

**BOROUGH OF GETTYSBURG  
59 EAST HIGH STREET, GETTYSBURG, PA 17325  
DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC, MEETING  
CONDUCTED VIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
DEVICES THROUGH ZOOM PLATFORM  
COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 2, 2020**

**President Jacob Schindel** called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and asked the Borough Secretary Sara Stull to conduct a roll call of Council members in attendance. The following **Councilors were present:** Vice President Wesley Heyser, Mr. Christopher Berger, Mr. John Lawver, Ms. Patricia Lawson, Mr. Matt Moon, and Mrs. Judith Butterfield. **Staff present included:** Mayor Theodore Streeter; Borough Manager Charles Gable; Assistant Borough Manager/Secretary Sara Stull; Police Chief Robert Glenn, Parking Manager Rebecca Fissel; Planning Director Carly Marshall; Director of Historic & Environmental Preservation Debra English; and Public Works Director Robert Harbaugh.

**Others present included:** Jim Hale representing the *Gettysburg Times*; and Mark Wherley, Community Media-ACCTV filming through Zoom platform.

**President Jacob Schindel** reported that an executive session was held prior to this meeting and that the official executive session announcement would be read at the next meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

**President Jacob Schindel** announced the upcoming meetings as follows:

<b>Monday, November 9, 2020</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Council Business Meeting Vote to Advertise 2021 Budget</b>
<b>Monday, November 23, 2020</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Council Work Session</b>
<b>Thursday, December 3, 2020</b>	<b>2021 DRAFT Budget Issued for Public Review Period</b>	
<b>Monday, December 14, 2020</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Council Business Meeting 2021 Budget Adoption</b>

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

## **2021 Budget**

### **Fund 01 – General Fund**

**Manager Gable** said that this fund must be balanced as required by state law and identify all revenues and expenditures. He reviewed the updates from the prior meeting noting that the 1.0669 Mill increase was not acceptable. The changes were made which now reduces the property tax rate increase to 0.577 mills. Manager Gable noted that the 2020 budget is \$643,000 less than the 2019 budget due to pandemic related losses through parking and other revenues sources.

**Councilman Berger** said that he cannot support a reduction in the police force and would be willing to go with the higher tax increase. He said that he is unwilling to sacrifice public safety especially when there is a potential for volatility.

**Councilman Lawver** said that he is not in favor of the higher tax increase stating that it would be difficult for the Borough residents. He would approve a half mill increase and felt that the only solution is a reduction in the police force, noting other departments have already been reduced.

**Councilman Heyser** said that he cannot support nine police officers and would keep at current staffing level of eight. The public works department lost three employees, noting that some services will be affected especially if we have a bad snow storm. Councilman Heyser pointed out that a tax increase will be significant no matter the rate.

**Councilman Moon** agreed with Councilman Berger and Heyser and said that he would be in support of the higher tax increase. He pointed out that municipalities have not received any funding from the federal government to help with the pandemic expenses.

**Councilwoman Butterfield** said that she would support a half mill increase, but that a higher tax would be a burden to Borough residents.

**Councilwoman Lawson** said that the Borough consists of an older community and that it would be a burden for residents, especially in this pandemic year to increase the higher tax. She would support a half mill increase.

**Councilman Schindel** said that he would support a half mill tax increase, noting that any increase will be difficult especially due to the pandemic. He said that we must think of the residents, business owners and renters of which many are on limited incomes. Councilman Schindel pointed out that the budget surpluses for the past three years were: \$49,780 in 2017, \$217,403 in 2018, and \$296,434 in 2019, noting that this year the Borough was on track for another surplus until the pandemic occurred.

**Manager Gable** reviewed Council's decisions in balancing the 2021 Budget, noting that Councilors, Butterfield, Lawson, Lawver and Schindel agreed to a tax increase of 0.577 mills which would include a reduction of the police force from the current eight to seven.

## **2021 Fee Resolution**

**Manager Gable** and staff reviewed the 2021 Fee Resolution, noting that it is essentially the same as last year with only a few minor changes. Planning Director Marshall asked Council to consider adding a fee for applicants requesting zoning text amendments for the subdivision and land development ordinance to help recoup the costs for legal and advertising fees. Council agreed to add the fee.

## **Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

President Jacob Schindel dismissed the meeting 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara L. Stull  
Borough Secretary