

BOROUGH OF GETTYSBURG
59 EAST HIGH STREET, GETTYSBURG, PA 17325
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
AUGUST 26, 2019

Vice President Jacob Schindel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the following Councilors present: Mr. Wesley Heyser, Mr. Christopher Berger, Mr. John Lawver and Mrs. Judith Butterfield. President Susan Naugle and Ms. Patricia Lawson were absent. Staff present included: Mayor Theodore Streeter; Borough Solicitor Harold Eastman, Puhl Eastman & Thrasher; Borough Manager Charles Gable; Borough Secretary Sara Stull; Interim Parking Manager Rebecca Fissel; Public Works Director Robert Harbaugh, and Chad Clabaugh, Borough Engineer, C. S. Davidson, Inc.

Others present include: Jackie Dwyer, Executive Director, Gettysburg Area Recreation Authority (GARA); Kathy Gilbert, President, Gettysburg Area Retail Merchants Association (GARMA); Sue Cipperly, 314 North Stratton Street; Pat Verderosa, 265 Victor Street; James Greenelich filming for *Community Media-ACCTV*; and Jim Hale representing the *Gettysburg Times*.

Announcements

Vice President Jacob Schindel announced that an executive session of the Borough Council was conducted immediately following the adjournment of the August 12, 2019 monthly general business meeting consistent with section 708(a)(1), section 708(a)(3), section 708(a)(4) and section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act.

Vice President Jacob Schindel announced an executive session of the Borough Council will be conducted immediately following the adjournment of this evening's work session consistent with section 708(a)(1), section 708(a)(4) and section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act for the following purposes: (1) to discuss matters involving the employment, the termination or resignation of employment, the terms and conditions of employment of employees, prospective employees and/or former employees of the Borough; (2) to discuss information in connection with litigation filed in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania to Docket No. 1:19-cv-01412 captioned Linda Atiyeh, et al., Plaintiffs v. Borough of Gettysburg, et al., Defendants; and (3) to review and discuss 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)

Sue Cipperly, 314 North Stratton Street, expressed her concerns regarding parking meter changes and encouraged Council to promote the parking garage.

Special Presentation

Jackie Dwyer, Executive Director, GARA presented Council with a presentation on the Recreation Park Status Report. Topics included a brief overview of GARA, Rec Park usage, costs associated with GARA, current issues, facts, figures and solutions to these issues. She said that with the infrastructure maintenance and repair needed they will need help to cover the approximately \$360,000 cost. Ms. Dwyer said that some of these unexpected costs include the north parking lot, new plumbing, mower, youth activity and community center. She suggested implementing a Capital Improvement Plan to assist in funding these needs.

Ms. Dwyer pointed out that GARA basically breaks even each year with their annual operating budget. She said that the Borough and Cumberland are the primary funders, and requests they increase their annual contributions from \$66,000 each to \$90,000 each. Councilman Schindel noted that Mt. Joy and Freedom Townships make occasional donations to GARA.

Councilman Heyser said that he would support a Capital Improvement Plan. Vice President Schindel, who also serves on the GARA Board, said that the infrastructure was in place when GARA was formed. He pointed out that if GARA disappears the Rec Park would fall back on the Borough to maintain. He said that this would drastically affect the Borough budget.

Manager Gable said that an estimated 85,000 people use the park annually, versus the county population of approximately 102,000. He said that Council should begin “political conversations” with other entities to discuss a “county-wide funding pool” for the Rec Park.

New Business

GARMA Request – Three-Hour Parking Limit For Short-Term Meters

Manager Gable explained that complaints have been received regarding the two-hour parking, stating that there isn’t enough time to eat and shop downtown. GARMA had originally requested the two-hour parking, which is what it is now; but has submitted a request for Council to consider changing it to three-hour parking.

Kathy Gilbert, President of GARMA said that downtown businesses often hear complaints about how two-hour parking is not enough time to shop and have dinner. She noted that GARMA members have been talking about this issue for approximately a year.

Some Council members said that they also hear these complaints, and would recommend changing to three-hour parking meters. Interim Parking Manager Rebecca Fissel said that a three-hour parking limit would be feasible.

GARMA MOU

Manager Gable presented Council with a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Borough and GARMA, noting that the changes are for next year. The current agreement expires December 31, 2019.

Council members discussed changing the downtown holiday free parking to all day Monday through Friday, and pay as usual on Saturday and Sunday. Currently parking is free each day from Noon until 8:00 PM in designated areas. Kathy Gilbert said that she will discuss with GARMA Board and inform Council of their thoughts.

Councilman Schindel suggested that Council consider seasonal parking rates. Manager Gable recommended that Council make a decision to include all parking changes as we begin the 2020 budget preparation.

Kathy Gilbert said that GARMA ordered lights for the four trees in the quadrants on Lincoln Square. She said that they plan to place the lights on the trees prior to the PML Conference in October. The lights would be lit for special occasions and for First Friday's throughout the year.

After Council discussion regarding the electricity for the trees, they agreed to pay the electricity costs for them. The outlets are already connected to the street lights and it would be costly to add meter boxes for each tree.

Kathy Gilbert mentioned that GARMA will begin managing the Antique Market next year. She said that changes may be made to include specialty craft makers, such as wood carvers, glass blowing etc. Ms. Gilbert pointed out that the antique vendors were down 12% due to retirements and deaths of some long-time vendors.

Council members asked GARMA to consider street closures during the Antique Market held twice-yearly.

PML Voting Delegate/Alternate

Council members recommended placing a motion on the upcoming Council agenda to appoint President Susan Naugle as the voting delegate and Councilwoman Patricia Lawson as the alternate.

PBS 2019-10 Food Trucks

Interim Parking Manager Rebecca Fissel said that due to current changes in the ordinance, food trucks are not permitted to have meters bagged. She suggested that Council consider enacting a Food Truck Ordinance. She provided sample ordinances from other municipalities for Council review.

Councilman Heyser suggested that food vendors be permitted to purchase a LPP Parking Permit.

Council members asked that this item remain on the work session agenda for further discussion.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned to an executive session at 8:20 PM. Vice President Schindel dismissed the meeting at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara L. Stull
Borough Secretary