

**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
JUNE 22, 2020**

President Jacob Schindel called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, , Mrs. Judith Butterfield, and Mr. Matthew Moon. Mr. John Lawver was absent. 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 Glenney; 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: Gary Shaffer, HARB Chairman; Charles Stanger, 275 Ridge Avenue; Michael McHenry, Gettysburg College Intern; and Mark Wherley, *Community Media-ACCTV* filming through zoom platform.

Announcements

President Schindel announced an executive session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Gettysburg was conducted prior to the adjournment of the June 8, 2020 monthly general business meeting consistent with sections 708(a)(1), 708(a)(4) and 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act.

President Schindel announced an executive session of the Borough Council was also conducted on Thursday, June 11, 2020 commencing at 4:00 p.m. consistent with sections 708(a)(1) and 708(a)(4) of the Sunshine Act for the following purposes: 1) to discuss matters involving the employment, appointment or reinstatement, the terms and conditions of employment, the evaluation of performance, the promotion or demotion, and the possible furloughing or laying off of current Borough employees; and (2) to discuss information and strategy in connection with the appeal filed in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania to Docket No. 1460 CD 2019 captioned Borough of Gettysburg v. International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local Union No. 776, Police Labor Organization.

President Schindel announced an executive session of the Borough Council was also conducted on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 commencing at 4:00 p.m. consistent with sections 708(a)(1) and 708(a)(4) of the Sunshine Act for the following purposes: 1) to discuss matters involving the employment, appointment or reinstatement, the terms and conditions of employment and the possible furloughing or laying off of current

Borough employees; and (2) to discuss information and strategy in connection with the appeal filed in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania to Docket No. 1460 CD 2019 captioned Borough of Gettysburg v. International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local Union No. 776, Police Labor Organization.

President Schindel announced an executive session of the Borough Council will be conducted immediately following the adjournment of this evening's work session consistent with sections 708(a)(1), 708(a)(4) and 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act for the following purposes: (1) to discuss matters involving the employment, appointment or reinstatement, the terms and conditions of employment, the evaluation of performance, the promotion or demotion, and the possible furloughing or laying off of current Borough employees; (2) to discuss information and strategy in connection with the appeal filed in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania to Docket No. 1460 CD 2019 captioned Borough of Gettysburg v. International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local Union No. 776, Police Labor Organization; and (3) to review and discuss matters of Borough business which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of confidential information protected by law.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

New Business

Zoning Change Proposal

Planning Director Marshall explained the Zoning Text Amendment request (see attached) by Jacob Schindel is to improve the building to the rear of Ragged Edge, 110 Chambersburg Street. The changes would change setback rules and strict limits on changes to old buildings that do not conform to the modern standards. It would require an ordinance change to allow him to make the improvements to the building. She noted that the Borough Planning Commission backed the idea at their recent meeting to help facilitate development for commercial uses and affordable housing.

At this time **Vice President Heyser** chaired the meeting so that President Jacob Schindel could address his proposal.

Jacob Schindel requested that Council consider reducing the minimum rear setback required for non-conforming buildings in the OT Old Town District from 30 feet to 5 feet for his property at 110 Chambersburg Street. He intends to improve a 24-foot by 24-foot cinderblock garage. Mr. Schindel pointed out that he could ask for a variance but wants to have a text amendment to allow other property owners to be allowed to make changes to their outbuildings.

Gary Shaffer, said that changes have been made in the past so that building projects were easier, and that he did not see a problem with making this zoning text amendment.

Borough Council agreed to move forward with the zoning text amendment and directed staff to proceed with drafting the zoning ordinance changes.

At this time **President Schindel** resumed the chair and proceeded with the meeting.

Open Container Proposal (in tandem with parklets)-PBS 2020-7 Converting Parking Spaces into Public Parklets

Manager Gable said that since restaurants have been reduced to fifty-percent capacity during the pandemic, this would be a way to help them increase their business. He suggested that Council consider temporary street closures, one block from the square rotating a different street each weekend. With traffic closed it would allow a pedestrian zone for people to enjoy. Manager Gable said that the parking spaces transformed into “parklets” would allow people to cross public sidewalks with open drinks, but only to reach the seating areas located in the parking spaces in front of businesses. He noted that other municipalities have amended their open container ordinance.

Planning Director Marshall said that while speaking with business owners they questioned about the possibility of extending the outdoor footprint to allow for alcohol. This is where the idea of parklets came into fruition. The first parklet is a pilot program the Borough is building on Lincoln Square near The Pub and Restaurant. Potential uses would include tables and chairs to consume take out food or could be used to display merchandise. Other parklets may be placed in front of businesses, which would pay a rental fee to offset the cost of building it. Ms. Marshall noted that other businesses have already expressed an interest in the parklets.

Chief Glenny expressed concern with possible PLCB violations for open containers and asked if people would be walking in the streets or only at restaurant areas.

President Schindel said that the plan would be to have street closures and the parklets for people to enjoy.

Some Council members expressed concern but want to support the businesses during this time. It is important to have something during the summer months to help increase their business. Manager Gable was instructed to provide a draft ordinance at the July Council meeting for review.

Discussion on Confederate Flag – Gettysburg, South Dakota

Manager Gable said that he received a call from residents of Gettysburg, South Dakota in which we have a sister-city relationship, in regard to the use of the Confederate Flag. They are interested in changing their logo which includes the Confederate Flag. One of the residents included Selwyn Jones the uncle of George Floyd, whose death by a police officer

sparked nationwide protests. Mr. Jones said a letter seeking the historic perspective of Gettysburg, where the battle took place would be appreciated.

Council members authorized Manager Gable to prepare a neutral letter stating how we use our flag and symbols.

Old Business

PBS 2014-2 Revolving Loan Program

Michael McHenry gave a presentation on the Historic District Revitalization Revolving Loan Program. He explained that the fund originated from a DCED grant, as a loan to Kennie's Marketplace in 2006. The loan was paid off and in 2016 the fund was to be formalized and a program written with specific uses for these funds. The current amount in the fund is \$278,000 and is being used for COVID-19.

PBS 2020-6 Parking Meter Additions – APP Only Parking Zones

Parking Manager Rebecca Fissel said that after reviewing certain areas for meter-less parking, it was determined that a 90-day trial would be placed on West Broadway west of College Avenue. A resolution will be prepared for the July Council meeting for approval of the experimental program.

Council Comment

Councilwoman Butterfield reported that she received complaints from concerned citizens about the recent baseball tournament held at the Recreation Park. She said that they need to follow the CDC guidelines for COVID requirements.

President Schindel said that he will notify the Recreation Director of these concerns. He noted that the GARA Board did discuss how to handle this event.

There was no public comment at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara L. Stull
Borough Secretary