

ELIZABETHTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING
February 4, 2021
Minutes

The regular meeting of Elizabethtown Borough Council was held on Thursday, February 4, 2021. For everyone's safety, the Borough Council meeting was held with the absolute minimum number of individuals gathered in person, employing both mandatory masks and maximum physical distancing measures. In person participants included Tom Shaud, Phil Clark, J. Marc Hershey, Borough Manager Rebecca S. Denlinger, Police Chief Ed Cunningham and Mayor Mummert. The remaining members of Borough Council including J. Neil Ketchum Jr., Jeff McCloud, Bill Troutman as well as staff members Assistant Borough Manager Ann Roda and Public Works Director Jeff Kinsey joined the meeting remotely using Zoom.

President Hershey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Administration

1. Public Works Director Jeff Kinsey introduced Brian Cooley of D.C. Gohn Associates, Inc. for a presentation on the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan, Lot Add-On and Subdivision Plan. Mr. Kinsey noted that Borough Council held a Conditional Use Hearing related to this project on October 15, 2020. Two applications were before the Zoning Hearing Board and both were approved.

Brian Cooley provided a general overview of the project, approvals received from the ZHB, and the waivers being requested. In response to a question from President Hershey, Mr. Cooley affirmed that the project was a true add on to the existing location. Mr. Cooley presented the approach to address stormwater management on the property. He also provided information on the work being done on the various agreements needed to proceed in addition to the approvals granted by Elizabethtown Area Water Authority for water service, as well as the NPDES permit approval and Conservation District approval for the E&S plan and Fire Department sign off on emergency access to the site.

Councilmember Ketchum asked for clarification on the waiver requested for curb and sidewalks. Mr. Cooley responded that the applicant is seeking a waiver on curbing along Cherry Street specifically in the area of the Bower's Writers House where the curbing currently ends. The Conditional Use decision states that sidewalk is to be installed within six months of Borough notification. Ketchum voiced concerns about ending up with a situation where it is interpreted that the applicant is now seeking a waiver and therefore does not have to comply with the conditions of the Conditional Use decision. President Hershey noted the language is for a deferral not a waiver. He asked for notes to the plan to reference the language from the Conditional Use Hearing. Cooley confirmed that he would verify the language and plan notes.

Ketchum asked if there was any discussion with the College and the plans for their connection points and whether that was the extent of the pathway plans and improvements that they are installing in the area of the Bower's Writers House. Cooley stated that he has not talked with the College. President Hershey asked for staff to follow up and that if the Borough is going to ask the Church to install sidewalk, it would make sense for the college to complete that connection. Councilmember McCloud asked about impervious coverage for the project to which Cooley stated the impervious coverage is less.

2. Karen Eberly, Senior Program Coordinator with GEARS, provided an overview of the 2021 Summer Playground Program and 2021 Camp Ladybug. She stated that GEARS would like to begin hiring staff for each program. GEARS would like to ensure there are no questions of concerns with the activities being held in Area 5 and by Fun Fort of Community Park. President Hershey asked about cleaning and COVID-19 procedures. Eberly responded that as part of their COVID-19 plan, staff would clean before, during and after each camp day and tables are covered. A follow-up question was asked concerning liability and releases. Eberly responded that GEARS has a statement on releasing from liability that is signed by participants. Councilmember Ketchum asked if that statement included the Borough to which Eberly responded that it did not. President Hershey directed staff to work with the Solicitor to determine what language may be needed between GEARS and the borough on releasing from liability.

Police Department

1. Chief Cunningham did not have anything to report to Borough Council for EPD. He added that he appreciated that residents listened to the snow emergency declaration and only two vehicles had to be removed.

Mayor Mummert was recognized, by President Hershey and Borough Council, for his 15 years of service to Elizabethtown Borough.

President Hershey announced that Borough Council will hold an executive session on February 10, 2021 related to a Police Personnel Matter.

After a motion by Clark, seconded by Shaud, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca S. Denlinger
Borough Manager