

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT – AUGUST 9, 2021

Members: Barr, Chairman; Zimmerman, Vice Chairman; Dudley, Member; Martin, Alternate; Thompson, Staff

Attendees: Barr, Chairman; Zimmerman, Vice Chairman; Dudley, Member; Martin, Alternate, Rowe, Reinhold, Ressler, Thompson, Guest (3)

The Special Projects Committee met on July 19, 2021 and discussed the following:

Action Items:

None

Discussion Items:

1. The Committee discussed the need to continue allowing remote participation to Borough public meetings. With the termination of the Commonwealth's Declaration of Emergency so goes Act 15 of the Commonwealth requiring public meetings of local government to provide for remote participation of meeting via electronic devices. Currently there is a policy per the Borough Code which allows remote participation for Council members, with the permission of the Council President, per the guidelines of the Borough Code. The Committee indicated that they support the Borough policy and leaned towards live streaming of Borough meetings versus interactive participation by remote participants. Borough Manager Thompson will ask the Staff to investigate the equipment requirements to stream Borough meetings. Borough Manager Thompson will discuss with the Borough Solicitor any restrictions that need to be considered to stream public meetings.
2. Borough Manager Thompson reviewed with the Committee the proposed changes to Chapter 115, Trees, of the Code of the Borough of Ephrata. Former Shade Tree Commissioner, Justin Snyder, discussed several concerns he had and asked that the Committee consider addressing those concerns in the ordinance update. The Committee requested additional time to review the ordinance. The proposed ordinance will be reviewed with the Committee at their August 16 Committee meeting.

Old Business Items:

None