

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 1997

President Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the following Councilors present: William Troxell, Peggy Gustafson, Holly Giles, Jay Schmitt, John Eline, Charles Woodward, Len Andrews and Rich Kreisher. Staff present included Manager Sterner, Solicitor Oyler, Chief Gantz, Preservation Officer Powell, Code Enforcement Officer Weikert, Parking Manager Little, Highway Superintendent Lawver, Main Street Director Trostle and Rec. Director Crouse

Also attending the meeting were Beth Kanagy of the Times, Terry Burger, of the Evening Sun, Polly Parone of the Retail Merchants Association and Stacey Schmeidel of Gettysburg College.

Citizens attending the meeting were Ramona Overton, Roberta Sullivan, John and Jane Wiley, Lloyd Benchoff, Wayne Mayers, Glenn Simpson, Rod Simpson and family, Ken Gebhart and family, Wes Ayre, Gary Shaffer, John Murphy, Muriel Rice, Richard Noble, Raye Passmore, Andrew and Betty Larson, Jim Becraft, John Krichten, Wally Davis, Ken Murdock, Gerald Bennett, Catherine Schmitt, Jarrod Linn, Megan Linn, Sophie Linn, Broux Linn, Frank Linn, Jay Linn, Timon Linn, Bernadette Sterner, Larry and Jane Scott, David Sayre, Jacqueline White, Harry Stokes, Dick Peterson and Chi Chi Woodward.

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

Moved Mr. Schmitt, seconded Mr. Woodward to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, Mr. Troxell second, to adopt a resolution honoring recently deceased Mayor Francis I. Linn. Motion unanimously adopted. President Simpson then presented Mrs. Sophie Linn and her sons with a framed copy of the resolution.

President Simpson announced that Council was about to appoint a person to fill the vacancy in the Mayor's position. Following the established procedure for public comment, each candidate would be permitted 5 minutes to state their qualifications and reasons for seeking the office of Mayor.

John Murphy, resident of the Third Ward, expressed his desire to be considered for appointment as the Mayor of Gettysburg. He noted that he had run for the position in the recent elections, and believes he has much to offer the Borough as its Mayor.

Councilor Troxell expressed his desire to be appointed Mayor. He has served on Council for the past 6 years and noted his public service experience would prove beneficial to our community.

Mr. Oyler briefed Council on the State Law requirements for filling vacancies in office. Council fills the vacancy by appointment within 30 days. He noted that state law requires that votes be in public, that secrete votes are not permitted, and that Councilor Troxell could not vote for himself, because of the difference in salary. He also advised that the President can vote in this matter, or any other matter before Council.

Mr. Andrews stated that he had received a significant number of telephone calls from citizens asking him to support Mr. Murphy. It was his intention to follow the wishes of those citizens, and announced that he would vote accordingly.

Ms. Giles noted that this decision was very difficult, both individuals are qualified to fill the office of Mayor. She observed that Mr. Troxell has been dedicated to his work as a Councilor for the past 6 years.

Mrs. Simpson noted she has worked with both men, but that her support would be to Mr. Troxell. As Vice President, he has always been available and willing to assist whenever called upon.

Mr. Woodward also reported that he had received numerous calls from citizens asking his support for Mr. Murphy, so he would cast his vote accordingly.

Mr. Kreisher said he had numerous calls, some asking him to support Mr. Murphy, others for Mr. Troxell.

Moved Mr. Schmitt, seconded Ms. Giles to appoint William Troxell to fill the vacancy in the office of Mayor caused by the death of Francis Linn. YEA: Ms. Giles, Mrs. Gustafson, Mrs. Simpson, Mr. Eline and Mr. Schmitt. NAY: Mr. Woodward, Mr. Kreisher and Mr. Andrews. Mr. Troxell abstaining. Motion carried, Mr. William E. Troxell appointed Mayor.

Having received the appointment to the office of Mayor, Mr. Troxell announced that he would resign his seat on Council. Moved Mr. Schmitt, second Ms. Giles, to accept his resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

District Justice Thomas Carr administered the Oath of Office to the newly appointed Mayor.

Moved Mr. Andrews, seconded Mr. Kreisher to elect Ms. Giles as Vice President of Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Jane Wiley expressed her opposition to changing the garbage hauling ordinance to allow haulers to pick up at any hour of the day or night. The dumpsters bang and the

trucks are noisy with back up alarms. This distressed her and her guests at the bed and breakfast she operates on Carlisle Street. She asked Council not to amend the Garbage ordinance.

Ken Murdock, Manager of R&A Bender and Loyd Benshoff of Waste Management both agree that daytime pick up is difficult due to heavy traffic. Additionally, it is safer to pick up at night time.

Wes Ayre asked Council to delay the adoption of the ordinance changing the name of Long Lane to Picket Street.

Larry Weikert, speaking as Fire Chief, stated that it has been confusing for the fire department and 911 because of the two streets with the same name. It would be best to rename this street so as to eliminate any confusion on the part of emergency responders.

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

Moved Mr. Schmitt, seconded Mr. Eline to adopt the 1998 budget in the amount of \$2,742,755. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved Mr. Schmitt, seconded Mrs. Gustafson to adopt the Ordinance fixing the tax rates for the fiscal year 1998 as follows: 11.38 mills on each dollar of real estate for general purposes and 30 mills on each dollar of occupational assessed valuation. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gustafson praised Manager Sterner and all staff for preparing a budget without a need for a tax increase.

Moved Ms. Gustafson, seconded Mr. Eline to approve HARB consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gustafson presented Council with a Resolution adopted by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in commemoration of HARB and the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Borough's Historical District Ordinance.

Ms. Giles thanked Polly Parone of the Retail Merchants Association for the Christmas tree on the square and a successful parade.

Mr. Woodward reported that the Rec. Board did not have a meeting, rather they toured the new high school.

Mr. Andrews reported that Senator Terry Punt attended the Legislative Committee meeting to discuss matters on the state level concerning Borough's.

Mr. Kreisher asked Council to delay adopting the ordinances changing the name of Long Lane to Picket Street and amending the garbage ordinance. Each ordinance will be further studied by the Public Works Committee.

Moved Mr. Eline, seconded Mr. Schimtt to accept the Olinger family's gift of the train station on Carlisle Street. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitor Oyler was instructed to prepare a deed of conveyance for the Train Station.

Manager Sterner presented Council with the 1997 Eichelberger Stahle Charity list, and asked for Council's approval.

Manager Sterner thanked Council for its hard work over the past two years. He also thanked department heads and staff for their good work and dedication to our community and its citizens.

Moved Mr. Woodward, seconded Mr. Schmitt to approve the 1997 Eichelberger-Stahle Charity Fund as prepared by Manager Sterner. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Eline thanked Kevin Trostle, Main Street Director, for the \$10,000 payment presented to Council for the south east quadrant brick work.

Moved Mrs. Gustafson, seconded Ms. Giles to accept the G.H. Harris exoneration report for 1994, 1995 and 1996. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved Mr. Troxell, second Ms. Giles, to adopt a resolution honoring and thanking outgoing Council President Mrs. Jean E. Simpson for her many years of dedicated service to the Borough. Unanimously adopted.

Mr. Troxell then presented the Resolution to Mrs. Simpson. After a resounding standing ovation, Mrs. Simpson thanked all who assisted her in her tenure as Councilor and President of Council.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM at which time a reception was held in honor of Mrs. Simpson.

Respectfully submitted,



Sara L. Stull
Borough Secretary