

**EPHRATA BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

The regular Ephrata Borough Council meeting was called to order by President Thomas Reinhold at 7:00 PM on September 11, 2023, in the Council Chambers of the Borough Office, 124 South State Street.

In attendance in addition to the President were Vice President Linda Martin, President Pro Tem Victor Richard, Council Members Timothy Barr, Alan Buohl, Kory Musser, and Greg Zimmerman as well as Mayor Ralph Mowen (Arrived at 7:21 PM). Absent was Member Ricky Ressler.

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

The following visitors were present within Council Chambers:

Larry Alexander, The Ephrata Review  
Tim Auker, 542 N. State St., Ephrata  
Steve Aronson, 424 Lake St., Ephrata  
Rick Jackson, ELA Group, Inc.  
Mike Kiefer, Pioneer Fire Company

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

- Borough Council members met in an Executive Session prior to the Voting Session to discuss potential litigation.

A moment of silence was held which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Harris provided confirmation of the following:

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

President Reinhold asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, President Reinhold asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted. Mr. Barr moved and Vice President Martin seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Zimmerman moved and Mr. Barr seconded that Borough Council approve the August 7, 2023, Work Session Meeting Minutes and the August 14, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**MUNICIPAL MOMENT – MIKE KIEFER, PIONEER FIRE COMPANY**

Mike Kiefer, Chief, Lincoln Fire Company, began his presentation by extending his appreciation to Council for their support of the Pioneer Fire Company over the years. Chief Kiefer then reviewed the Fire Company's Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Values followed by an overview of the services they provide to the community.

Chief Kiefer reviewed their general statistics advising that as of August 31, 2023, Pioneer has responded to 302 incidents which is an increase of 57 calls than what they handled the year prior at this time. Chief Kiefer advised there seems to be an increase in cardiac arrest calls and commented that they are seeing really good success records in assisting those patients. Chief Kiefer advised their average response time is 7 minutes and 52 seconds with the goal nationwide being 7 minutes. Chief Kiefer then provided an overview of personnel noting they have approximately 40 operational members with eight being EMT's and three being paramedics resulting in a well-rounded agency.

Chief Kiefer commented that the biggest problem Pioneer Fire Company experiences is the lack of community funding. Chief Kiefer referenced a recent direct mailer sent to their service area has resulting in only a 12% return (as of August 31, 2023). Chief Kiefer further advised that a second mailer will be sent in the near future and is hopeful the return rate will increase.

In addressing Pioneer's 2023 and 2024 initiatives, Chief Kiefer highlighted several areas that were or are being addressed, including, but not limited to, software upgrades, facilities long-range plan, vehicle plan, equipment replacement plan, quick response times as well as training and certification standards.

In concluding his presentation, Chief Kiefer again expressed his, as well as Pioneer Fire Company's, appreciation to the community and Borough Council for their continued support and opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Richard referenced the property that was demolished near the fire station and inquired as to what the plans were for that property; in which, Chief Kiefer advised a consultant is currently in the final stages of determining what can and cannot be done with the property which will then be discussed in more detail.

Mr. Zimmerman referenced the 12% of funding received from the community and inquired as to what percentage of their funds are received from grants; in which, Chief Kiefer advised that grant amounts can fluctuate from year to year. Chief Kiefer then provided the following estimated amounts: (1) Local Grants – Approximately \$5,000-\$7,000; (2) State Grants – Approximately \$15,000; and (3) Federal Grants – Wildcard as those amounts tend to fluctuate. Mr. Zimmerman then inquired if the direct mailers are only being sent to Ephrata Borough residents; in which, Chief Kiefer clarified that every address in Pioneer's first due area – stretching beyond municipal boundaries – receives a mailer.

Mr. Barr inquired if any of the newer members have joined due to recruitment efforts; in which, Chief Kiefer advised that they are not necessarily being recruited and that one joined based on Pioneer's reputation within the County.

President Reinhold extended his appreciation to Chief Kiefer for his presentation.

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

After offering an opportunity for citizen comments and with no one in attendance wishing to speak, President Reinhold called for a motion to close the public comments section of the meeting until the end of the meeting agenda. Vice President Martin moved and Mr. Barr seconded to close public comments until the end of the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

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

### **Budget and Finance Committee**

The Budget and Finance Committee met on August 28, 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. Musser moved and Mr. Richard seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Action Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed a request to certify the Borough of Ephrata 2024 Pension in accordance with Act 205. The Committee will recommend that Council authorize the Borough Manager/Secretary to certify the 2024 Pension Certification Report at their September 11, 2023 meeting.

### **Discussion Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2023 Budget Review. Ms. Gerhart expressed that both 2023 revenues and expenditures are pacing at percentages comparative to 2022 through the first half of the year. Interest income is the one item that is significantly different this year due to the drastic increase in interest rates in 2023. No further action is required.
2. Ms. Gerhart informed the Committee that the fall disbursement was made earlier this month to Mainspring in accordance with Resolution 2022-21.
3. Ms. Harris provided a written memo to the Committee pertaining to contracted park services with the Ephrata Recreation Center. As an ongoing endeavor to evaluate current operations and look for potential ways to control costs, Ms. Harris provided an analysis of services and costs related to

the Rec Center contracted services versus a potential alternative of providing park maintenance services by Borough personnel. After some discussion by Staff and Committee members describing in further detail the types of maintenance, pool management and several community events that the Recreation Center manages, the Committee consensus was that an agreement/contract is needed. The Committee echoed the Staff recommendation that the Borough Solicitor review the current procedures, bidding, and purchasing requirements for contracted services to ensure the Borough is operating within the Borough Code and mitigates any potential for liability.

4. The Committee was provided a copy of the 2024 Municipal Funding packet that was updated with the new Borough branding and distributed to various civic organizations. Ms. Gerhart reminded the Committee that organizations will present their requests at the September 25, 2023 Budget and Finance Committee meeting at 7:30pm.
5. Staff provided a copy of the solicitor's invoice for July and August. No further action is required.
6. Check and ACH Register for August was provided. No further action is required.

**Old Business Items:**

1. Ms. Gerhart reported to the Committee that Springbrook is in the testing phase for our software migration project. Mr. Kachel, Borough IT Manager, remains positive on the progress being made and remains hopeful the project will be completed by year end.

Ms. Harris informed the Committee that a list of leases were provided to the Development Activities Committee. Lease terms and renewals will be reviewed and negotiated by that Committee. As such, this item will be removed from the Budget and Finance Committee agenda.

Development Activities Committee

The Development Activities Committee met on August 28, 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 Vice Chair Barr asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Harris requested that two Action Items be added to the agenda. Mr. Barr asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as amended. Mr. Buohl moved and Mr. Reinhold seconded to approve the meeting agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**Action Items:**

1. The Committee heard a presentation from Rick Jackson, ELA Group, about the Historic Cloisters' Stormwater Project. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve four

waiver/modification requests (waivers of planning, financial security, easements, and application fees) and approve the final plan subject to the inclusion of HRG's comments.

2. Joy Ashley presented a request to the Committee to paint a mural on the retaining wall of the Franklin Street parking lot. This is part of a Mainspring initiative to introduce art into the community. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve Mainspring's request to paint a mural on the Franklin Street parking lot wall subject to an Agreement prepared by the Solicitor.
3. The Committee reviewed a Subdivision and Land Development Agreement for the Ephrata Intermediate School Athletic Field Improvements Land Development Plan. 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, Ephrata Area School District, subject to it being in a form acceptable to the Solicitor. This will appear on the Consent Agenda.
4. The Committee reviewed a Stormwater Operation and Maintenance Agreement for the Ephrata Intermediate School Athletic Field Improvements Land Development Plan. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council authorize the President of Borough Council to execute the agreement with Ephrata Area School District. This item will appear on the Consent Agenda.

**Discussion Items:**

1. Staff provided a list of suggested leases to begin renegotiating. Three of the four may have to wait until a decision is made regarding addressing free electric accounts.
2. Manager Harris informed the Committee that there will be a bid award for Exterior Painting and Siding Renovations for EPAC for the Work Session review. Due to a tight timeline and Staff's desire to complete this capital project this year, the results will not be available until later this week.
3. The Zoning Hearing Board did not meet in August so there are no decisions.

There were no new applications for the July Zoning Hearing Board meeting.

Public Safety Committee

The Public Safety Committee met on August 21, 2023, at 6:30 PM at Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**Action Items:**

1. Quick Ticket Ordinance – Borough Manager Harris presented a recommendation for a Quick Ticket Ordinance to improve efficient and effective code enforcement. The Committee expressed a desire to educate the public on the new procedure. The Committee elected to move it forward.
2. 2021 International Property Maintenance Code Adoption Ordinance – Borough Manager Harris presented a recommendation for an ordinance to adopt appropriate updates in the code to address temporary structures, snow and ice removal, quick tickets and other necessities. The Committee elected to move it forward.

**Discussion Items:**

1. Emergency Management Report – Randy Gockley
  - Major PPL power outage on July 28, 2023. There was a substation explosion in Akron. There are 15-20 people in the Lincoln area of the Borough who are PPL customers. Mr. Gockley worked with the media to ensure there was no report of widespread outage in Ephrata Borough. He coordinated with Jim Summers of the Rec Center to serve as a cooling center for those residents who were now without electricity.
  - Week of August 1, 2023, Mr. Gockley was notified three times of decontaminations at WellSpan- ECH – one was a patient with bed bugs and another was exposure to pesticides. Both events required patients and EMS to be decontaminated before entering the facility. This tied up the ambulances.
  - August 8, 2023 – major fire in 500 Block of E. Main Street. Mr. Gockley reported excellent firefighting on the part of the fire companies and credited the Ephrata Police with the quick evacuation. Three police units were there before the fire personnel. The 18 displaced residents were comforted by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Most were in night clothes and only three had shoes on. Red Cross and Ephrata Area Social Services were summoned to assist – and exceeded expectations. A Go-Fund-Me was established by EASS to assist individuals in need.
2. Police Report - Chief McKim reviewed the monthly Police Report. Chairman Buohl inquired about updates regarding the Ephrata Township Contract progress. Chief McKim reported that a special meeting was scheduled for September 12, 2023, most likely at 7:00 PM at LCBC. Negotiations continue. There was discussion about a potential update to the existing curfew ordinance – mostly for procedure.
3. Pioneer Fire Company's New Truck Use/Staffing Requirements – Fulton Street fire response was discussed.
4. International Property Maintenance Code Update – handled under Action Items.

5. Security Cameras (Informational) – Chief McKim reported that a meeting was scheduled with a security specialist for a consultation on cameras.

**Miscellaneous Items:**

Chairman Buohl mentioned the popsicle event at Ephrata Township Park was a positive project.

Highway Committee

The Highway Committee met on August 28, 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.
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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. Mr. Musser moved, and Mr. Buohl seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

**Action Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed and discussed the results of Bid #23-4 for Intersection Safety & Signal Improvements. Burkholder advised the Committee that most of the work associated with this project will be re-budgeted in 2024 due to expected long-lead times for signal poles and mast arms. Burkholder reminded the Committee that the Borough has secured a \$222,400 ARLE Grant to offset Borough costs in completing this project. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council award the bid to the apparent low bidder: C.M. High, Inc. in their total bid amount of \$390,000 at their September 11, 2023, meeting.
2. The Committee discussed a request by an EAJA contractor replacing a water main along East Main Street to modify road closure and detour time parameters to improve efficiencies in their planned work. The Committee will recommend conditional approval of modified work hours to 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM, Monday evening through Thursday morning subject to eastbound 322 detour performance and Ephrata Police review at their September 11, 2023, meeting.

**Discussion Items:**

1. Staff followed up on a citizen concern last month regarding ADA accessibility along West King Street and discussed with the Committee an email provided by the Borough’s liability insurer. This item will remain as a Discussion Item for further dialog at a future Committee meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed an informational PennDOT Vulnerable Road Users Safety Assessment Participation email. Staff advised the Committee that PennDOT identified a high-risk area for

pedestrians and cyclists in the Borough along East and West Main Street (SR 0322) between Michael Court and Church Street. Staff and Borough Council can provide feedback by accessing and completing PennDOT's online survey. No further action required.

3. The Committee reviewed a Staff request to provide a Resolution authorizing a 90-day experimental parking restriction on the south side of West Fulton Street just east of South Oak Street due to several recent citizen complaints about obstructed clear sight due to parked vehicles. Ephrata Police have previously asked the owners of vehicles parking in this area to park elsewhere resulting in short-term compliance but without enforcement capability the vehicles returned. The Committee directed Staff to provide the Resolution and 10-year crash data at this intersection for review at a future Committee meeting.

**Old Business Items:**

1. Staff has formulated a parking kiosk plan which will be included for review in the draft capital project budget for 2024. Mr. Ressler reminded Staff about applying for available grants for the parking kiosks. Staff advised that capital projects are reviewed for funding opportunities.

**Miscellaneous Items:**

1. Mr. Musser inquired about the lack of no left turn signage at the eastbound SR 0322 exit ramp from northbound SR 0272 adjacent to the Ephrata Cloister property. Staff will check with PennDOT and return comments at a future Committee meeting.
2. Mr. Buohl inquired about the ongoing street work on North State Street. Staff advised that Public Works is grade adjusting manholes and water valve boxes following street improvements in 2023. No further action required.

**Municipal Enterprises Committee**

The Municipal Enterprises Committee met on August 21, 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.
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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. Zimmerman seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.



**Action Items:**

1. The Committee reviewed a Staff request to authorize entering into a professional services contract with Schrader Group for design and bidding of the new electric building. The Committee will recommend Council authorize entering into the contract at their September 11, 2023, meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed a Staff request to dispose of used materials from the Electric Department. The Committee will recommend Council authorize the disposition of these assets at their September 11, 2023, meeting.

**Discussion Items:**

1. The Committee discussed the ongoing question regarding the providing of free electric services to certain customers. Several possibilities were discussed for consideration and Staff was asked to pull together some more information. This discussion will remain on the agenda going forward.
2. The Committee discussed the upcoming expiration of the refuse contract with Republic Services. Ms. Harris noted that Republic does not intend to renew the contract due to increasing costs. The Committee discussed the potential options moving forward and will continue to review the possibilities in proceeding months.
3. Mr. Morrison informed the Committee that the Borough recently transacted on an energy block as authorized by the Council. A 7 x 24 block, at 3 MW, was purchased for supply years 2026-2029 at a price of \$48.05/MWh. Mr. Morrison expressed optimism that the price point will continue to allow the Borough to maintain electric prices as low as possible.
4. The Committee discussed the addition of a sign at the Borough's solar facility on Springhouse Road. Mr. Morrison informed the Committee that, due to site-line restrictions on Route 272, there have been issues regarding placement of such a sign. Staff is continuing to work on potential locations and will report back to the Committee in future meetings.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee met on August 15, 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. Richard moved and Mr. Ressler seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

**Executive Session:**

The Committee met in an Executive Session from 4:01 PM to 4:20 PM to discuss a personnel matter.

**Action Items:**

1. None.

**Discussion Items:**

1. Personnel Update: Discussion occurred regarding the 6-month evaluation of Nancy Harris' role as Borough Manager. Ms. Harris will be addressing the key points listed below to the Committee at their October meeting, including:
  - a. Initiatives Currently Underway
  - b. Top Three (3) Priorities
  - c. Job Descriptions from Management Team - From Their Own Perspective
    - To Be Compared/Reviewed With Current Job Descriptions on File
  - d. A Goal for Implementation in the Next Six (6) Months

August 2023 Borough of Ephrata Operations Reports

August 2023 General Ledger Report

Ephrata Pioneer Fire Company August 2023 Report

Lincoln Fire Company August 2023 Report

Ephrata Community Ambulance Association August 2023 Report

Emergency Management August 2023 Activity Report

Shade Tree Commission August 2023 Meeting Minutes

**NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Vice President Martin 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. That Borough Council authorize the President of Borough Council and Borough Secretary to execute a Subdivision and Land Development Agreement with the developer, Ephrata Area School District, subject to it being in a form acceptable to the Solicitor. (Development Activities)
2. That Borough Council authorize the President of Borough Council to execute a Stormwater O&M Agreement with Ephrata Area School District. (Development Activities)

Vice President Martin moved to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Budget and Finance Committee**

Mr. Zimmerman moved and Mr. Musser seconded that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager/Secretary, Nancy E. Harris, to certify the Borough of Ephrata 2024 Pension in accordance with

Act 205. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Zimmerman moved and Mr. Musser seconded that Borough Council authorize an unbudgeted expenditure of \$15,000 for the professional services of Irwin, Inc., in recruitment efforts to fill the vacancies of a Director of Engineering and Public Works and a Codes Compliance Representative. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

### **Development Activities Committee**

Mr. Zimmerman moved and Mr. Barr seconded that Borough Council approve the Historic Ephrata Cloister Amphitheater Revitalization stormwater management plan subject to the inclusion of HRG's comments. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Zimmerman moved and Mr. Buohl seconded that Borough Council approve a waiver/modification of Land Development Planning, Chapter 281 of the Code of the Borough of Ephrata for the Historic Ephrata Cloister Amphitheater Revitalization project. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Zimmerman moved and Mr. Barr seconded that Borough Council approve a waiver/modification of financial security, Section 275-112 of the Code of the Borough of Ephrata for the Historic Ephrata Cloister Amphitheater Revitalization stormwater management plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Zimmerman moved and Mr. Buohl seconded that Borough Council approve a waiver/modification of easements, Section 275-309 of the Code of the Borough of Ephrata for the Historic Ephrata Cloister Amphitheater Revitalization stormwater management plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Zimmerman moved and Mr. Barr seconded that Borough Council approve a request to waive the application and waiver fees for the Historic Ephrata Cloister Amphitheater Revitalization stormwater management plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Zimmerman moved and Mr. Buohl seconded that Borough Council Mainspring of Ephrata's request to paint a mural on the Franklin Street parking lot wall subject to an agreement prepared by the Solicitor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Zimmerman moved and Mr. Barr seconded that Borough Council award Bid 23-7, Exterior Painting & Siding Renovations at EPAC, to Eby Exteriors for \$144,929.00. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

### **Public Safety Committee**

Mr. Buohl moved and Mr. Richard seconded that Borough Council enact Ordinance No. 1576 to amend the Code of the Borough of Ephrata, Chapter 111, Abandoned Vehicles and Property; Chapter 129, Brush, Grass and Weeds and Chapter 217, Nuisances to establish Quick Ticketing Procedures for Violations. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Mr. Buohl moved and Mr. Richard seconded that Borough Council enact Ordinance No. 1577 to amend the Code of the Borough of Ephrata, Chapter 245, Property Maintenance, to Adopt the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code as the Property Maintenance Code of the Borough of Ephrata and Providing Appropriate Revisions and Additions Thereto. Motion carried unanimously via roll call

vote.

### **Highway Committee**

Mr. Richard moved and Vice President Martin seconded that Borough Council award Bid #23-4 for Intersection Safety and Signal Improvements to C.M. High, Inc. from Myerstown, PA in their total bid amount of \$390,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Musser seconded that Borough Council conditionally approve modified 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM work hours, Monday evening through Thursday morning, for the EAJA SR 0322 water main replacement project subject to eastbound SR 0322 detour performance and Ephrata Police review. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Municipal Enterprises Committee**

Vice President Martin moved and Mr. Zimmerman seconded that Borough Council authorize the Borough Secretary to execute the design contract with Schrader Group, pending Solicitor review, for the new Electric building. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Martin moved and Mr. Richard seconded that Borough Council adopt Resolution 2023-18, authorizing the disposition of various electrical equipment. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Martin moved and Mr. Zimmerman seconded that Borough Council authorize the President of Borough Council and Borough Secretary to execute an Addendum to the Landowner Agreement for 170 E. Fulton Street. Motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF CHECKS 51802 THROUGH 52701 AND THE ACH REGISTER DATED SEPTEMBER 1, 2023**

Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Barr seconded that Borough Council ratify the payment of bills performed by Staff since the last regular Council meeting in the aggregate amount of \$2,836,212.49. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

### **DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Buohl announced his daughter is expecting resulting in him becoming a first-time grandfather on March 28, 2024, followed by another addition to the family on April 13, 2024, as his daughter-in-law is also expecting.

Mr. Zimmerman extended his appreciation to Staff for their monthly reports noting that the format of this month's report was a bit difficult to follow; in which, Vice President Martin clarified that the report he is referring to in this month's packet is the monthly Operations Report, not the monthly Management Report. Ms. Harris advised the August Management Report will be submitted in next month's meeting packet due to the Labor Day holiday and members of the management team's attendance at a conference resulting in them not being able to meet the Voting Session packet deadline. Mr. Zimmerman thanked both for their clarification and will review the report next month.

Mr. Richard referenced the Borough's Gateway Signage noting that he has observed an area of the signage that is not being utilized. Mr. Richard suggested that the Historic Cloisters may be interested in displaying a sign in that area; in which, Ms. Harris advised his suggestion will be discussed at an upcoming Special Projects Committee meeting.

Chief McKim commented he wanted to call special attention to this date being the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks and remembrance of those who lost their lives as well as those who are still suffering the aftereffects of the events that took place on that tragic date. Secondly, Chief McKim informed Council that September 12<sup>th</sup> is National Policewomen's Day and expressed his appreciation to Department's four female officers. Thirdly, Chief McKim reminded Council that on September 12, 2023, a community meeting will be held at LCBC to present the proposed police services contracts to the constituents of Ephrata Township by both the Northern Regional Police Department and Ephrata Police Department.

Ms. Harris advised she recently attended the PMEA Conference compiling of the 35 Pennsylvania public power utilities noting that the conference was very informative and she "... came back with some great ideas."

Vice President Martin, referencing Chief McKim's comments regarding 9/11, advised that earlier this date as she was driving to work, Fox News was replaying their original broadcast from that day which "took her back to that day." Vice President Martin commented, "... we really do need to never forget that day."

Vice President Martin advised she received complaints regarding roads being closed within the Borough without proper signage being displayed. After receiving clarifying information, Ms. Harris noted she will pass the information along to the contractor completing the project (EAJA Water Main Replacement) and request the signage be more prominent.

Vice President Martin reminded Borough Council that the Personnel Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 4:00 PM.

Mayor Mowen advised that recently as he was entering the Borough from the westside, he encountered "three of the brightest lights he has ever seen" noting he had to shield his eyes as he was blinded by them. Mayor Mowen further advised he stopped and asked a crew member to redirect the lights so that others do not experience the same problem; however, he does not believe anything was done to resolve the matter. Ms. Harris advised she has made a note of Mayor Mowen's concern.

Mr. Zimmerman advised that he recently read that the Act 13 Marcellus Legacy Fund grant applications are due September 22, 2023. Mr. Zimmerman, addressing Ms. Harris, inquired if anything has been submitted on behalf of the Borough; in which, Ms. Harris advised she is not aware of a submission, but will look into the matter further.

President Reinhold, addressing Ms. Harris, inquired about a recent electrical issue experienced at the Ephrata Area Middle School; in which, Ms. Harris advised that the issue was a transformer that went bad which has since been replaced by the Borough's Electric personnel.

President Reinhold, referencing Chief McKim's comments regarding 9/11, stated, "... it's an important day in our Country's history ... we all remember ... we need to treat this day with honor and respect."

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Martin moved and Mr. Barr seconded that Borough Council adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy E. Harris, P.E.  
Secretary

SJF