as the Borough's alternate to the American Municipal Power's Board of Trustees. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council appoint Mr. Morrison as their alternate to the AMP Board of Trustees at their March 8, 2021, meeting.

Ms. Martin then provided an overview of the Discussion Items as listed on the Committee Report.

Vice President Reinhold, referencing the net metering discussion, inquired if the technical requirements could be available on the website for those interested in solar; in which, Mr. Thompson advised he will request to add the information.

Mr. Thompson presented information received from American Municipal Power (AMP) with regard to the annual Auction Revenue Rights. Mr. Thompson advised the auction begins March 1st and ends March 2nd which is the reason for bringing the matter forward at the Work Session. Mr. Thompson advised what is requested to be acted on at this time is for the planning period of June 2021 through May 2022. Mr. Thompson then provided the following timetable of events:

- a. Stage 1A: Auction opens on March 1, 2021, and ends on March 2, 2021;
- b. Stage 1B: Auction opens on March 5, 2021, and ends on March 8, 2021;
- c. Stage 2: Auction opens on March 15, 2021, and ends on March 30, 2021

Mr. Thompson advised in June 2020-May 2021, the Borough received approximately \$120,000 of annual revenue which is based on our coincident peak load. Mr. Thompson additionally

advised that AMP has provided pathways that the Borough bids on which would generate the most revenue.

Mr. Thompson advised the recommendation from AMP, as well as GDS, is to bid 12.8 MW of the ARR's in Stage 1A; bid 5.5 MW in Stage 1B; and bid 6.9 MW or the remaining amount (whichever is larger) in Stage 2.

Mr. Thompson, in referencing the Committee entering into Executive Session to discuss the lease for electric generation project, advised a response has been received from Redemptorist Fathers; and, at this point in time, they have chosen not to participate.

Community Services Committee

Mr. Weiler advised the Committee met on February 22, 2021, and has two Action Items:

1. Rec Center Executive Director Jim Summers addressed the Committee with 2021 proposed rates for the Community Pool. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council adopt the rates at their March 8, 2021, meeting.
2. The Committee agreed to move the following from a Discussion Item to an Action Item. Mainspring Executive Director Kelly Withum made a presentation to the Committee proposing improvements to the Whistlestop Plaza in order to make it a more inviting place to drive economic development. The proposal includes lowering the knee wall by one course of block to provide better seating, adding flower planters along the side of the former Re-U-Zit building, removing diseased trees, adding color in the form of colored umbrellas and flowers and to purchase colorful tables and chairs. The budget for the proposed improvements is \$15,000. Ms. Withum is requesting approval of the concept as well as requesting a contribution towards the improvements. The Committee recommends that Borough Council conditionally approve the proposal subject to receipt of all applicable building permits and that Borough Council contribute \$5,000 toward the project.

Mr. Weiler then provided an overview of the Discussion Items as listed on the Committee Report.

Mr. Weiler, in referencing the flume water slide for the Ephrata Community Pool, inquired if any bids were received by the February 25, 2021, deadline; in which, Mr. Thompson advised Staff met to discuss the matter and concluded there would not be sufficient time to erect the slide prior to the beginning the 2021 pool season. Mr. Thompson further advised as a result, he authorized the cancellation of the bid with the intent of re-bidding it over the summer, awarding it in August and completing it in the Fall making the slide operable for the 2022 pool season. Mr. Weiler thanked Mr. Thompson for the update and advised he is in agreement with Staff's decision.

Mayor Mowen, in referencing the replacement of umbrellas at Whistlestop Plaza, sought clarification if all umbrellas are going to be replaced; in which, Ms. Martin clarified at this time there is only one umbrella to be replaced as it has been repaired two times previously which has been quite costly.

Vice President Reinhold, in referencing the Ephrata Community Pool discussion, stated, "... the pool is near and dear to my heart ... I'm glad to see we are going to manage that with the same rates we would've imposed the last time ... I think it is still one of the best bargains we got ... another nice amenity this community offers besides the rail trail." Vice President Reinhold advised he also is in agreement with Staff's decision to pull the bid on the slide at this time.

Personnel Committee

Vice President Reinhold advised the Committee met on February 8, 2021, and has no Action Items to bring forward at the March Voting Session.

Vice President Reinhold then provided an overview of the Discussion Items and Old Business Items as listed on the Committee Report.

Special Projects Committee

President Rowe advised the Committee did not have a meeting in February and asked Mr. Barr if he had any topics to discuss. Mr. Barr advised it is his understanding a future topic to be discussed at an upcoming meeting is the matter of landlords being held accountable for their tenant's unpaid electric bills.

Committee Recommendations

Public Safety Committee

It was moved by Vice President Reinhold, seconded by Mr. Ressler, and unanimously passed that Borough Council approve the disposition of assets of one (1) 2016 Dodge Charger, VIN #2C3CDXKT7GH238102, by accepting the winning bid of \$14,900.00 submitted by Matthew Santiago, 344 E. Tioga Street, Allentown, PA 18103.

Municipal Enterprises Committee

It was moved by Ms. Martin, seconded by Vice President Reinhold, and unanimously passed that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to bid into the annual Auction Revenue Rights (auction) for the 2021-2022 planning year per the pathways recommended by American Municipal Power as follows:

Stage 1A	12.8 MW
Stage 1B	5.5 MW
Stage 2	6.9 MW or remaining amount whichever is larger

Second Opportunity for Citizens to be Heard

An unidentified individual approached the podium and referenced the feral cat issue discussed earlier in the meeting advising he believes the matter was handled in a very reasonable manner.

President Rowe, addressing the Scouts, thanked them for attending the meeting stating, "I hope you very informative and enlightening." President Rowe then asked, "Does anybody have anything that they really liked tonight that just got you so excited to can't wait until you can run for Borough Council?" After receiving no comments, an unidentified individual requested Council members to introduce themselves to those in attendance; at which time, all members present introduced themselves and advised of what ward they represent. After which, Mr.

Thompson, Chief Petrick and Solicitor McManus introduced themselves to the group as well as their roles within the Borough. President Rowe then inquired if there was anything negative experienced during the meeting, to please bring it to her (or any Council member) attention so that possible changes can be made; in which, no comments were received. President Rowe again thanked all for attending the meeting.

After allotting a brief time for additional citizen comments and/or remarks, President Rowe turned to the discussion/announcements portion of the meeting.

Discussion/Announcements

Ms. Martin expressed her appreciation to the Scouts for taking time to attend the meeting.

Mr. Ressler advised that today is the first day of what is called, “meteorological spring” stating, “... hopefully, we are done with snow storms ... I don’t have to watch the budget to make sure that we’re not going overboard with salt use ... hoping we’re warming up rapidly.”

Mr. Weiler stated, “... I applaud him (Mr. Ressler) for his positive weather report and I look forward to seeing it come to fruition.”

Mr. Zimmerman, addressing Mr. Thompson, advised the PA State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) publishes a monthly magazine and that the Ephrata Fair has been advertised in the past. Mr. Zimmerman inquired if any additional Borough events could be advertised throughout the year; in which, Mr. Thompson advised he will pass along the request to Mainspring of Ephrata as they manage the community calendar.

Mr. Barr, in addressing the Scouts, introduced himself, advised he was a former Scout and wished them well in the future.

Vice President Reinhold, in addressing the Scouts, advised he represents the 1st Ward and stated, “... it is always nice to see people at the meetings.”

President Rowe advised that the Municipal Moment at the March 8, 2021, meeting will be presented by Senator Ryan Aument.

President Rowe advised that in addition to herself, Vice President Reinhold attended every committee meeting the last two weeks and Ms. Martin attended all but one. President Rowe then stated, “...it is good to see that people are showing some interest.”

President Rowe, in concluding her comments, expressed her appreciation to the Business Office Staff who went “above and beyond” going through “thousands of envelopes” to locate a missing electric payment for a resident.

Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Weiler and seconded by Ms. Martin to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

D. Robert Thompson, Secretary