

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 10, 1998

President Eline called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the following Councilors present: Holly Giles, Jay Schmitt, Richard Kreisher, Charles Woodward, Margaret Gustafson, Leonard Andrews, John Wiley, Theodore Streeter and Mayor Troxell. Richard Kreisher was absent. Staff present included Chief Gantz, Preservation Officer Powell, Code Enforcement Officer Weikert, Rec Director Crouse, Main Street Director Trostle and Parking Manager Little.

Also attending the meeting were Beth Kanagy of the Gettysburg Times, Janet Williams of the Evening Sun, Tim Lambert of WGET, Polly Parone representing the Retail Merchants Association and John McAndrew representing Gettysburg College.

Moved Mr. Woodward, seconded Ms. Giles to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved Ms. Giles, seconded Mr. Streeter to approve the Council meeting minutes of July 13 after making the requested change in the two new committees. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizens in attendance:

Evelyn Rudisill, 208 Chambersburg Street, attended the meeting to oppose the cable television rate increase by G.S. Communications.

Mr. Eline explained to her that Council has little to do with the rate increase, that federal law prohibits municipalities from regulating rates. Council will continue to review the CATV rates due to the numerous calls from citizens.

Victor Macri, intern working with Walter Powell, attended to observe.

Richard Kelly, landlord, asked that the nuisance ordinance to be read before adopting tonight.

Angela and Larry Eckert were observing the meeting

John McAndrew, College, reported that the plans for the parking lot on Stevens Street have been put on hold for the time being. They will continue to work with the Planning Commission to try and work out some of the issues such as increased traffic and green space. He will keep Council informed.

Sam Mudd, Hazel Alley representative, attended to lend support of the nuisance ordinance and hopes Council will adopt it tonight.

Tim McCallister, G.S. Communications representative, gave Council a brief overview for the rate increase. They have been working on having quality cable for Gettysburg and to unify all of their locations. Subscribers wanted better quality and more channels and with those requests G.S. started switching over about 9 months ago. They put fiber optics in the alleys and expanded to 60 channels. After the tourist season they plan to

remove the old lines. An increase is needed to help offset some of these cost. Sammons didn't increase their rates for a few years so it is time to do so.

Mrs. Gustafson commented that she was glad to see the care of the older buildings where new lines were installed. She still feels that G.S. Communications should offer customers a tier service such as basic service, middle and the higher end "cadillac service".

Mr. McCallister responded that he thought when they originally spoke with Council that it was made clear that they wanted to go with only 1 tier.

Mr. Andrews asked how many customers and what percentage of them did they here from.. Where does the rate hike end?

Mr. McCallister reported that they had a 35% to 40% margin of customers calling in. At this time they cannot guarantee not to raise the rates again but that they are in range with other cable companies..

Mr. Woodward asked if anyone can get the basic rate.

Mr. McCallister said that anyone previously on life line was grandfathered after the new system was installed.

Mr. Wiley noted that low income people have a tough time and this should be taken into consideration to offer a tier scale.

Mr. McCallister responded that he is here to work with the community and will continue to review such options.

Mayor Troxell reported that P.A.C.T. and Crimestoppers held their national night out on August 4th. The Mayor, along with District Attorney, Mike George, Police officers and Councilman Woodward traveled throughout town passing out gifts and candy to the children. It was very successful and quite an interesting time.

Mr. Andrews reported that Representative Maitland will be attending the Legislative Committee meeting on August 11. Also the next Township meeting with Cumberland, Straban and the Borough will be held on September 15 at Cumberland Township.

Mr. Eline reported that the Town & Gown Committee met and worked on the Nuisance Ordinance, Landlord Tenant Ordinance and student parking issues with the College. We hope that this will make a difference when students return for school. The next meeting is scheduled for August 27 at 3:00.

Mr. Eline addressed his concerns of the numerous newspaper boxes throughout town. He is not concerned with the sale of papers, however there are so many boxes that it hinders the appearance. Council is willing to work with the newspaper representatives to discuss alternatives. Referred this to the Public Works Committee to address amending the vending machine ordinance.

Ms. Giles read the proposed amendments to the Nuisance Ordinance as presented by Attorney Catherine Gault. Council suggested excluding #9 due to some language changes. We need to add a general notice provision section in the Borough Code.

Moved Ms. Giles, seconded Mr. Schmitt to adopt the Nuisance Ordinance as presented excluding #9. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved Ms. Giles, seconded Mrs. Gustafson to approve the police grant in the amount of \$14,115. The Federal Government Block Grant Funding is to be used towards community policing, overtime, and bike patrols. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Andrews asked if anything has been done about the junk yard off of Dobbin Alley, behind Dr. McGlaughlin's offices. Mr. Weikert reported that he had send notices to the property owner. He was subsequently fined, and paid that fine. Yet he has failed to clean up the site. Larry will continue to work on this problem.

Ms. Giles reported on the NPS Committee. They are waiting for the GMP to be released for public review.. She read a letter from Representative Goodling whereas he is following through with Council's request for an extension to January 1999. Would like to hold public hearings to keep updated on the progress.

Mr. Eline asked Ms. Giles if the working group and the NPS would eventually be one group or continue to serve as two separate groups. It was decided that they will continue to meet as a working group until further notice.

Moved Mrs. Gustafson, seconded Mr. Andrews to approve HARB "consent agenda" as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gustafson rescheduled the Human Relations meeting to next Thursday, August 20th at 4:00.

Mr. Woodward reported that the Rec Board did not meet. The Sunday night concert had 500 people attending at last nights performance.

Mr. Wiley reported that College representative Larry Eighmy is working with us on planning issues . This is with the Town & Gown Committee work list and not on the Community Development Committee.

Dr. Powell reported that he didn't have the corrected figures from the Housing Authority for a public hearing. They should have the information ready for the September meeting.

Mr. Wiley asked about reviewing the Ordinance in reference to green space on certain properties for parking. Mr. Eline asked Mr. Andrews to present this to the Planning Commission.

Mrs. Gustafson noted that small businesses have large paved areas for parking. They could have covered these areas with stone instead.

Mr. Weikert reported that if a parking area is more than 9 cars it must be paved

Moved Mr. Schmitt, seconded Mr. Andrews to pay all bills and payrolls for the month. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved Mr. Schmitt, seconded Mr. Andrews to award the insurance proposal to Hockley & O'Donnell Insurance at \$53,765. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Eline reported that there will be no Finance Committee meeting in August.

Moved Mrs. Gustafson, seconded Mr. Woodward to approve the \$25.00 sidewalk inspection fee. YEA: Mrs. Gustafson, Ms. Giles, Mr. Woodward, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Streeter, Mr. Wiley. NAY: Mr. Andrews. Motion carried.

Mrs. Stull will contact Mr. Kreisher to see if the Public Works Committee could be rescheduled to August 31. Will contact Council and Bob McIlhenny to confirm meeting.

Moved Mr. Andrews, seconded Ms. Giles to accept the exoneration report for tax years 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawver was asked to contact Mark Nesbitt about the crosswalk on Baltimore Street. He would like the crosswalk on the North side of Breckenridge Street to have better access for his ghost tour crossings. Mr. Lawver reported that this is a Penn Dot street and only 1 permit was secured for the South side of Breckenridge Street.

Mr. Weikert reported that the Mauston property at 264 S. Washington Street is scheduled to be cleaned up on Monday, August 17. Three cars will be towed from the site and a dumpster will be delivered for the highway crew to clean the property. Mr. Mauston is aware of this and has had plenty of time to clean it himself.

Mr. Little reported that the employee parking is now in the Trinity Church Lot. Parking meters have been placed in the old employee lot.

Mrs. Crouse reported that the kids club ended last Friday. The last concert is scheduled for Sunday, August, 16.

Dr. Powell reported that the Lincoln Cemetery Committee continues to meet. They are discussing the possibility of a fence around the cemetery. Funding is their main issue. Walt is checking to see if this would be acceptable for CDBG funding.

Dr. Powell reported that the archeological dig on Washington Street will resume on Thursday August 13.

Mr. Trostle reported that the next meeting of the Gettysburg Lincoln Train Station Restoration Project would be held on Friday, August 28 at 10:00 AM. Kevin and Walt will meet with PA Department of Transportation to gather information and further define the funding stream from the federal government (Highway Bill) to the Borough of Gettysburg.

Chief Gantz reported that P.A.C.T. will meet on August 27 at 7:00 PM and encourages Council to attend

Ms. Giles asked what the age limit is for the horse & buggy drivers. Some of them look very young. Chief Gantz responded that to his knowledge there is no age limit.

Mr. Streeter asked about all these oversize trucks that continue to come through town.. He asked if the Borough is compensated for our police involvement. Chief Gantz reported that his office sends bills to the trucking companies and they do pay the bills.

With no further business moved Mr. Schmitt, seconded Mr. Woodward to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara L. Stull". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Respectfully submitted," text.

Sara L. Stull  
Borough Secretary

