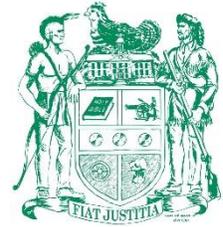


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**BOROUGH OF CARLISLE  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
July 9, 2020**

This meeting was held via Zoom due to the restrictions of social distancing put in place due to Covid-19.

Mayor Scott called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Councilor Landis led the Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

Council members present: Councilors Crampsie, Fulham-Winston, Hicks, Landis, Stuby, Deputy Mayor Shultz and Mayor Scott. Also present were: Borough Manager Armstrong, Assistant Borough Manager Snyder, Police Chief Landis, Finance Director Juday, Water Resources Director Malarich, Community Development Manager Skelly, Parks & Recreation Director Crouse, Fire Chief Snyder, Public Information Coordinator Taylor, Solicitor Brenneman, Dickinson Law School Student Ambassador Speer and Borough Secretary Stone.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS AND VISITORS TO BE HEARD**

Ms. Stephanie Serra, an independent film producer and director out of New York. She stated she would like to make her next movie in Carlisle and use local talent. Ms. Serra hopes this movie is a stepping-stone for the making of more movies.

Mr. Michael Smith, a member of Carlisle Justice for Transparency. He spoke of a recent talk of imposing fines to those not wearing a mask in public. He urged Council to consider alternative methods, noting the resolution proposed tonight is a commitment to helping communities worst impacted by the corona virus and the justice system. He noted if fines are instituted in the Borough, the interactions between police and borough residents will increase. This will increase the chance for negative interaction to occur and give officers a doorway to question resident further regarding other activities. Mr. Smith stated if there were no concerns about infallible and immune to bias this would not be a concern and that corruption can happen in Carlisle.

Mr. Smith spoke of how low-income adults are more at risk of serious illness if contracting the Corona virus. He talk about how fines disproportionately impact those with lower incomes compared to those of higher income. He noted the stated goal of the resolution is to lift up the medical and social needs of the most marginalized. Mr. Smith remarked an example of this would be to provide free masks in public spaces and businesses not institute fines for not wearing masks.

Mayor Scott read a statement submitted by Ms. Deb Cornelius into the minutes regarding illegal use of fireworks. The statement is attached to the minutes.

Ms. Jessica Smith, 126 South West Street, Carlisle Pennsylvania, questioned why the police do not have a staff page with photos of the officers and felt that would be a good step toward transparency. She spoke of the non-compliance of a local restaurant that stayed open against the Governor's orders without consequences from the police. Ms. Smith referred to the Equity Resolution on the Council agenda and remarked that it states it is in support of keeping citizens safe from COVID. She asked how to trust this when the police are now imposing fines on citizens for not wearing facemasks. She criticized the lack content in the resolution, noting there were no specifics, and felt she was left in the dark concerning what the people serving her community were doing.



**C. Attendance Approval:**

1. *Parks and Recreation Assistant Kelsey Najdek to attend the 2020 PRPS Leadership Academy to be held in State College, Pennsylvania on September 23 -24, 2020.*

**D. Community Planning & Smart Growth:**

1. *Borough Council approved an amended Resolution to develop and implement a strategy to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions consistent with U.S. International Paris Accord commitments.*
2. *Borough Council authorized the execution of an intergovernmental certification agreement to maintain/renew the Borough's "Certified Local Government" (CLG) Status, subject to the Borough Solicitor's satisfactory review and approval of said agreement.*

**E. ERCP**

1. *Borough Council reappointed Mr. Robert Unger to a fourth term on the Board of Appeals. Mr. Unger's term shall be retroactive to January 1, 2020 and expire January 31, 2025.*

**F. HARB:**

***The HARB received approval for the following item:***

1. *A request by Kelly Hicks for a Certificate of Appropriateness for 50 North East Street to repoint and repair brick on the front of the home.*
2. *A request by Doug Johnson for a Certificate of Appropriateness for 204 North Hanover Street to install a '15 x '12 vinyl graphic onto existing awning, replacing existing signage and to install additional window graphic onto front facing bay window.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**TABLED, CONTINUED, AND RECURRING ITEMS**

None

**REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**A. Mayor's Report:**

1. Borough Council voted 7-0 to approve a resolution affirming its commitment to equity in the wake of the combined disparate effects of COVID-19 on our community and a long history of police violence against African Americans. (Fulham-Winston/Shultz)

Mayor Scott brought a resolution before Council to affirm a commitment to equity in the wake of combine disparate effects of COVID-19 on our community and the long national history of Police violence against communities of color, particularly African Americans. Over the past few months, the Borough of Carlisle has taken a number of steps to maintain the safety of the community while encouraging responsible public action to communicate concerns with incidents broadcast worldwide in other cities across the nation. This resolution states unequivocally, that the Borough of Carlisle, its elected appointed leaders and staff support and strengthening efforts to promote accountability for individual law enforcement officers and police departments. It supports immediate steps to analyze police department structures,

policies, and budgets that we are committed to centering the community's response and that we pledge to dedicate our resources, platforms, political will and authority to advance these ideals. We are also committed to not using fear that will set a tone that will reject these tendencies. We are also committed to uplifting the medical and social needs of the most marginalized. He asked for an affirmative vote that will demonstrate Council's continued dedication to the health and safety of all our residents.

Deputy Mayor Shultz updated Council on the discussion to hold Town Hall meetings on race relations. He noted a planning group is being developed and the forums will have action items to address the issues being raised by citizens. He also addressed an accusation that a former police officer had a record and found it not be true. He verified the court docket sheet and clarifying that the person's name found in the court documents was not a former police officer.

Councilor Landis remarked that resolutions may sound like empty words, but they are guiding documents to help council frame how all the information is analyzed on a daily basis and in the future. This is continual effort to make changes and a process to continue improvements

Mayor Scott remarked that the resolution was a guiding document for Council. This was Council's attempt to show what they value as Council and it will be backed up by actions.

John, 139 West Street, Carlisle, Pennsylvania clarified that the information that was provided on the former police officer was found in a newspaper article. Deputy Mayor Shultz added the specific DUI charge that was previously mentioned was not a criminal charge against the former police officer as noted.

2. Mayor Scott and Councilor Landis presented a proclamation recognizing the Parks & Recreation staff for their service to the community. Councilor Landis commended the tireless works of all the Parks & Recreation staff to make this place great. Parks and Recreation Director Crouse was thankful for the Parks & Recreation Professionals Day recognition.
3. Borough Council voted 7-0 to endorse sending correspondence to our local legislators requesting their support to repeal or change the 2017 State fireworks statute and furthermore, to include in this correspondence to request an amendment to Senate Bill 932 that would include Boroughs with a population over 15,000. (Scott/Crampsie)

Mayor Scott provided the following statement: Act 43 of 2017 (House Bill 542) repealed the fireworks act of 1939 and left Carlisle and cities like it vulnerable to consumer grade fireworks. These changes were made to increase the state's tax revenues by nearly 10 million dollars per year. Last fiscal year 7 million dollars were collected and more is anticipated to be collected this fiscal year. Under the law, funding for emergency services is cap of two million dollars from this tax. The remainder of the tax goes into the general fund, which is not directly allocated, to the cities in Pennsylvania. We are left with the risk, noise, fire and injury that come with nightly use of these fireworks. Statics show that twenty five percent of firework victims are not the individual setting off the firework. The Borough's dense population, early 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century construction combined with consumer grade fireworks are a recipe for disaster. The state law and Borough ordinance restrict the use of fireworks on public property within 150 feet of an occupied structure. The density of Carlisle leaves few if any places for legal use of fireworks. Since the passing of House Bill 542 there has been an alarming increase of emergency calls for the use of illegal fireworks and not just on July 4. He noted this law is broken. The law needs to be repealed or change to make it more workable and give the municipalities the tools they need for proper enforcement. Our police department will do their very best to respond to the over 156 report that were received last week. He asked for Council's endorsement of a letter to Representative Gleim and State Senator Regan asking them first and foremost, to make

our Borough and all the surrounding communities they serve, safe from hazardous consumer grade fireworks that put neighborhoods in danger and waste police resources.

Councilor Stuby and Fulham-Winston expressed their own concerns and that of citizens regarding noise of the illegal fireworks and the debris that was left on the ground the following day. They agree with the resolution and are in support of the citizens' concerns.

Councilor Campsie thanked Council for the leadership on this issue. He noted we should be highly engaged and not be left out in the legislation's decisions.

## **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

### **A. Community Planning & Smart Growth:**

1. Borough Council voted 7-0 to approve a waiver for the submission of a Preliminary Subdivision Plan for 7-Eleven Inc., located at 1003 S. Hanover Street (226-19) (Crampsie/Stuby)
2. Borough Council voted 7-0 to approve a Final Land Development Plan for 7-Eleven Inc., 1003 S. Hanover St., prepared by Stonefield, dated June 3, 2020, for Carlisle Capital LLC, subject to the applicant's acceptance and satisfactory resolution of the conditions imposed by staff. (Crampsie/Stuby)

### **B. Public Safety:**

1. Borough Council voted 7-0 to approve a special event request by Carlisle Arts Learning Center, through Downtown Carlisle Association, to close a portion of West Pomfret Street from west of the Pomfret Street Parking Garage to 61 West Pomfret Street on Saturday, September 19 at 8:00 a.m. to Sunday, September 20 noon. The Pomfret Street Parking Garage and Pomfret Street Parking Lot will remain open. Request is for the purposes of holding the Annual Carlisle Arts Learning Center Martini Auction fundraising event. (Scott/Hicks)

Approval shall be contingent upon the following:

- Carlisle Arts Learning Center shall submit a COVID-19 plan that is consistent with Governor Wolf and Pa. Department of Health's Orders regarding gathering limitations, social distancing, and any/all other relevant precautionary measures that may be in place at the time of said event. Said plan shall be reviewed and approved by the Carlisle Borough Emergency Management Coordinator and Borough Manager;
- Submission of a valid Certificate of Liability Insurance form naming the Borough of Carlisle as an additional insured;
- The applicant shall reimburse the Borough of Carlisle 100% of the variable and 10% of the fixed costs associated with said event; and,
- The Borough reserves the right to revoke its approval if deemed to be in the best interest of the health of the community or participants and/or future COVID-19 directives require such action.

## **NEW BUSINESS –**

No new business.

## **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS & STAFF**

Councilor Fulham-Winston thanked the residents on B Street and the surrounding area for their patience during the water main replacement. She also thanked Elwood Garden Apartments during a recent water

main break for all the endured and expressed gratitude to the Borough employees for repairing the break in the extreme heat.

Deputy Mayor Shultz spoke again of the upcoming forums and noted the Borough will collaborate with Hope Station in the planning group and will have collective efforts. He noted it cannot be just words, we need to take action and it is not just a law enforcement issue that we are facing. Racial bias is a cultural issue that has been around for many years. Deputy Mayor Shultz would like everyone to keep the root causes and the root of the impacts in mind and not focus on any one component of racial bias.

Councilor Hicks noted the Borough's budget reflects our values and priorities. In addition, we care about community needs by supporting the United Way Carlisle Area Emergency Relief Fund by allocating \$72,000 and helping to raise \$112,000 in monies that will directly address health related needs to the most needed in the community. He stated that he attended the PML Virtual Sustainability Conference where discussion was held regarding local action on climate change and Social Equity. Also discussed was how the army corps of engineers is postured to help local governments with climate adaptation strategies. The conference recognized Carlisle for being a leading municipality taking action on climate change. Councilor Hicks invited residents to join the Climate Action Commission to get involved in the process.

Councilor Landis acknowledge the Cumberland County Historical Society on the undertaking to identify those buried in the Lincoln Cemetery and placing ribbons on the fence. She encouraged residents to help keep the Borough clean by doing small actions to improve the Borough.

Councilor Crampsie thanked Borough staff for all the work that has been done throughout COVID and the work they continue to do. He thanked the public for their valuable comments and would like to see a working partnership with the residents to find solutions. He noted the resolution was a starting point but asked residents to hold Council accountable.

Student Ambassador Speer sent his greetings from Alaska. He noted the law school plans to have on campus instruction during the upcoming fall semester. Mr. Speer explained the faculty passed a resolution where they resolved to do the work necessary for policy changes to dismantle structural systems of oppression that perpetuate racial iniquities on our society. As a core part of the educational mission of the institution, the school will require all freshmen to complete a class entitled "Race and the Law".

Borough Manager Armstrong thanked Borough Council endorsing the Parks & Recreation proclamation. She applauded the positive attitudes of the Parks & Recreation staff and thanked them for the public service work they preform daily.

Chief Landis remarked that during his three-year tenure as police chief he has found the Carlisle Police Department to be hardworking and professional. He invited all those interested in the police department to a police car ride along, once COVID has ended. He thanked the Mayor, Borough Council and the Borough Manager for their oversight.

Public Works Director Crouse was thankful for the kind words expressed for the Parks & Recreation staff. She noted the Parks & Recreation staff would be transitioning back to the community center and preparing for the public. She remarked that the summer programs and leagues have started getting back on track. Ms. Crouse remarked that trash is being dumped at Cave Hill and that they are working on keeping track of the illegal dumping.

Mayor Scott announce that Council would convene an executive session following the meeting to discuss real estate and pending litigation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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Timothy A. Scott  
Mayor

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Joyce E. Stone  
Borough Secretary

Statement read into the July 9, 2020 Council meeting minutes:

My name is Debra Cornelius and I live at 518 Mooreland Avenue adjacent to the Mooreland tennis courts and field. I'm sure that you have gotten many complaints about what occurred in the Borough on July 4th. At Mooreland field the fireworks began around 8pm and lasted intermittently until midnight. My house is well within the 150 foot safety zone that the ordinance protects. As we were told to do when we neighbors complained about fireworks to Council before, I phoned the police. When no one showed up I phoned the police again. I'm sure that they were overwhelmed with calls. While this year was especially bad, we have a continuous problem with explosives at Mooreland field for days surrounding many holidays, especially Labor Day, New Year's Eve, and July 4th. This endangers Mooreland Elementary School, my house and my yard, and my neighbors. In addition, the nuisance the noise makes terrifies our neighborhood dogs. People were not deterred by all of the PSAs sent out on social media. They actually bring lawn chairs to the field and set them up in rows! If the Borough cannot enforce the state and local ordinance with police or fire marshalls, can we at least have temporary large signs put up at the entrance and in the middle of the field during these holidays that clearly prohibit the discharge of fireworks? That way when we neighbors go over to complain to those discharging the fireworks we have something clearly posted to support us. Also I request that the Borough lends its support to any legislative efforts to prohibit Class C fireworks in Pennsylvania. Any other relief that you can think of would be welcome. Thank you and I appreciate your service to the community.

Debra Cornelius