

SHIPPENSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

July 3, 2018

6:00 p.m.

Present at the Council Meeting: Andrea Lage
Bruce Hockersmith
Sandra Mailey
John Alosi
Mitchell Burrows
Kathy Coy, Mayor
Samuel Wiser, Solicitor

THE MAYOR'S MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE COUNCIL

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sherry Gipe, a pharmacist at Robert T. Henry Pharmacy and representing Thomas Johnson who is the owner of the business, stated that they would like to put a sign out in front of the store which would be a self-standing sign approximately 5 ft. tall which would advertise their curbside service. Ms. Gipe explained that they have quite a few people who are not able to get into their building with the stairs along with some that are in wheelchairs. Councilperson Burrows asked if they would be taking the sign in at night? Ms. Gipe stated yes. Solicitor Wiser stated that the Zoning Officer would have to make that decision. President Lage asked Ms. Gipe if she has spoken to Donna Sommerville, the Zoning Officer? Ms. Gipe stated that she did send her a notice of what they would like to do along with some photos and location. President Lage explained that Donna would be their first contact and if it is not a permitted use it would have to go to the Zoning Hearing Board for a variance.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 19, 2018, MEETING

Councilperson Bruce Hockersmith moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2018, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Sandra Mailey. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 18-006; AUTHORIZING PLACEMENT OF CERTAIN BANNERS AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS IN THE BOROUGH

President Lage explained that these are street banners that have been proposed by the Chamber and this resolution that sets out the expectations related to those banners. Bruce Hockersmith moved to approve Resolution 18-006. Motion seconded by Sandra Mailey. Councilperson

Mailey stated that Kevin has made note that we might need to change the size of the banner and wondered if that was because they would overwhelm the banners that are already in existence? Mitchell Burrows stated that he thought as presented by Scott Brown they would be the identical size to the banners that are already up which is 6 ft. and the sample banner that went up is 8 ft. and Mr. Brown said that they were going to have them made, so he felt they could stipulate that they must be 6 ft. and then they won't have a problem. Manager Epley stated that part of the problem is the location of the wires on the pole and they may not be able to install them in certain locations because of that. Councilperson Hockersmith stated that they also have to be 13 ft. above the cart way and below the overhead wires. President Lage stated that with the size stipulation added to not exceed 6 ft. in height is that a friendly length? Council members were in agreement with the 6 ft. sizing so the amendment was to include a clause that restricts the size to match the present banners which they believe is not to exceed 6 ft. in the vertical. Motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION OF SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT FORT STREET AND SOUTH EARL STREET

President Lage reported that she put together a few photos to refresh their memories of what the current conditions are at Fort and Earl Street and stated that the Rail Trail has done an amazing job of creating improvements. She went on to state that one of the problems is that it goes right into that alleyway that is Fort Street and it is one way going east and as there are more functions and more people trying to cross into downtown it seems that this area needs to be safer. President Lage explained that there is a grant available that is due by July 31st that is a multimodal grant that for this year only has a no match requirement but you have to have a well thought out concept design. She went on to report that to apply for that grant they would need to put in some money from our own coffers and the rough estimate from Bill Kick for the conceptual design that would be required would cost about \$2,500 for HRG to put together for them so they could submit it with our grant. President Lage stated that what she is proposing is that this grant in particular is very political and our chances of getting it are on the very slim side but with that said if they can get support from Senator Alloway and the University to lobby for us for this it would be helpful. She went on to state that the grants range from the lowest being \$100,000 and the highest being \$3,000,000.00 and one of the reasons to move forward and try to put this in is that while we might have a small chance it is not a lot of money in the scheme of things so if they have a couple of larger grants that come in they might have enough left over or smaller projects. The President went on to state that Council needs to decide whether this is an issue to create safe crossings at this location and one that they are going to need to address anyway so any money they put up front now will not be wasted and will actually go towards other submissions for other grants in the future. President Lage further stated that even if this grant didn't come through they have a good argument that it is a worthy expenditure and that in looking at this they are looking at both pedestrians and bikers. She went on to explain that there is actually two things coming in being the Rail Trail and then a sidewalk from the University so one part of the submission for the grant would be the actual construction of a sidewalk that would connect to the existing sidewalk which may also need to be redone a bit. President Lage further reported that the parcel of land that we all think of as the triangle we thought was owned by the railroad but have since found that it is part of the Rail Trail system and what they would like to do is get a grant and partner with them to put the sidewalk in. The

President explained that it is going to require quite a bit of design and engineering because it is on a slope, there are a few stormwater outlets and various utility poles and wires so they will have to figure out where best to place the sidewalk so it is a major project. Mayor Coy stated that as a resident of that street and seeing the students walking down along that road she feels it will be a very welcome addition to the town because it is not safe as it currently exists. President Lage stated that the other part is that the Rail Trail is not really connected yet so if you don't know town you don't think about heading into town so if they can make it more visually more connected and another part of the proposal is the signage to indicate what you can find in various directions which would help with tourists. She also stated that the other part is getting across Earl Street which is challenging at the moment with one side having no infrastructure and the other side having inaccessible ramps coming up and utility poles. President Lage reported that in looking at it they were trying to figure out how best to approach the construction of this intersection both for long term use as well as in the short term and what they might be able to do if the grant doesn't come through but with less expense to at least get it safe. She further explained that Fort Street on the other side of Earl is two lanes and the alleyway is one so one of the things they were trying to figure out is because the alley is one way and how to get the bikes across and she thinks that they can construct a crosswalk that separates bicyclists from pedestrians. The President stated that even though they can direct the crossing for the bikes from the bike path that is coming off of the Rail Trail, once you cross the road into the right lane of traffic on Fort Street it would then make sense to go with your bike path from Fort Street and indicating that it is marked route and to turn left onto Seneca and then right onto Burd Street and then having a station in the borough parking lot that facilitates people that want to ride and park their bikes and then enjoy the downtown. President Lage stated that they would also look into putting in the flashing pedestrian lights to warn bikers that someone wants to cross. Councilperson Hockersmith stated that looking out North Earl Street to the triangle that should be sidewalk because it is in the Borough. Councilperson Burrows stated that the feasibility study for the Rail Trail to extend to the west side of town would actually dog leg parallel to Earl Street up that triangle before it would cross over opposite of Old Main Drive. He went on to state that it would, with some other things happening down the road and with a larger concept, open up options allowing you to go to the west side of town or to go directly into downtown. President Lage stated that one of the other things she would like Council to consider are sharrows which are indications to cyclists and drivers that these roads are meant to be shared and one of the things they are also looking at is the possibility over time to actually put in bike lanes and they need to look into what the reality of that means and what kind of space and permits you need. She went on to state that in the group she is working in they thought about trying to put in designated bike lanes just from Fort Street to Burd Street on Earl and in talking with Bill Kick this morning he suggested that PennDot may not be very excited to have bike lanes that don't really go anywhere yet and we are not ready to create an extensive network. President Lage stated that in the meantime these sharrows are things that we can put on our streets. She went on to review the bigger plan for the bike program such as covered bike parking, etc. and stated that there is a possibility that the University bike share program could be extended into the community. Councilperson Burrows stated that this is all part of the steps and ground work for what the revitalization group called the Bicycle Friendly Shippensburg initiative and this is happening on campus as well with the idea eventually being to apply for Bicycle Friendly designation from the American Wheelmen Association and to have Shippensburg be represented as a bicycle friendly

community and to have Shippensburg University to be represented as a bicycle friendly university. Mitchell went on to report that the Rail Trail people are working on connecting with Carlisle and Dickenson College which are both designated as bicycle friendly communities and we would be one of the first towns and universities that are shared by a Rail Trail which could put ourselves on the map in the bicycling world in a big way. President Lage stated that if this grant doesn't come through there are other pots of money that aren't quite as attractive because they are not as large of a grant and they do not have the non-match but this would come up again so we could always go forward in another year with a match and some of the CDBG funds could be used as well. The President went on to state that if they like this idea and if they are interested in it they can think about how to phase it both for approvals to get going on this July 31st deadline and if that doesn't happen they can go at a bit slower pace and think about how to pull monies together and budget for parts of this as well. Councilperson Hockersmith asked what portion of this may be in Shippensburg Township? President Lage stated that none of it would be in the township. Mayor Coy stated that if they go forward with the bike paths there are a lot of north to south alleyways that would be ideal to use as designated walkways and bikeways and she would like to encourage that as well.

Councilperson Bruce Hockersmith moved to proceed with the developmental concept and related safety matters relative to the Rail Trail and any further development beyond that. Solicitor Wisner asked if it includes the authorization to come back at the next meeting with a resolution to apply for the funds? Councilperson Hockersmith stated yes. Solicitor Wisner stated that a resolution is required and they can either do an oral resolution which they confirm in writing or bring it back at the next meeting, whichever is easier. Council was in agreement to do it now. Manager Epley stated that it would be resolution 18-007. Motion seconded by Sandra Mailey. President Lage stated that there is a motion to authorize the expenditure of money for the concept design and the approval of an oral resolution that will be confirmed in writing to apply for the multimodal transportation fund grant. Motion carried 5-0. President Lage asked as an addendum to that, that Mitchell and herself were wondering if they could have Council approval to continue to work on a long range plan to bring back to Council for some of the biking improvements such as bike paths and pedestrian ways? Council was agreeable to the request.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilperson Hockersmith stated that in their packets they should have received an article on the tale of two communities and he would like Council to review it and look at some of the possibilities that you can have for transforming infrastructure through creative financing. He further stated that he saw it and thought that this was something that they may be able to find helpful to enhance our ability to do jobs without having to raise taxes. Bruce stated that this morning when he was on the way to a meeting at the university he turned right off of Fayette Street onto Burd Street and he saw two borough

employees standing in the middle of the street with a cover off of a manhole looking into the manhole. When he came back from the meeting he came back to the office to see what was going on and they were setting up to video the sewer lines but his concern was that other than them having their yellow jackets on there were no vehicles sitting there with the light flashing or anything to notify you that there was road work ahead. Bruce stated that with all of the distractions that drivers have today if they are going to work on a street they should have something set up to properly notify drivers because he doesn't want to lose any of our employees. Councilperson Hockersmith stated that he has seen this on other occasions and wondered if we have an employee safety committee? Manager Epley stated yes. Bruce asked to remind the employees that when they are working on a street and there is moving vehicle traffic that it be properly identified. Manager Epley stated that he did address it with all of his managers this afternoon via email and reminded them that safety has to be paramount and regardless of the situation they cannot be complacent. He further reported that all managers acknowledged that it will be addressed with all of their personnel. Councilperson Hockersmith also stated that he would like the Long Range Planning Committee to plan for the September program with the Chamber Business Breakfast that has just started this year. He stated that it will be on Tuesday morning in the fall and they get together with the businesses and explain some of the things that are happening through the long range planning such as LERTA, signage, etc. Bruce also asked what we do with weeds other than spraying? Manager Epley stated that spraying is all we normally do and there is really no money in the budget to address it. He went on to state that we have talked about this on several occasions and Kevin does the best with what he has got but we are lacking in being able to keep up with all of the weeds. The Manager stated that if there is an opportunity to pull we do it and last year Kevin was able to manage in his budget to have a onetime spraying. Bruce asked if we are spraying this year? Manager Epley stated that he has not spoken to Kevin and he is currently away right now but he can find out. Councilperson Hockersmith stated that there are some places that are bad and with us requiring property owners to do it we should be keeping up with our own. He also stated that he has also noticed that on East King Street from Walnut Bottom Road to Earl Street we have traffic back up frequently and he is unsure if it is a result of the new econ traffic program that we put in several years ago but we do have traffic backing up a considerable distance. Bruce stated that he has been asking Senator Alloway for a traffic study for the past 4 or 5 years through this area. He went on to state that South Fayette Street is also backing up past Orange Street and feels that we have a total change in traffic pattern coming off of the Interstate coming in to town with the tractor trailers and we may need to also look at that intersection as well. Bruce further stated that on East King Street by Member's 1st there is an issue when someone is trying to turn into the bank and thought that they may have to eliminate parking on the right hand side and put a right lane straight through there and put a left turn lane at the bank.

Councilperson Alosi stated that he does have a question regarding the parking on Orange Street in the 100 block. He stated that there was a request from one of the residents about a safety issue as far as eliminating a parking spot. Manager Epley stated that, that is one thing that is part of his report and that he plans to have two recommendations that the Traffic Committee is prepared to make and one of those is the one that John just mentioned and they will be on the agenda for the next meeting.


Mayor Coy stated that they are setting up a date to review and set up the interviews for Police Chief and they have it down to 5 applicants to interview. Councilperson Hockersmith asked if the job description includes a working Chief? Mayor Coy stated yes. President Lage asked to have Council provided with the draft of the job description so that they can read it and if they have anything that they would like to respond to it can be adjusted before they go too much further and so they have an approved final version before the offer to hire. Solicitor Wiser stated that with the offer they would attach the final job description.

Manager Epley reported that he has two things the one being what Councilperson Alosi mentioned and he will have two recommendations to make to Council to move forward on a few of those items for parking and also he is proud to say that we have a new licensed Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. He stated that Mark Ryder has been going to school for approximately a year and he was notified yesterday that Mark passed all of his tests and in the next 30-60 days all of his certifications and paperwork will come through. Manager Epley stated that Mark is a great guy and good employee and very happy that we have another licensed operator in the Borough. President Lage asked that it be acknowledged to Mr. Ryder from Council that they are very appreciative of his efforts.

President Lage stated that we received a letter from Senator Toomey's office and also a letter from Governor Wolf regarding Council's submission about guns and acknowledging that we do need to do something and to work together to find sensible solutions. Bruce stated that the Long Range Planning Committee has developed a slogan which is "Working to Make Shippensburg What You Want It To Be". He stated that we are serious about it and we are set to grow and we are going to grow and how we grow depends on how much fertilizer we put into the mix.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Mitchell Burrows moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.



Secretary