

COUNCIL MINUTES DECEMBER 29, 2004

President Streeter called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM with the following Councilors present: Caroline Smith, John Murphy, Bob Miller, Dick Peterson, John Eline and Mayor William Troxell. Staff present included Manager Charles Sterner; Director of Planning Walter Powell, Finance Director Ramona Overton, Code Enforcement Officer Bea Savage and Administrative Assistant Merry Bush, as well as Harry Eastman, solicitor.

Representing the press were Matt Majors of the *Gettysburg Times* and Erin Negley of the *Evening Sun* along with a reporter from WGET.

John Murphy, chair of the finance committee, gave the background of the Emergency and Municipal Services Tax (EMS) that has now replaced the Occupational Privilege Tax. At the December 13, 2004 meeting Council directed the Borough Solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance for adoption of the EMS tax at an amount of \$52 per year.

The Finance Committee along with staff members will bring recommendations for the use of the EMS tax to the next Council meeting. Borough Manager Charlie Sterner has suggested that the income from the 2005 EMS tax be held in reserve until 2006 and then be used to lower property taxes.

John Murphy moved to adopt an ordinance imposing, levying and assessing a tax for emergency and municipal services upon persons engaged in an occupation within the Borough of Gettysburg; requiring collection through employers and direct payment by taxpayers including non-residents; providing for administration, enforcement and delinquent collection procedures; and prescribing penalties for violation. Dick Peterson seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Caroline Smith moved that the Council approve the consent agenda for HARB. John Eline seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Dick Peterson and Caroline Smith gave a brief report on the activities of the reactivated Human Relations Committee. The committee has created an application form that will be completed by applicants for appointments to all boards and commissions. A booklet is in the works that will describe the purposes of each board and commission and the role of its members. The booklet should be ready by February.

Dick Peterson noted that the Zoning Hearing Board has two vacancies—one member resigned and another member's term ends on December 31. Mr. Peterson motioned that the Council pass a resolution to appoint John Butterfield to fulfill the term of John Schwartz, which continues through December 2008. John Murphy seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Dick Peterson then made a motion that Council pass a resolution to appoint Robert Kornack to a full term on the Zoning Hearing Board. Bob Miller seconded and the motion carried. The Committee noted the need for alternates to the Zoning Hearing Board. Dick Peterson made a motion to pass a resolution to name Jake Schindel as an alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board. John Eline seconded and the motion carried.

Caroline Smith moved that Karen Falk be appointed to the Historic Architectural Review Board. Ms. Falk is a licensed real estate broker, which is required by the Historic District ordinance. John Eline seconded the motion and it carried.

In other business, John Murphy reported that the Finance Committee had reviewed proposals from two auditing firms for the 2004 audit. The committee recommended Smith Elliott Kearns & Company, LLC, an accounting firm from Chambersburg. John Murphy moved that the firm of Smith Elliott Kearns and Company, LLC be selected to perform the audit. Caroline Smith seconded and the motion carried.

Ted Streeter noted that the January 12 Council workshop will be attended by Council and staff only. Once the Council is clear on its vision, this information will be shared with all members of the Borough's boards and commissions.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merry V. Bush
Administrative Assistant and Recorder