

BOROUGH OF GETTYSBURG
59 EAST HIGH STREET, GETTYSBURG, PA 17325
COUNCIL SPECIAL WORK SESSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 5, 2016

President Robert Krummerich called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the following Councilors present: Vice President Scot Pitzer, Mrs. Susan Naugle, Mr. Graham Weaver, Mr. Jacob Schindel, Mr. Wesley Heyser and Mrs. AmyBeth Hodges. Staff present included: Manager Charles Gable, Borough Secretary Sara Stull, Sergeant Harald Pruy, Finance Director Nicolette James, Planning Director Becky LaBarre, Public Works Director Dan Hilliard and Parking Supervisor Karen Mesher.

Others present include: Deb Adamik, President, Main Street Gettysburg; Anne Letendre, Main Street Gettysburg; Dave Sites, Member Main Street Gettysburg Board; Darlene Brown, Executive Director, PA Interfaith Community Programs, Inc. (PICPI), 40 East High Street; Tammy Myers, Gettysburg Heritage Center, 297 Steinwehr Avenue; Stan Clark, 915 Fairview Avenue; Steve Hemler, 535 York Street; Bob Defayette, 100 King Street; Charles Strauss, 38 West Middle Street; Sue Cipperly, 314 North Stratton Street; Rodger Goodacre, 105 East Broadway; Caroline Smith, 34 East Lincoln Avenue; Ron Frenette, 811 Johns Avenue. Representing the press was Jim Hale of the *Gettysburg Times*.

President Krummerich announced that the Special Work Session meeting was duly advertised for the purpose of hearing public comment regarding the proposed 2017 Budget.

Public Comment:

Bob Defayette, 100 King Street, expressed his disappointment with the budget material that was posted on the Borough Website. He said that the bottom-line numbers were there, but not how they were arrived at. Mr. Defayette said that he volunteers in the police department, and said that the administration office is in need of help. He said that it is “atrocious” that the Chief must fill in answering the phones and handling the counter when the police secretary is off work.

Manager Gable reported that Council members received all the details needed to make an informed decision. He said that staff “ran out of time” to create a more detailed budget posting for the Website due to the numerous Right-to-Know Requests that were received. President Krummerich pointed out that the RTK law requires a response within five days, but a thirty-day extension can be implemented if needed to complete the request. President Krummerich also responded to the police clerical position, stating that Council must balance the needs against the desire not to increase taxes.

Councilman Weaver said that staff is under pressure to respond to all the RTK requests, pointing out the two filed recently by *Gettysburg Times* Publisher, Harry Hartman and local business owner Steve Hemler. He said that they are requesting from

all Borough employees and Council members any correspondence or emails that mention their names or business.

Stan Clark, 915 Fairview Avenue, addressed Council in regards to the RTK request, and President Krummerich ruled him out of order stating that the meeting was for the purpose of budget discussion. Mr. Clark responded by saying that additional RTK requests would follow.

Charles Strauss, 38 West Middle Street, thanked Council and staff for all the work that was put in to preparing the budget. He asked how the parking revenues were forecast. Manager Gable said that projections included multiplying the current number of tickets by the proposed fine increase. He pointed out that staff is not confident with that number and said that staff did not recommend the fine increase. Charles Strauss asked if Council is planning for the future and the MS4 requirements. Manager Gable responded yes that this is addressed in the Capital Improvement Plans.

Sue Cipperly, 314 North Stratton, asked where the Pillow Tax and non-profit organizations are listed in the budget. Manager Gable explained what departments they are listed in.

Steve Hemler, 535 York Street, suggests Council increase parking enforcement on Lincoln Square and nearby blocks to increase revenue. Manager Gable responded that a “holistic” study of the Borough’s parking situation is planned for next year.

Dave Sites, addressed Council about the need to increase revenue by creating an economic plan and by making changes in zoning. He pointed out that the former REDDI property along Stratton Street is still not developed. Mr. Sites said that the process of granting tax incentives to develop the property is necessary to bring businesses downtown. He asked Council to consider the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA). Mr. Sites also stressed the need to improve collection of various taxes including the ‘Pillow Tax’ for overnight lodging. Mr. Sites said that Council should lobby the state legislators for a larger share of this tax.

President Krummerich adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara L. Stull
Borough Secretary