

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 28, 2001

President Eline called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the following Councilors present: Ms. Giles, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Streeter, Mr. Monahan, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Fleet, Ms. Smith and Mayor Troxell. Staff present included Manager Sterner, Solicitor Eastman, Highway Superintendent Lawver and Administrative Assistant Ms. Powell.

Representing the press was Suzanne Smith of the Hanover Evening Sun and Tim Lambert of radio station WGET.

Applicants in attendance for the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward vacancy included Mr. Dick Peterson, Mr. Elwood Christ, Ms. Betty Myers and Mr. Robert E. Miller. Mr. Walton Davis was unable to attend due to a death in the family.

Citizens in attendance included Jane English, Sam Mudd, Wayne Mayers, Kimberly Mayers, Ramona Overton, Suzanne Stone, Pauline Peterson, and Tim Monahan

Mr. Eline explained the purpose of this special meeting is to fill the vacancy in the Third Ward Council seat due to the death of Mr. Woodward, to award asphalt and equipment rental contracts and any other business that may come before Council.

Mr. Eline asked the citizens for comments limiting their remarks to 5 minutes. Ms. Ramona Overton was in favor of Mr. Davis. She referred to his capabilities on the Planning Commission. Ms. Jane English asked that Council appoint a candidate with strong historic preservation values. Mr. Sam Mudd spoke in favor of Mr. Davis and had written a letter to council supporting Mr. Davis.

Following comments from citizens, each candidate was permitted to speak limiting their remarks to 5 minutes.

Mr. Christ referred to the letter that he wrote to Council with his background and qualifications. He believes that over the years, Borough Council's sentiment is to shy away from Historic Preservation. He noted that Gettysburg is a site of historic events such as Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and the Civil War and that history is what brings people downtown. Mr. Christ would like to see Borough Council take a stronger stance with historic preservation and believes he would be a good asset to the community.

Mr. Miller reported that he has lived in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward for the last 30 years. He has been impressed and satisfied with the candidates that have run for the Third Ward seats in prior years and therefore decided not to run against them. Mr. Miller noted the good work that Mr. Woodward contributed to the Rec Park and he would like to continue serving out the rest of Mr. Woodward's term in office.



Ms. Myers indicated that she was urged to seek the vacant Council seat. She has agenuine interest in history and in the citizens of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward. She is particularly interested in the preserving the history of black residents in the areas of South Washington Street and High Street. She has previously served on the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Boards and has lived in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward for 50 years bringing with her a working knowledge of many aspects of the Borough.

Mr. Peterson noted that there are several diverse groups in Gettysburg. Tourists, immigrants, natives, people of different race and income. He spoke of a lack of upscale businesses and housing and would like to see an increase of these peoples to increase our diminishing tax base. He believes in continuing a cordial relationship with the National Park Service. Mr. Peterson brings a vast degree of business experience and community involvement.

In Mr. Davis absence, Ms. Giles reported on the qualifications of Mr. Davis. She noted that he had submitted a letter in regards to the question of "Conflict of Interest." Mr. Davis currently serves as the solicitor for neighboring Straban Township as well as other municipalities. Ms. Giles asked Solicitor Eastman to clarify the issue of "conflict of interest."

Mr. Eastman replied that the mere appointment of a lawyer or township solicitor to Council does not in itself create a conflict of interest. Individual circumstances would determine if conflicts exits.

Mr. Eline then invited Council to ask questions of the applicants.

Mr. Eline began by noting that 2 candidates had previously indicated an interest in an appointment to Borough Council. He asked each why they did not run in the subsequent elections.

Ms. Myers replied that she is not registered to a party, but rather registered as an Independent. She was not ready to register to a particular party nor sure that she wanted to get involved in the political process. She hoped that by serving out the remainder of Mr. Woodward's term she would have an incentive to declare a party and become more politically involved.

Mr. Miller replied that he had been approached in previous years and at the time, he needed to spend more time with his business and family. He was also confident in the candidates that had run in the past and is happy to see them serving on Council.

With no more questions of the applicants, Solicitor Eastman proceeded to advise Council on the procedure to appoint a replacement to Mr. Woodward's seat; that Council would adopt, by motion, a resolution naming a replacement to the vacancy. He noted that an abstention would not be a vote in favor or against and would not be counted in the process.



Mr. Eline asked for a poll of Council prior to taking a formal vote.

Mr. Streeter addressed the applicants explaining the immense involvement of Borough Council members. He noted that Borough Councilors work for less than minimum wage as many of the Councilors chair at least one committee and serve on a minimum of 2 others. Mr. Streeter indicated that he would favor Mr. Peterson.

Ms. Smith remarked that she would like a candidate that is familiar with the people and businesses of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward. She is also in favor of a candidate that supports the work of the Recreation Park. Ms. Smith indicated her support for Mr. Miller.

Ms. Giles suggested that she would support a candidate that would not only work for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, but the Borough at large. Ms. Giles believes Mr. Davis would be an asset to Borough Council because he would bring a great depth of knowledge and has experience with serving on the Planning Commission and has experience with the Zoning Hearing Board and the Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB.)

Mr. Fleet voiced his support of Mr. Miller. He believes Mr. Miller would commit the time and energy needed to serve on Borough Council as well as be devoted to the principles of the Recreation Park and the Interpretative Plan.

Mr. Murphy said that he is impressed with all the candidates and that he is proud that his ward, even with all its troubles, complexity, and diversity, is one of the highest voting wards in Gettysburg. Mr. Murphy is in favor of Mr. Peterson, describing his as able to find solutions to complex problems and with the skills and experience to do a good job.

Mr. Andrews thanked each of the candidates for their interest in the community. He indicated his support of Mr. Miller

Mr. Monahan noted that this was a difficult decision for him to make. After thanking each candidate, he noted that he favors Mr. Miller.

Mr. Eline agreed with Mr. Monahan in that this is a difficult decision to make and that he too has been struggling to make a decision. He has received several phone calls from constituents however the decision must ultimately be his. Mr. Eline explained to the candidates that this is a very active Council that has not shied away from controversy. He also told those in attendance that he disagrees with Mr. Christ. He opined that this Council is very concerned about historic preservation and believes Council has a right and responsibility to its citizens to achieve a balance of historic preservation and housing and development issues. He noted that Borough Council works for 7200 people and not just one ward. He then indicated his support would be to Mr. Miller.

Mr. Eline asked if there were any other comments or questions (there were none) and then asked for a motion.

Ms. Smith moved to adopt a resolution to appoint Mr. Robert Miller to fill the Third Ward seat caused by the untimely death of Charles Woodward. Mr. Murphy properly seconded the motion. The resolution was adopted with a roll call vote: Ayes: Mr. Fleet, Ms. Smith, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Monahan, Mr. Streeter, Mr. Andrews and Mr. Eline. Ms. Giles abstained. There were no nays.

Mayor Troxell immediately administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Miller and after congratulations from all he assumed his seat on Borough Council.

Mr. Eline again thanked all the applicants for their interest in serving the community and encouraged them to run in the upcoming years.

The second item of business was to award the highway bids. Mr. Sterner reported that bids were publicly opened at the June 18, 2001 Public Works Committee meeting. Copies of the tabulation are attached to these minutes. He reported that he and staff had reviewed the bids and all was in order to award to the low bidders: Valley Quarries for Asphalt, Delivered as Directed and C. E. Williams Sons for equipment rental.

Mr. Fleet made a motion to award the asphalt contract to Valley Quarries Inc. and to authorize the Manager to execute the contract on behalf of the Borough. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fleet made a motion to award the Equipment Rental Contract to C. E. Williams Sons, Inc. and to authorize the Manager to execute the contract on behalf of the Borough. Mr. Andrews seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristina E. Powell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kristina" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Powell".

Kristina E. Powell  
Administrative Assistance