

Council Minutes
August 9, 1999

President Eline opened the meeting at 7:30 PM with all Councilors and the Mayor present. Also attending were Manager Sterner, HPO Powell, Parking Manager Little, Chief Gantz, Highway Superintendent Lawver, and Main Street Manager Trostle. Attorney Richard Thrasher was filling in for Solicitor Eastman.

Representing the press were Beth Kanagy of *the Gettysburg Times* and Tim Lambert of WGET radio.

The Council Chambers were filled to capacity with persons observing or giving remarks to Council.

Moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the July 12 Council meeting.

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda.

President Eline welcomed all and offered a statement concerning his recent action on the legislation pending in Washington. (Mr. Eline, when questioned by Congressman Goodling, advised Goodling to vote against the Klink amendment to a NPS appropriations bill.) He asked for comments from citizens and taxpayers of the Borough, noting that each would be limited to the customary 5 minutes.

Bill Monahan read a statement in which he questioned Mr. Eline's authority to override Council decisions.

Tammy Myers expressed her outrage at the supposed NPS surveillance of her business.

George Lower commended this Council as being the best he has seen, yet questioned Mr. Eline's recent action.

Marie Crouse remarked that she feels held hostage by the NPS and Council and that Mr. Eline does not speak for her.

Margaret Counts indicated her approval of Mr. Eline's decision to recommend that Cong. Goodling vote against the amendment.

Vickie Monrean, Director of the Friends of the NPS at Gettysburg, noted that leadership can be difficult at times, that it requires one to be out in front and to answer one's own conscience.

Paul Witt noted that he is in favor of 90 percent of the GMP, but questioned the new visitor center proposal. He read from the GMP a letter authored by Dan Kuehn, a former NPS superintendent at GNMP, who opposes the visitor center proposal.

Craig Caba noted that the Steering Committee membership is 1/3 Borough residents and 2/3 from elsewhere.

Wes Ayre believes, in disagreement with a NPS statement, that NPS is indeed responsible to look out for the Borough.

At the conclusion of the public comment period, Mr. Eline asked if any Councilors wanted to respond to the various comments, whereupon Mr. Streeter remarked that sometimes leadership requires following. He understands that there are personal agendas in the current controversy surrounding the NPS GMP and visitor center proposal, but that the will of the people is sovereign. He supports the Klink Amendment and Washington's involvement in the GMP. He believes the people should be making the decisions, not small special interest groups with private agendas. He hopes that a compromise can be found and feels that Council should re-affirm its position paper of October 1998.

Continuing with the agenda, Mayor Troxell reported that National Night Out had very good participation and was considered to be very successful.

Ms. Giles reviewed the NPS committee minutes of its meeting held August 4.

Moved Ms. Giles, seconded Mr. Streeter to approve TEA-21 grant application as proposed by Manager Sterner, The Friends of the Parks, and Gettysburg College. That application will center on protecting the Baltimore Street gateway with purchase of scenic easements and burial of utility lines on Historic Pathways. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Giles continued, noting that many are participating in the Steering Committee's work. She questioned the wording of the Klink Amendment as several versions have been reported. Various members indicated their position on Council's GMP position paper. After some discussion, moved Mr. Andrews and seconded Mr. Woodward to convene a Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday August 18 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of discussing Council's GMP position.

Continuing with Safety Committee report, Ms. Giles moved, Mr. Murphy seconded, to adopt the amendment to the On Street Metered Parking Ordinance by designating an area on the west side of Steinwehr Avenue as having a two hour time limit. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Giles moved Mrs. Gustafson seconded to amend the Residential Parking Permit Ordinance by designating an area on Springs Avenue as a Residential Parking Permit System. Unanimously approved.

Moved Ms. Giles, seconded Mr. Andrews to instruct the solicitor to prepare an ordinance to amending the Stop Sign Ordinance to provide for stop signs at the

intersection of East Middle and Sixth Streets, to prepare an ordinance to remove parking along the last block of East Middle Street and Sixth Street, and advertise both for adoption at the September meeting of Council.. Approved unanimously.

Mr. Murphy reported that the Rotary Club's proposal for a local foundation was moving briskly forward, that it has combined forces with Mr. Monahan. A mission statement in the form of a resolution has been prepared and circulated for signature among the community. The current Rotary sponsored foundation committee is in transition; it is projected that the work will soon lead to the creation of a permanent board of directors and that Rotary will step aside.

Moved Mrs. Gustafson seconded Mr. Andrews to adopt the HARB Consent Agenda items A through H with the exception of B. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Giles noted that the current Sovereign Bank sign, 29 N. Washington Street, blocks the vision of drivers exiting Race Horse Alley. Ms. Giles moved, second Mr. Woodward, to instruct the HPO to require its removal to a more safe location when the new sign is installed. Unanimous.

Mrs. Gustafson continued noting that some HARB applications are not clear, that a properly completed and well-versed application benefits the HARB as well as the applicant. The HPO was instructed to work with applicants so that all are better prepared.

Mrs. Gustafson moved and Ms. Giles seconded to approve the amendment to the Historic District Ordinance by deleting the provision requiring a two-term limit for board members. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Woodward thanked all for their good support of PACT and the National Night Out. He reported that the Rec Park is in good shape, considering the serious draught conditions of this summer, and that the Rec Board continues to work on the proposal for a new Rec Office.

Several Councilors asked about the Rec building project. Mr. Woodward responded that the program has changed very little since original sketch plans were developed. There is no definite time line for the project; all depends on successful fund raising from the townships and general public. Mrs. Crouse will be calling on Councilors to assist in soliciting the townships for funding. Mrs. Gustafson hoped that the building not use a flat roof.

Continuing on the subject of Recreation, Mr. Eline noted that there seems to be much confusion concerning the Adams County Rec Plan and trail proposal. Mr. Sterner was instructed to invite County Planning to the next Community Development Committee to report on their work.

Mr. Wiley reported that the Community Development Committee spent considerable time discussing the Wills House and how important it is to the economic development of the downtown. All agreed that the development of the building as the Borough's interpretive facility should be a priority. Having been a part of the Historic Pathway Plan for some ten years, it again is under study by the Steering Committee with that report due in the fall. Several options may be available to gain control of the building, all of which will be investigated.

Mr. Wiley reported that the Committee (attended by 8 Councilors and the Mayor) gave its approval for Ms. Giles to present testimony to the U S Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation hearing in Washington July 29.

Mr. Wiley moved second Mr. Woodward to authorize President Eline and Manager Sterner to initiate discussions with the owners of the Wills House for the purchase of that property. Unanimous.

Ms. Giles reminded all that there are no taxpayers funds earmarked for the purchase or development of the Wills House. There are, however, several recent or upcoming developments that may provide funding for that project.

Mr. Eline asked for questions concerning the Town Gown Committee. Hearing none, he had nothing further to report.

Mr. Street reported the Adams County Transportation Task Force will be meeting at the Hotel 25 August at 7:15 PM. All 34 county municipalities are invited, as are certain other individuals. It is hoped that other Councilors will not attend so that Gettysburg is not conceived as the driving force. Their immediate goal is to adopt a resolution so that all act as one in further development of the CRIS study.

Mr. Kreisher moved seconded Mr. Andrews to instruct the solicitor to prepare an amendment to the Garbage Hauling Ordinance deleting the hauler's license and all related requirements and advertise for adoption at the September Council meeting. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Kreisher noted that the Public Works Committee continues to work on the issue of newspaper racks.

Mr. Andrews moved second Mr. Street to pay all bills and payrolls. Unanimous.

After a brief explanation of the insurance RFP process and results, Mr. Andrews moved second by Mr. Murphy to award the insurance proposal to the Hockley O'Donnell Agency. Unanimously approved. Manager Sterner reported that Hockley would guarantee his rates for three years (as long as loss ratios are lower than 45 %) with the exception of Worker's Comp. This may allow the Borough to continue with Hockley for three years, negating the need for RFP next year.

Mr. Andrews reported that the current federal budget proposal reduces CDBG funding by about 30 per cent. His committee recommends that Council forward a letter to our federal legislators opposing cuts in the CDBG program. Unanimously approved.

Manager Sterner presented four motions for adoption, all dealing with the Scattered Sites mortgage modification that Council previously approved. Solicitor Eastman prepared each of the motions after his review and approval of the mortgage paperwork prepared by the Scattered Site solicitor.

Moved Ms. Giles second Mr. Andrews to authorize John C. Eline, President of the Borough Council, and Sara L. Stull, Borough Secretary, to execute and deliver the Amended and Restated Mortgage Note, in the principal amount of \$59,718.00 from Gettysburg Scattered Sites Associates, a limited partnership to the Borough of Gettysburg. Unanimously approved.

Moved Mr. Andrews seconded Mrs. Gustafson to authorize John C. Eline, President of the Borough Council, and Sara L. Stull, Borough Secretary, to execute and deliver the Mortgages Subordination Agreement between Gettysburg Scattered Sites Associates and the Borough of Gettysburg. Unanimously approved.

Moved Mr. Wiley seconded Mr. Woodward to authorize Charles W. Sterner, Borough Manager and Borough Treasurer, to mark the first page of the original Mortgage Note, dated January 6, 1993, with the following statement: "Substituted and replaced by Amended and Restated Mortgage Note in the principal amount of \$59,718.00 dated January 6, 1993, from Gettysburg Scattered Sites Associates". Unanimously approved.

Moved Mr. Woodward second Mr. Streeter to authorize Charles W. Sterner, Borough Manager and Borough Treasurer to return original Mortgage Note, dated January 6, 1993, with endorsement, to Gettysburg Scattered Sites Associates. Unanimously approved.

Manager Sterner reported that Frank Sapp would agree to another term on the GAIDA board. Moved Mr. Murphy seconded Mr. Andrews to appoint Frank Sapp to another term on the Gettysburg Industrial Development Authority board. Unanimously approved.

Sterner reported that the Highway crews recently received and installed the decorative traffic signal bases on the downtown traffic signal poles. He noted the attractive bases add significantly to our community, thanked Council for making the appropriation and acknowledged the Highway crews for their speedy installation.

Sterner reminded all Councilors of Senator Punt's press conference scheduled for August 10 at 10:00 Am in Council Chambers. All are encouraged to attend.

Manager Sterner finished his report by advising Council that the lawsuit brought by the boy who lost his hand in the fireworks accident has been settled out of court. Terms of the settlement are sealed.

Highway Superintendent Lawver reported on the successful PennDOT Agility Program in Adams County this summer. The Borough, Cumberland, Straban, Freedom, Highland, and Hamilton Townships came together to share various equipment and assist with projects. All has proceeded well, no money has changed hands, and the taxpayer has been well served. Mr. Lawver proudly reported that PennDOT officials have indicated that the Adams County project was the first worthwhile project in the state. Most have been weed cutting or sign installation. Manager Sterner commended Mr. Lawver for his leadership and hard work in bringing success to the program, noting that this success will certainly lead to better municipal cooperation in the future. All of Council joined in their appreciation for Superintendent Lawver's efforts.

With no further business, Mr. Eline adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Charles W. Sterner
Borough Manager/Treasurer