

LERTA Hearing
December 2, 2020
5:30 PM

The meeting of Shamokin City Council LERTA Hearing was held this evening with Mayor John J. Brown presiding.

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: All

PRAYER: Silent

ROLL CALL: Moyer, Seidel, Verano, Brown
Absent: Roughton

This hearing has been called by the City Council of the City of Shamokin pursuant to 72 Pennsylvania Statute Section 4725(a). As per the recommendation of the Shamokin Area Economic Development Authority, Shamokin City Council, at its public meeting scheduled for the 14th of December, 2020, will consider the adoption of a Local Economic Revitalization Tax Act Ordinance. LERTA, as it is commonly known, if adopted, would result in a gradual increase in the tax assessment of real property as a result of improvements, rather than a sudden increase. So, under LERTA, the property taxes are not decreased, but the increase in the assessment of a property does not occur all at once. The hope is that LERTA, in combination with other economic incentives, will encourage property owners, in the area of the City to be named at this hearing, to make significant improvements to their properties, thus benefiting the City and its tax base.

LERTA is intended to improve the economically disadvantaged areas of a municipality. By law, not less than seven days prior to the adoption of a LERTA ordinance, this public hearing must be held to consider the area or areas of the municipality to declare as economically deteriorated. Only the properties within this area would be eligible for the incentives provided by LERTA. Therefore Council, as well as the planning commission, redevelopment authority or other public and private agencies and individuals, knowledgeable and interested in the improvement of deteriorated areas, may present their recommendations at this hearing concerning the location of boundaries of a deteriorated area or areas.

The following are criteria under the "Urban Redevelopment Law," and "Neighborhood Assistance Act" for the determination of "blighted or impoverished areas: unsafe, unsanitary and overcrowded buildings; vacant, overgrown and unsightly lots of ground; a disproportionate number of tax delinquent properties, excessive land coverage, defective design or arrangement of buildings, street or lot layouts; economically and socially undesirable land uses.

Andy Twigg – Speaking on behalf of SABER to request that we consider approving LERTA.

Attorney Frank Garrigan – Speaking on behalf of the EDA, asking us to determine the area for LERTA, if we choose to adopt the Ordinance.

Kathy Vetovich – President of SABER requesting that we consider approving LERTA and approving the whole town of Shamokin as the LERTA Zone.

Betsy Kramer – Speaking on behalf of the revitalization effort of the City. LERTA is recommended in the revitalization plan and by ACT 47. This would be for all projects going forward.

MOTION BY: Verano to declare the Entire City of Shamokin as the economically deteriorated area to be included in the LERTA Ordinance.

Second by: Moyer

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Ayes: Moyer, Seidel, Verano, Brown

Nays: None

Absent: Roughton

- **Citizens Comments contingent upon new business being added to the agenda at this part of the meeting.**

ADJOURN:

Minutes taken by Doreen Annis, Administrative Accountant

Meeting ended at 5:48 PM