

COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 8, 2004

President Streeter called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the following Councilors present: Holly Giles, John Eline, Bill Monahan, Caroline Smith, John Murphy, Bob Miller, Dick Peterson and Mayor Troxell. Mr. Fleet was out of town. Staff present included Manager Sterner, Secretary Stull, Solicitor Eastman, Highway Superintendent Lawver, Planning Director Powell, Parking Manager Little, Chief Garcia and Finance Director Overton.

Representing the press were Beth Kanagy of the *Gettysburg Times* and Erin Negley of the *Evening Sun*.

Moved Mr. Murphy, seconded Mr. Miller to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved Mr. Eline, seconded Mr. Miller to approve the February 9 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizens in attendance:

Susan Trostle representing the Gettysburg Area Retail Merchants Association.

Chuck Teague, 125 East Middle Street attended to observe the meeting.

Mark Berg attended to seek the Council's recommendation to the County Planning Commission as the Borough's replacement.

Mayor Troxell reported the Borough's Association meeting will be held on Monday, March 15 at the Family Restaurant. The guest speaker will be Ron Shultz.

Mr. Streeter reporting for the Transportation Task Force noted the 2 million dollars has not been approved yet but should announce within the next few months.

Mr. Streeter reporting for the Green Ribbon Commission noted that group is working on a final draft and will distribute as soon as it becomes available.

Mr. Streeter reported that Straban Township asked for a meeting with the Gettysburg Municipal Authority Board. GMA has asked Straban to first provide a letter of agenda items.

Moved Mr. Streeter, seconded Mr. Murphy to recommend Mark Berg to the County Planning Commission as the Borough's replacement for Barbara Benton who recently resigned.

Ms. Giles noted that she now serves on the County Planning Commission and is considered the Borough's representative. She noted also that Mr. Berg resides in Highland Township. Mr. Sterner noted that the County Commissioners are the appointing authority, not Council.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Murphy withdrew his motion and Mr. Streeter withdrew his second.

Ms. Smith reporting for College Relations noted the Committee is not planning to meet until the new president arrives.

Ms. Giles announced the police negotiation team to be Bob Miller, Dick Peterson and Len Andrews.

Chief Garcia recognized PFC Detective Kevin Wilson as the officer of the month for February for his quick response in solving two cases. The first was a \$10,000 theft from Adams County National Bank and the second was the armed robbery at the Super 8 Motel. Susan Trostle presented Detective Wilson with certificates from the Gettysburg Area Retail Merchants Association in appreciation for his hard work.

Mr. Eline reporting for the Community Development Committee noted the property at 66-68 West Middle Street which was condemned for habitation recently by the Code Office is scheduled for in May. He asked Council to consider getting involved.

Dr. Powell pointed out the owner had been cited for numerous problems including trash, failure to remove snow and compliance with the RRU Ordinance. A water pipe was broken and numerous structural problems existed so the remaining tenant (a senior citizen) was provided emergency relocation. The building was posted accordingly as no longer safe for habitation.

Ms. Estrada Main Street Director gave a brief update on Main Street and invited everyone to the BID program in the next two days. The PA Downtown Center will provide citizens with information on the benefits of the program.

Ms. Estrada noted that she and Ms. Smith attended a meeting in Harrisburg relative to the Elm Street Program. This is a residential revitalization program with \$5 million earmarked for funding. An application is needed very soon to be considered for these grants. The state has divided the funding into \$25,000 grants for planning in the first year of the program, followed by four years of \$50,000 grants for management. It is a 10 percent match, but can be an in-kind match. She suggested this be discussed in the Borough's Community Development Committee.

Ms. Estrada also noted that Main Street and the Borough must execute a Cooperative Agreement. The current Memorandum of Understanding is not accepted by the state.

Mr. Eline reported the Sister City Commission is considering a adopting a city in Mexico as a new Sister City.

Moved Mr. Murphy, seconded Mr. Peterson to approve all bills and payrolls for the month. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Monahan asked that the *Evening Sun* article on Straban Township concerning police coverage be included in the minute book.

Mr. Monahan reporting for the Legislative Committee noted they have been working on the Petro Station on Carlisle Street. The property has become an impromptu parking lot. He is arranging a meeting with the owners. He reported that Senator Spector's office is excited about this project as an inter-modal project. Federal funding may be forthcoming once ownership of the property is obtained.

Mr. Murphy reported that members of the Finance Committee are working on a Capital Campaign for the Rec Park. Mr. Peterson is working on the campaign draft and should have it complete by Friday for review.

Mr. Monahan reported a meeting is scheduled between the Adams County Commissioners and Council on March 19, at 9:00 AM in council chambers.

Moved Ms. Smith, seconded Mr. Murphy to approve HARB consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Smith commented that the Borough Flag is now one year old. We have applied for the trademark but have not received the final approval yet. Solicitor Eastman pointed out that this procedure takes a long time.

Mr. Miller, Recreation Board liaison, suggested holding a meeting with the Rec Director and members of Council to discuss the possibility of disbanding the Rec Board. There is usually not a quorum present at these meetings.

Solicitor Eastman reported the bond settlement for the Borough's refunding of the 1999 General Obligation Bonds is set for March 17th.

Solicitor Eastman reviewed the Adelphia Communications Corporation Bankruptcy and found that the Borough was not owed any money at the time of the filing so it is not necessary for the Borough to file a proof of claim.

Mr. Monahan asked if there is anything we can do about CSX not responding to request for the final right-of-way permits which continues to hold up the Train Station bid process. Mr. Sterner reported that Paul Sauers of C. S. Davidson has been working to get final approvals. If that is not received in the next few days, Mr. Sterner will supply all with names, phone numbers and details so that council can exert pressure.

Mayor Troxell, on behalf of the American Legion WW II Commemoration Committee, requested permission from Council to camp overnight on Rec Park grounds.

Moved Mr. Monahan, seconded Mr. Murphy to grant permission to the American Legion for camping on park grounds. Facilities will need to be arranged and approved by the Rec Director. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Powell acknowledged the highway crew for their help with cleaning the Wills House in preparation of the upcoming sale to the NPS. He also thanked them for their quick response in emergency work at the Train Station.

Dr. Powell reported he will be out of the office March 12 thru 22 traveling to France. He plans to visit our Sister City in St. Mere Eglise.

Chief Garcia noted that Chuck Teague will be working with him on the Chaplain Program. Chief Garcia thanked Mr. Eline for the generous donations of medical supplies from the hospital.

Mr. Eline asked Council to review the dog ordinance as he has received several complaints about a neighbor's barking dog. Mr. Streeter referred this to the Safety Committee.

Council convened a short executive session to discuss Housing Authority litigation.

After opening the meeting to the public, moved Mr. Streeter, seconded Mr. Peterson, to write a letter of support for the Housing Authority in their application for a low interest loan with the United States Department of Agriculture, under their Community Facilities guaranteed loans program in the amount of \$550,000 consistent with their request of February 2, 2004. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Sara L. Stull
Borough Secretary