

The regular monthly meeting of the Gordon Borough Council was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2015. The meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building and Council President Michael Rader was presiding. Council persons present: Michael Rader, Valerie Stitzer, Richard Babb, Jason Quick and Shannon Dumboski. Council absent: Councilmen Barry Brecker and Jeffrey Hoffman. Also present at this meeting: Mayor George Brocious, Borough Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Esq., Borough Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Paul Snyder, Assistant Linda Gately; and Citizens Ramon Soto, Leo Rauber, Carol Fetterolf Carduff and John Denchak.

Motion by Stitzer that borough council accept the minutes from the last meeting July 14, 2015, as they were presented in written form by the secretary-treasurer. Council President Michael Rader asked if council had any objections. The motion was carried unanimously upon voice vote.

Motion by Stitzer that borough council accept the General Account financial report and Motor License Fund report as these reports were written and read by the secretary-treasurer. The motion was carried unanimously upon voice vote.

Motion by Quick that borough council accept the Sewage Revenue Account financial report, the Sewage Operations & Maintenance Account financial report, and the and the Sewage Reserve Account financial report as these reports were written and read by Secretary-Treasurer Paul Snyder. The motion was carried unanimously upon voice vote. Snyder indicated the \$7870.⁵⁸ Miners Bank Sewage Reserve Account CD proceeds at maturity were put into the Sewage Operations and Maintenance account until rates can be compared with PLGIT and other local banks, such as Susquehanna. Snyder added that a meeting was held earlier today with Portnoff Law Associates, LLC, to set up a program for delinquent accounts. A notice will be placed at the borough office and post office reminding citizens of the sewer bill deadline date and 1:00 p.m. cut-off for receipt of current payments. Council Finance Committee is drafting a 2016 budget for discussion in October.

Snyder read the current invoices for borough council approval, including a new \$180 lockset installed by Muncy on the computer room door including 4 keys, and 3 gallons of Sherwin Williams highway yellow paint with 15 paint brushes (from Motor License Fund: \$136.⁴⁰) for FOG to do curb painting. Council was provided a line item budget of all accounts showing revenues and expenditures for the month and year to date against budget. Motion by Stitzer to pay all invoices presented for payment as read by the secretary-treasurer. The motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

Motion by Babb to pay off the full \$1,905.⁶⁹ balance of the Staples computer equipment and related supplies purchase. The motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

Communications: A letter was received from Susquehanna Bank stating that as of August 15th, they will be a division of Branch Banking and Trust Company (BB&T).

Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs (PSAB), the borough's website host and designer, has a design artist working on logo design mockups to be sent shortly for comments before final council approval.

Paul Snyder attended the Schuylkill County Boroughs Association meeting Thursday, August 6th at 6 p.m. in Frackville Borough Hall Council Chambers. Discussion related to recent ordinances, each borough's budget outlook, planning & zoning projects list, and ideas on blight. Snyder spoke with Susan Smith of Schuylkill County Planning & Zoning, who confirmed that the bridge at the end of town is already on the list.

A meeting of the newly formed Code Enforcement Coalition of Schuylkill County is September 3rd at the courthouse, led by District Attorney Christina Holman. Mayors, council members, solicitors, police and code enforcement officers are strongly encouraged to participate. Holman recently formed a county blight task force called ABATE, or Anti-Blight Action Team Enforcement. The task force works like an advisory board to offer municipalities advice on dealing with blighted properties.

Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Esq., reported on the status of the letter to Dr. Weber regarding his property's maintenance. Riedlinger is waiting on pictures of the property for verification. Snyder mentioned that he did cut the grass on that property, which will be added to the ongoing maintenance costs for the property should action occur. Dumboski added that there are still cars in the back of the yard to be removed as well.

Councilman Babb stated that the two trees reported last month down in the bend of the Little Mahanoy Creek—one by the east end of Royer Street and one behind the pavilion—may not be the borough's, but recommended we get a backhoe required for removal by Paul Snyder with help from Scott Blewis, if willing and available. The trees may cause a future blockage and flood problem if not removed before a heavy rain occurs. Snyder said he would trim the limbs off the trees first to make extraction easier.

Quick asked council to approve Fire Chief George Dornsife's estimate for a fireplace firebox and park shed cinder block foundation. Council agreed to authorize the park repairs. Rader and Babb suggested they hold a Winter Maintenance Plan meeting. Dumboski motion for council to authorize the Utilities Committee (Babb, Stitzer, Quick, Dumboski, Snyder) to meet Sunday, August 30th at 2 p.m. to implement a road repair plan using up to \$9,999 from the Motor License Fund. The motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

Motion by Dumboski that the Gaudenzia house be granted use of park facilities from 8:30-4 on Thursday, August 20th. The motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

Motion by Dumboski that Mike Sterner be granted use of park facilities from 12-5 on Sunday, August 23rd. The motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

Motion by Dumboski that as of January 1, 2015, the borough will no longer collect yard debris from citizens' properties due to limited personnel resources and the amount of man-hours it requires. After much discussion, the motion carried unanimously upon voice vote. A notice will be placed at the borough office and post office reminding citizens of the discontinuation date of this borough courtesy service. Rader also suggested contracting out proposals for maintenance of grassy areas such as the ballfield, etc., but would need specifications and a location inventory list from Snyder.

Councilman Quick asked about potential government funding for a municipal building generator system. Council President Rader replied that all funding opportunities are closed for the year, but for Quick to keep it in mind for application when the next year's funding is announced. Quick also suggested council should think about changing sewage payments from quarterly to monthly.

Council person Dumboski asked about the stop signs recently knocked down by traffic accidents in the borough. Snyder replied that the state will put up the one at the end of Charles Street hit by a truck, since it is a state route, but the stop sign at the corner will be put up by Snyder and Blewis. Councilman Babb also asked again about putting up the Welcome to Gordon sign.

Mayor George Brocious read Butler Township Chief of Police Ed Tarantelli's report for July, with 27 calls in Gordon: 5 phone assignments, 4 follow-up investigations, 3 EMS calls, 3 requests for assistance, 3 harassment complaints, 3 disturbances, 2 suspicious person reports, 1 warrant served, 1 theft reported, 1 non-reportable MVA, and 1 automatic alarm. Mayor Brocious also read a thank-you letter from Gordon Citizens' Fire Company #1 President Lewis Kaufman for the generous donation of a police radio to be used by Fire Police. Green's Communications in Pottsville reprogrammed the radio at no charge, which is being put to use in service to the people of Gordon. The mayor also said he was turning over \$325 in rental income to the secretary-treasurer for deposit in the Community Hall Improvement Fund. He asked Snyder for a posting of scheduled rentals to track instances of failure to properly clean up after a meeting or event, and suggested a rental clean-up agreement should be drawn up. Brocious added the need to get a new battery for the Zamboni to clean the floors.

In Public Participation, Citizen Carol Fetterolf Carduff complained that at a neighboring property on Hobart Street, weeds are high, broken glass is on the pavement and in winter, ice and snow is not cleared. Carduff added that for her it is an allergy issue, not just an ordinance violation. Solicitor Riedlinger offered to draft a notice of violation letter from the magistrate to the property owner. Council directed Snyder to call the owner to inquire whether she still wants to deed the property over to the borough.

Citizen John Denchak stated he was disappointed in the council motion and vote to discontinue yard debris pickup. He said the citizens need an alternative such as a compost pile outside the park or the location of a landfill to be made public. Solicitor Riedlinger suggested the borough contact Kreitzer Sanitation and place a provision for yard debris pickup in their contract for 2016-2017.

Citizen Leo Rauber asked council about a Code Enforcement Officer replacement, after last month's resignation of previous CEO William Jeffrey Allar. He added that Schuylkill County is listed as one of the three worst counties for blight.

Snyder reminded citizens and council that due to the Labor Day holiday, the next meeting of borough council is the third Tuesday of the month, September 15, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building.

Motion by Dumboski that this meeting of the Gordon Borough Council be adjourned, carried unanimously upon voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Attest:  Paul L. Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer August 11, 2015