

**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  
NOVEMBER 23, 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:** Mr. Wesley Heyser, Mrs. Judith Butterfield, Ms. Patricia Lawson, Mr. John Lawver and Mr. Matthew Moon. Mr. Christopher Berger was absent. **Staff present included:** Mayor Theodore Streeter; Borough Manager Charles Gable; Assistant Borough Manager/ Secretary Sara Stull; Borough Solicitor Harold Eastman, Puhl Eastman, and Thrasher; Chief Robert Glenney; Parking Manager Rebecca Fissel; Planning Director Carly Marshall; Director of Historic and Environmental Preservation Debra English; Public Works Director Robert Harbaugh and Chad Clabaugh, Borough Engineer, C. S. Davidson, Inc.

**Others present included:** Deb Adamik, President, Main Street Gettysburg; Clem Malot, PA Municipal Code Alliance; Kathy Gilbert, President and Jennie Dillon, Vice President representing the Gettysburg Area Retail Merchants Association (GARMA); Wade Leedy of Fourscore Beer Co., 603 South Washington Street; Yianni Barakos of the Mason Dixon Distillery, 331 E Water Street; Jim Hale representing the *Gettysburg Times*; and Mark Wherley, *Community Media-ACCTV* filming through Zoom platform.

### **Announcements**

**President Schindel** stressed the continued importance of everyone wearing masks and social distancing during these unforeseen times. He commended everyone for their patience with the intermittent difficulties in using the ZOOM platform for meetings. Governor Wolf released new COVID restrictions today and noted that a vaccine is planned for the near future.

**President Schindel** commended GARMA for the recent annual Christmas tree lighting in downtown Gettysburg. They encouraged people to stay home and watch the tree lighting ceremony via livestream rather than congregating and adding to the pandemic. People were asked to send in photos and be eligible to receive gift certificates from many of the GARMA businesses.

**President Schindel** announced that there will not be a Council Work Session meeting in December.

**President Schindel** thanked the Adams County Commissioners for voting and awarding to the Borough of Gettysburg \$100,000 with the Funds for Adams Investments and

Recovery (FAIR) Grant. The funds were received by the Adams County for COVID-19 federal relief for distribution.

**Manager Gable** explained that Adams County received 9.3 million dollars in Federal Pandemic Relief funds to distribute by the end of this year. The County determined the fund distribution criteria to businesses, tourism, nonprofits and municipalities; and then reviewed the Borough's municipal application packet based on the submission requests stemming from the negative financial impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency from March 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The Borough had requested reimbursement for items purchased for the Main Street Cares Program, and for supplies for personal protection equipment, cleaning and disinfecting, and for Borough police officers, etc. The Borough applied for \$102,115.48 in reimbursements and was awarded \$100,000.

### **Special Presentation – GARMA New Year's Eve Plans**

**Jennie Dillon, Vice President GARMA** said that the New Year's Eve Fireworks Celebration normally held on Lincoln Square will not take place this year due to the Pandemic. She said that they are seeking other locations to avoid large gatherings in downtown Gettysburg. The Gettysburg Area Recreation Authority has denied the request to have the fireworks at the Recreation Park and asked Borough Council if they could overrule GARA since the Borough owns the park.

**President Schindel** who serves on the GARA Board said that they discussed the fireworks at their recent meeting, and they were not interested in hosting. He noted that GARA did have fireworks for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July without any major issues, and that the only difference now would be the weather. Schindel feels that the park would be an ideal venue for the New Year's Eve fireworks with plenty of space for social distancing, but due to the cold weather many people would probably stay in their cars during the fireworks. He pointed out that there would be no costs for the fireworks because ACNB Bank sponsors them.

After a brief discussion, Council members felt that they did not want to override GARA's decision to not host the fireworks. Manager Gable noted that GARA holds a lease which gives them the right to manage the park, but Council could express their wishes to GARA. It was suggested to contact Gettysburg College to see if they would be interested in launching the fireworks similar to the ones during Alumni Weekend each year. President Schindel will contact the Gettysburg College to see if they would be interested.

**Kathy Gilbert, President, GARMA** thanked Council for their consideration.

There were no public comments.

## **New Business**

### **Permanent Tent Structures UCC Requirements**

**Planning Director Marshall** said that with the oncoming winter weather it has prompted an increase in tent inspections for the safety of local businesses. She said that the rumors of a “tent tax” are untrue, and that the Borough has waived some fees, although an inspection fee charged by the Pennsylvania Municipal Code Alliance (PMCA) remains in place. The Borough contracts with PMCA for code enforcement services.

**Clem Malot, PMCA** explained that tent inspections fall under the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code (UCC) and that tents pose a life-safety concern. Some of the issues include snow and wind that could collapse a structure, inadequate extension cords or other electrical hazards, heating units that may pose fire or air-quality hazards, and safe entrance and exit conditions to accommodate people with mobility limitations. He noted that a recent inspection the fee \$277, which was far from the rumored \$1,000 or more. Mr. Malot noted that there are currently five tents in the Borough that have not applied for permits, but that some of those are being taken down.

**Jennie Dillon, Manager, Gettysburg Rental Center, 720 York Road**, said that winter weather does pose safety problems for tents, noting that two inches of snow can cause a tent to collapse. She said that her company normally takes tents down at the end of October but left them up longer to help struggling business. Only one tent remains in Gettysburg that will be removed by the end of November.

**Wade Leedy, of Fourscore Beer Co., 603 South Washington Street and Yianni Barakos of the Mason Dixon Distillery, 331 E. Water Street** expressed their concerns about the extra costs to businesses that are struggling due to the pandemic. Mr. Barakos thanked Council for waiving fees and suggested that PMCA consider waiving some of their fees. Mr. Leedy asked why it took officials several months before instituting these inspections.

**Councilman Heyser** responded that when the pandemic began the Borough reduced Code Enforcement to help businesses that were struggling. He said that tents are structures, and they must be inspected.

## **Old Business**

### **PBS 2017-4 Sign Ordinance**

**Councilman Heyser** gave a brief history of the Sign Ordinance amendments that have been undergoing review since 2017, and that plans are to finalize the updates to the ordinance next year to include discussions on topics related to murals, banners, electronic signs, placement of folding sandwich-board signs on sidewalks, painting signs directly on buildings, and off-premises sign directing people to businesses located in alleys.

## **Open Discussion on Status/Prioritization of Tabled Items for 2021**

**Manager Gable** asked Council if there were any items on the list that should be removed for next year. He noted that the police department is receiving a donation for the body cameras in the near future and that Council will need to approve a policy.

Council members agreed not to remove any items on the list, and to address items that staff has already pushed closest to completion. These items include the sidewalk, sign, subdivision and land development, and short term rentals. Councilman Heyser also suggested a review of the fire safety regulations.

## **Council Comments**

**Councilman Moon** reported that he and Councilwoman Butterfield will resume the Human Resources Committee ,and that they will draft a policy to have better communications among Council and staff members.

There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara L. Stull  
Borough Secretary