

**BOROUGH OF GETTYSBURG
TROXELL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
59 EAST HIGH STREET, GETTYSBURG, PA 17325
COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
STEINWEHR AVENUE BID
JULY 12, 2021**

President Jacob Schindel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with the following **Councilors present:** Vice President Wesley Heyser, Mr. Christopher Berger, Mr. John Lawver, Mrs. Judith Butterfield, and Mr. Matthew Moon. Ms. Patricia Lawson was present via telecommunications. **Staff present included:** Mayor Theodore Streeter; Borough Manager Charles Gable; Assistant Borough Secretary Karen Mesher; Borough Solicitor Harold Eastman, Barley Snyder; Borough Engineer Chad Clabaugh; Planning Director Carly Marshall; and Public Works Director Robert Harbaugh. **Others present included:** Jill Sellers, President of Main Street Gettysburg; Jacqueline White, Managing Director of the Dobbin House Tavern, 89 Steinwehr Avenue; Nathan Mares, General Manager of the Best Western Gettysburg, 301 Steinwehr Avenue; John Christopher Fine, President of the Lincoln Train Museum, 425 Steinwehr Avenue; Michael A. Cogliano Sr., President of Wellspan Gettysburg Hospital, 147 Gettys Street; Alex J. Hayes representing the *Gettysburg Times*; and filming conducted by Community Media-ACCTV.

President Schindel announced that the purpose of this special meeting is to conduct a public hearing in order for the Borough Council to receive comments regarding the reauthorization of the Steinwehr Avenue Heart of Gettysburg Battlefield Neighborhood Improvement District for a period of an additional seven (7) years beyond its previously extended termination date of December 31, 2021.

Welcome and Opening Remarks – *President Schindel*

There were no opening remarks at this time.

Special Presentation-Steinwehr Business Improvement District – *Jill Sellers*

Jill Sellers, President of Main Street Gettysburg, gave a brief presentation on the Steinwehr Avenue Business Improvement District (see attached presentation). She said that the mission of the Steinwehr Avenue BID is to expand the economy of the business district through active public/private partnerships between business owners and government agencies; and that this economic vitality is achieved through preserving historic assets, responding to the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors through marketing, advocacy, continued development and improvements. She discussed the nature of the BID, its history, and accomplishments, what is still needed to be done, and how to get there. She said that the commercial district must reinvest through active partnerships and with an aggressive street enhancement plan, and that the Steinwehr Avenue two-phase plan is the gold BID standard that had addressed business support, parking, wayfinding, and promotional advertising for the 70 businesses on Steinwehr Avenue.

Public Comment – Hearing of Property Owners in BID District

John Christopher Fine, President and Owner of the Lincoln Train Museum at 425 Steinwehr, told Council that there are many things that are unfriendly to businesses in the BID. He discussed his many business expenses over his past two years of ownership and said that more than 40 percent of business owners are paying an “improvement tax”; and that he would like to see the BID conclude its business after 14 years.

Nathan Mares, General Manager of the Best Western Gettysburg at 301 Steinwehr Avenue, told Council that everything that the BID has done has benefitted Steinwehr Avenue business owners; and that public restroom facilities were provided for visitors patronizing those businesses without bathrooms. He said that the BID also addressed problems faced by businesses during the pandemic to help sustain those businesses and created a street where people wanted to be and shop.

Jacqueline White, Managing Director of the Dobbin House Tavern at 89 Steinwehr Avenue, told Council that there are more people visiting Steinwehr Avenue; and that the assessment paid to the BID provided enhancements that attracted visitors to the district. She said that Steinwehr Avenue businesses need to work with other areas of the Borough to benefit the entire business community.

Public Comment – Hearing of Citizens

There was no public comment at this time.

Motions

President Schindel called for the following motions regarding the Steinwehr Avenue Heart of Gettysburg Battlefield Neighborhood Improvement District:

Moved Mr. Heyser, seconded Mr. Lawver to approve and adopt the preliminary plan, as presented to the Borough Council, as a final plan for the reauthorization of the Steinwehr Avenue, Heart of Gettysburg Battlefield Neighborhood Improvement District for the continuation and extension of the term of existence of the District for a period of an additional seven (7) years beyond its previously extended termination date of December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously 7-to-0.

Moved Mr. Heyser, seconded Mrs. Butterfield to authorize the Borough to provide written notice to the affected property owners within the Steinwehr Avenue, Heart of Gettysburg Battlefield Neighborhood Improvement District of the approval and adoption by the Borough Council of the preliminary plan as the final plan for reauthorization of the District and to notify the affected property owners within the District of the procedures for the filing of an objection in writing to or the registering of a disapproval with the Borough for the veto of the final plan for the continuation and extension of the District. Motion carried unanimously 7-to-0.

There were no public comments.

President Jacob Schindel adjourned the public hearing at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Mesher
Assistant Borough Secretary