

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT – SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Members: Richard, Chair; Martin, Vice Chair; Zimmerman, Member; Dudley, Alternate; Burkholder, Staff

Attendees: Richard, Chair; Martin, Vice Chair; Zimmerman, Member; Dudley, Alternate; Rowe, Council President; Reinhold, Council Vice President; Ressler, Council Member; Thompson, Borough Manager; Burkholder, Staff; Visitors: Thomas Leh, Shirley Neyhard, Teresa Caruthers, Rebecca Beres, and Matt Smith

The Highway Committee met on August 23, 2021 and discussed the following:

Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed a UGI Utilities, Inc. Permit Application & Street Opening and Gas Service Extension Agreement for installation of a gas service line to 31 East Franklin Street, the Ephrata National Bank Technology Center. The Borough is in receipt of the required performance guarantee escrow in the amount of \$1,487.64 and certificate of insurance naming the Borough as additional insured. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve UGI's request to install gas service to 31 East Franklin Street at their September meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed a UGI Utilities, Inc. Permit Application & Street Opening and Gas Service Extension Agreement for installation of a gas service line to 320 Church Avenue (OMPH). The Borough is in receipt of the required performance guarantee escrow in the amount of \$3,152.60 and certificate of insurance naming the Borough as additional insured. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve UGI's request to install gas service to 320 Church Avenue at their September meeting.
3. The Committee reviewed a letter dated August 20, 2021 from Cocalico Valley VFW Post 3376 requesting to close South State Street between Fulton Street and West Franklin Street from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 (Rain Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021) for the annual Jack Frost parade scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council conditionally approve this request subject to Borough receipt of a satisfactory certificate of insurance naming the Borough as additional insured as part of the Consent Agenda at their September meeting.

Discussion Items:

1. The Committee discussed a request from Thomas Leh, property owner of 203 Park Avenue and Shirley Neyhard, property owner of 205 Park Avenue, who both personally appeared before the Committee to ask for reimbursement of their total costs of \$7,527 to remove 2 trees and replace curb and sidewalk which was damaged due to the overgrowth of the trees at sidewalk level. Mr. Leh added that the cost to remove the trees was \$2,400. Both property owners believe the trees were planted by the Borough sometime between 1969 and 1971. Thomas Leh has owned 203 Park Avenue since March 12, 1990 and Shirley Neyhard has owned 205 Park Avenue since December 9, 1964. David Burkholder had contacted Mrs. Neyhard prior to the Highway Committee meeting to inquire if she could recollect what year she believes the trees were planted in front of 203 Park Avenue and she stated, without hesitation, 1969. The Committee was advised by Mr. Burkholder that he researched the Borough Council meeting minutes from 1969 and found no reference or acknowledgement of trees being planted by the Borough in front of

203 Park Avenue. Mr. Leh added that the meeting minutes from 1970 and 1971 should be checked. Borough Manager Thompson added that typically a maintenance agreement would be entered into by both parties describing who is responsible for what regarding similar installations. Mr. Burkholder will research Borough Council meeting minutes from 1970 and 1971 and Staff will confer this issue with the Borough Solicitor for discussion at the next Highway Committee meeting.

2. The Committee continued discussions regarding the Locust Street parking lot space designations. Councilperson Dudley advised that there are numerous vehicles parking in the spaces near 40 Washington Avenue including a large truck that takes up multiple spaces. The Committee directed Staff to check with the owner of the Laundromat and Ephrata National Bank regarding their usage of parking spaces per the Easement Agreement dated January 9, 2001 and consult with the Borough Solicitor about the possibility of modifying the Easement Agreement, while still in effect. The Easement Agreement, in its current form, expires January 9, 2026. Nancy Harris and David Burkholder will plan to review the parking designations at the parking lot and invite Highway Committee Chair Richard to attend. Staff will provide information for discussion at the next Highway Committee meeting.
3. The Committee reviewed the Steinmetz Road traffic report completed in response to a recent citizen concern shared with the Committee by Teresa Caruthers. The southbound lane of Steinmetz Road saw 2,628 vehicles from August 5 to August 12, 2021 at an average speed of 23.7 MPH. The northbound lane of Steinmetz Road saw 3,158 vehicles from August 12 to August 19, 2021 at an average speed of 31.8 MPH. The posted speed limit on Steinmetz Road is 35 MPH. There was also citizen concern shared with the Committee by Teresa Caruthers regarding pedestrian safety at the mailboxes next to a mobile home park and adjacent to a turn in Steinmetz Road. Committee directed Staff to provide motor vehicle accident reports for the past 10 years for Steinmetz Road for discussion at the next Highway Committee meeting.
4. The Committee heard from Shirley Neyhard, property owner of 205 Park Avenue, regarding clear sight distance at the Spruce Alley and West Chestnut Street intersection and vehicles speeding on the recently reconstructed and paved Spruce Alley. Staff will discuss these concerns with the Ephrata Police and provide information for discussion at the next Highway Committee meeting.

Old Business Items:

1. Borough Staff continues attempts at communicating with PennDOT regarding the South Oak Street bridge pedestrian railing/vehicle barrier with regards to PennDOT's plans for replacing similar barrier on their West Main Street (SR 0322) over Cocalico Creek Bridge. Staff will contact the consultant performing the November bridge inspection to discuss concerns regarding the pedestrian railing/vehicle barrier.