

**ELIZABETHTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING
May 15, 2014
Minutes**

Public Hearing

Council President J. Neil Ketchum, Jr. called a public hearing to order on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Borough Office relative to a proposal to institute a Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) Program in the Borough.

Rodney Horton, Planning & Zoning Director, provided an overview of the process and corresponding proposed ordinance explaining that creation of a LERTA in the Borough would encourage renovations to deteriorated properties by instituting a ten-year sliding scale on taxes on the assessed value of improvements. Three properties have been identified as eligible to participate in the program: the Elizabethtown Hotel at 28 South Market Street, the Moose Lodge at 18 North Market Street, and the former Roth's Furniture building at 206 South Market Street. While these properties are designated as eligible for the program, the property owners would still need to apply if they are interested in participating.

Horton fielded questions from Council noting that once the Borough adopts the ordinance, the School District and County must also take formal action. He recognized and thanked Ramon Escudero of the Chamber for spearheading this effort noting Escudero is currently working with the School District to continue moving the process forward. Should the District recommend changes, the matter would return to Borough Council as all three groups must agree on the final document. If Council wishes at any time to extend the program beyond its initial five year term, or should it wish to add properties to the eligibility list, formal action by all three bodies must be taken.

Horton stressed that the tax relief is based on improvements only. The property owner must continue to pay the assessed value of taxes at the time the property enters the LERTA program with taxes on any improvements phased in over a ten-year period. Should the property owner become delinquent, they would no longer be eligible to participate in the program, the full amount of assessed value tax with improvements would become due, and appropriate late fee penalties would apply.

Being no public comment, the Hearing was unanimously adjourned at 7:16 p.m. after a motion by McCloud, second by Shaud.

Regular Meeting

Ketchum called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. Present were Councilmembers Phil Clark, Jeff McCloud, Tom Shaud, Dr. C. Dale Treese and J. Neil Ketchum, Jr. Councilmember J. Marc Hershey was absent. Also present were Borough Manager Roni Ryan, Assistant Borough Manager Cindy Foster, Planning & Zoning Director Rodney Horton, Police Chief Jack Mentzer and Mayor Chuck Mummert.

After a motion by Clark, second by McCloud, minutes of the following meetings were unanimously approved:

1. Public Meeting/Regular Meeting—April 17, 2014
2. Work Session Meeting—May 1, 2014

Public Comment—None

Reports

1. The Financial Report was unanimously approved after a motion by McCloud, second by Clark.
2. The Code Enforcement Report was provided as an informational item.

3. The Fire Company responded to 40 calls during the month of April, 20 of which were in the Borough, with an average response time of 5 minutes 41 seconds. Shaud announced that the Fire Company's annual chicken barbeque will be held Saturday, May 24th.
4. Northwest EMS responded to 118 calls in the Borough during the month of April bringing the year-to-date total for Borough calls to 508.

Old Business

1. Motion by Clark, second by Shaud, to approve adoption of Ordinance No. 956 creating a Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) Program providing for tax exemption for certain deteriorated areas within the Borough of Elizabethtown, providing for an exemption schedule, and establishing standards and qualifications for participants. After a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.
2. Motion by Treese, second by McCloud, to approve adoption of Ordinance No. 957 amending Chapter 5, Code Enforcement, and Chapter 21, Streets and Sidewalks, of the Elizabethtown Borough Code to address regulations regarding snow and ice removal. After a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.
3. Motion by Treese, second by Shaud, to approve an adjustment of sewer rental fees for 114-116 South Market Street to a revised amount of \$215.21 for the first quarter 2014. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion by McCloud, second by Treese, to approve a three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Elizabethtown Area School District to continue the School Resource Officer Program through the 2016-2017 academic year. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Let E-town Ring Update. Ketchum reported Market Street! Improving Business (MSIB) sent an email late in the day on Thursday, April 17th advising that no representative from the group would be attending the Council meeting that evening. Unfortunately the email was not discovered until after the meeting. Ketchum read a subsequent email from MSIB into the record, dated May 5th, advising that the group will not be organizing *Let E-town Ring* in 2014:

Thank you for your consideration of our request. It is unfortunate that we could not come to an agreement regarding the Let Etown Ring event. With much regret we have decided that it is in MSIB's best interest to relinquish the event back to the Borough next year. We may be able to come to another agreement, perhaps, for the future.

Andrew Schoenberger
Mark Scheetz
Brad Alexander
Amy Kreamer
Thomas Blaszczyk

McCloud expressed disappointment with the language of the email noting he felt it was misleading on MSIB's part as it indicated that an agreement could not be reached. McCloud noted that no discussions between MSIB and the Borough have occurred since the fireworks discussion at the February 20th Council meeting.

New Business

1. Motion by Clark, second by Shaud, to ratify a Condemnation Order dated May 9, 2014 for 32 North Spruce Street for violations of the Borough's Existing Structures and Property Maintenance Code. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion by Treese, second by McCloud, to approve the appointment of Joseph D. Grego as a Police Officer with the Elizabethtown Police Department effective May 19, 2014. Motion carried unanimously. Mummert reported that the swearing in ceremony will be held on Monday, May 19th at 10:00 a.m. at the Borough Office flagpole.
3. Motion by McCloud, second by Shaud, to approve Resolution 2014-7 authorizing the disposal of certain records in accordance with the Municipal Records Manual. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Motion by Treese, second by McCloud, to approve Requisition 2014-4 dated May 15, 2014 for the Elizabethtown Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Project in the amount of \$124,047.64 payable to Horst Excavating. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Motion by Treese, second by Shaud, to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Rob Corbin from the Zoning Hearing Board effective May 30, 2014. Motion carried unanimously. Treese expressed appreciation for Corbin's service on such an important Board noting it's not always an easy place to be.
6. Motion by Clark, second by McCloud, to approve the appointment of Dieter Ott to the Zoning Hearing Board effective May 30, 2014 to fill the unexpired term of Rob Corbin which expires December 31, 2014. Motion carried unanimously. Clark expressed his opinion that Ott will make a great permanent member of the Board and noted Council welcomes his willingness to contribute in this difficult area of community service.
7. Historic Resources Inventory Project Update. Ryan reported that the Lancaster County Planning Commission has been awarded a Preserve America grant through the National Park Service to inventory historic properties in the Borough constructed prior to 1960. This inventory will build upon a program started in 2003 with plans to upload the data to a website for easy public access. Ryan noted that County personnel will be walking around town making notes and taking photos to accomplish this task.

Bills Payable

Motion by McCloud, second by Clark, to pay the bills as presented:

General Fund.....	\$150,664.09
Sewer Fund	\$69,174.12
Capital Reserve Fund	\$10,389.99
Subdivision Escrow Fund	\$1,048.50
Parks Fund	\$2,394.30

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Remarks

Council Remarks

Following a motion by McCloud, second by Shaud, the meeting unanimously adjourned at 7:38 p.m. whereupon Council entered executive session to discuss a real estate and legal matter.