

**BOROUGH OF GETTYSBURG
59 EAST HIGH STREET, GETTYSBURG, PA 17325
DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC, MEETING
CONDUCTED VIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS
DEVICES THROUGH ZOOM PLATFORM
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
MAY 26, 2020**

President Jacob Schindel called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM and asked the Borough Secretary Sara Stull to conduct a roll call of Council members in attendance. The following Councilors were present: Vice President Wesley Heyser, Mr. Christopher Berger, Ms. Patricia Lawson, Mr. John Lawver, Mrs. Judith Butterfield, and Mr. Matthew Moon. Staff present included: Mayor Theodore Streeter; Borough Manager Charles Gable; Borough Secretary Sara Stull; Borough Solicitor Harold Eastman, Puhl Eastman, and Thrasher; Police Chief Robert Glenn; Finance Director Nicolette James; Parking Manager Rebecca Fissel; Planning Director Carly Marshall; Director of Historic and Environmental Preservation Debra English; and Public Works Director Robert Harbaugh;

Others present include: Deb Adamik, President of Main Street Gettysburg; Michael McHenry, Gettysburg College Intern; and Mark Wherley, *Community Media-ACCTV* filming through zoom platform.

Public Comment Restricted to Old Business and New Agenda Items (not tabled items)

There was no public comment at this time.

New Business

COVID-19 Financial Update

Finance Director James gave a financial update in comparison from 2020 to the 2019 real estate taxes received. She noted that some residents have paid their taxes, but the Borough however has approximately a \$200,000 “hole to fill”. The parking revenue is drastically down from 2019 with Passport Parking only at approximately 30 percent of what we did last year.

Finance Director James gave an update on the revolving loan program established to help approximately 50 Borough businesses that were affected by the COVID pandemic. The zero-interest loan provides \$3,000 and said that eight loans have been disbursed to date. She suggested that Council open this up to businesses that did on-line sales that was previously excluded.

Council agreed to offer the loan program to businesses that have been partially open or offering on-line sales.

PBS 2020-7 Converting Parking Spaces into Public Parklets

Manager Gable explained the concept of converting some parking spaces into parking parklets to help businesses reopen as Gettysburg prepares to enter the state’s green phase of COVID pandemic precautions. He said that it would be an extension of the sidewalks to be placed at certain locations yet to be determined. The proposed pilot program would increase the square footage

available to businesses that would help with the social distancing that is required. Manager Gable said that the goal is to help all businesses get up and running again, and the space rental fee paid by businesses would help to make up the losses in parking revenues. He said that his hope would be to get the pilot program running this year.

Planning Director Marshall explained that the current ordinance allows for pilot programs so there would be no need for drastic changes to the ordinance. She pointed out that these are removable structures, and the program would allow time to see how it works for the community. Information on other communities that have these parklets was included with the Council agenda items.

Councilwoman Lawson suggested forming an AD HOC Committee to include business owners to see what they think of this idea. Deb Adamik, President of Main Street Gettysburg said that this is a “creative idea” and agreed its important to talk with the businesses. She said that maximizing space is worth investigating.

Councilman Lawver expressed his concern with obtaining the necessary permits from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation that it may be slow or difficult.

President Schindel said that this is the time to reconsider the current ordinance banning outdoor alcohol consumption except in designated restaurant outdoor seating areas.

After some discussion it was suggested that staff members go to other municipalities that have the parklets to get input.

There was no public comment at this time.

Deb Adamik mentioned that she has received some complaints in regard to public restrooms, and that the parking garage restrooms are closed. Manager Gable responded that the Borough lacks personnel to sanitize the restrooms after each use or money to rent portable toilets. He said that he would ask Destination Gettysburg, as the county tourism agency that is funded by a lodging tax to consider helping. Businesses may also offer to open their restrooms as customer service.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara L. Stull
Borough Secretary