

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Gordon Borough Council was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building with Council President Michael Rader presiding. Council persons present: Michael Rader, Richard Babb, Brian Hansbury, Jeffrey Hoffman, Jason Quick and Valerie Stitzer. Also present: Mayor George Brocius, Borough Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Paul Snyder, Assistant Linda Gately and Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger; Citizens Jessica Slotcavage, Leo Rauber and Ramon Soto. Absent: Councilperson Shannon Dumboski.

President of Council Michael Rader called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Hansbury that council accept minutes from the last regular meeting on February 23rd as presented by the Secretary-Treasurer Paul Snyder carried unanimously.

Council was provided a line item budget of all accounts showing month and year to date revenues and expenditures against budget. General Account financial report: February opening balance \$92,170.⁵⁰; receipts of \$16,983.⁵³ including \$36.⁴⁵ bank interest; expenditures of \$16,985.⁷⁷ plus outstanding checks worth \$1,831.⁵³; February 2016 ending balance: \$90,336.⁷³. Motor License Fund February opening balance 64,205.³³; no expenditures and interest receipts of 24.⁵⁴; balance end February: \$64,229.⁸⁷. Snyder reported Community Hall Improvement Fund balance of \$2,213.⁵⁰ with a rental deposit to be made this week of \$150 for an April 9th baby shower. The secretary-treasurer is still trying to gain online account access to accurately reconcile all BB&T accounts. Susquehanna Bank no longer provides monthly written statements since their November 2015 merger with BB&T. Motion by Hoffman for council to accept the General Account financial report and Motor License Fund report as these reports were written and read by Secretary-Treasurer Snyder. Motion carried unanimously.

Sewage Revenue Account financial report: \$184,079.⁵² opening balance 2/1/16, interest receipt of \$70.⁹⁸, Sewage quarterly property bill receipts of \$2,781.³⁴ & penalty receipts of \$153, Miscellaneous reimbursements of \$189.⁷²; balance 2/29/16 of \$187,274.⁵⁶. Sewage Operations & Maintenance Account financial report: \$22,607.¹⁸ opening balance 2/1/16, receipt of \$8.⁵⁵ interest; expenditures for wages, treatment plant/pump station maintenance and office expenses total of \$6,979.²⁰; balance 2/29/16 was \$15,619.⁴³. Sewage Reserve Account financial report: \$69,939.⁶⁸ opening CD balance plus \$11.⁸⁸ interest 2/1/16 rolled over to a new 18 month CD upon maturity 2/2 at 0.4% interest paid semi-annually; \$69,951.⁵⁶ balance on 2/29/16. Jason Quick motioned for council to accept Sewage account financial reports as written and read by Secretary-Treasurer Snyder. The motion carried unanimously. Hoffman requested a breakdown of receipts from the borough's collections against the Sewage delinquency balance. Solicitor Chris Riedlinger clarified the original arrearage figure of \$62,458.⁰⁷ including inflated penalties has been recalculated by Portnoff at \$27,096.⁸² with \$689.⁷² actually collected by Portnoff this month.

Snyder read current General account invoices for borough council approval, including PTD internet service (\$99.⁹⁵), Berkheimer EIT Collections (\$217.¹⁵), Mid Penn Bank Roof Loan (\$802.⁷⁸), Riedlinger legal fees (\$287), Antz furnace system blower check (\$139.⁹⁰), Republican-Herald ad for rescheduled meeting (\$104.⁵⁴), CEO (\$70.⁴⁰), Aqua PA (\$418), Pa Department of Revenue February employee payroll state tax (\$144.³²), and Schuylkill County Treasurer real estate tax bills (\$63.⁰⁴). Motion by Hoffman to pay regular monthly outstanding general account invoices carried unanimously. Snyder is working on getting a General account debit card for fuel purchases as approved last month.

Biros' electrician will schedule repairs to pump #2's defective magnetic starter in the control panel, replacement of the rotten cord going to one pump and two rusted 50' galvanized chains on top of each pump with stainless steel cables.

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Quotes are being accepted to replace the municipal building HVAC system. Ductless units were proposed, which allows separate and more efficient thermostat control. An on-demand hot water heater is recommended rather than letting the boiler run continuously. Also noted was when and if a new heating system is installed, it should be placed on the roof for easier service access. Citizen Leo Rauber added the electric company could also do an efficiency check and make suggestions for saving costs.

Snyder communicated to Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs Gordon council's plan to host a 125th anniversary celebration this summer. PSAB offered last month to commemorate the event with a plaque to present at a celebration event when the date is announced or at a future council meeting. Snyder reported that a \$2,402 trash lien fee collected was deposited into the general account and will be forwarded to the garbage vendor at the time, Wolfgang Hauling.

Work has begun on Hobart Street water line hookups from Elm to Royer Street by PGHD Engineering Company, Huntingdon, who will replace laterals to homes also. Traffic congestion is expected during the two-month project. The company is doing their best to work with the neighbors. Traffic cones mark No Parking areas. School buses are being accommodated. Snyder told the construction supervisor that the borough expects street restoration to as-new condition after the water line work is complete. This was specified due to damage still in existence from road work done on Biddle Street and Gordon Road.

The SKIP (Schuylkill Keep it Pretty) event is April 21-24th, from 9 a.m. to noon. Borough council may wish to participate. The closest cleanup location is Ashland; registration form is available at skiplitter.org or the borough office. Quick suggested Snyder reach out to Ashland during the Schuylkill Council of Governments meeting at the end of this month to borrow their street sweeping equipment. Hansbury added SEDCO is interested in sharing the sweeper equipment and costs while it is available.

Revitalization projects that Rader listed as possibly qualifying for grants include streetscapes and lamp lighting. Council also discussed having PPL replace any borough street lights with LED for greater cost savings. PPL will trade out any bulbs older than 10 years free of charge.

Butler Township Police issued no February 2016 report as of meeting time. Resident Leo Rauber questioned local theft and break-ins, requesting a more detailed police report on what was stolen. Previous attempts to add surveillance cameras at the park and borough buildings were met with vandalism. FOG will continue to act as our local Crime Watch group. Mayor Brocius confirmed that Butler Township has nightly police patrols in the park.

No February Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) report activity was provided by Robin Ennis. Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Esq., reported that the March 10th Weber code violation court case has been rescheduled to April 14th due to the district attorney's scheduling conflict. Riedlinger added that since he may not be able to attend the next Gordon Borough Council meeting 4/19 due to a conflict in his schedule that evening, and that date is past the Weber hearing, council must notify him before 4/14 if they wish to withdraw the citations. Mayor Brocius stated he would take a look at the property violations and decide whether to withdraw the complaint by the hearing date due to cleanup progress. Council President Rader responded Riedlinger should continue with the hearing unless the four remaining printing presses and boats still on the property are removed. He also briefly answered Councilman Quick's questions about borough engineer Don Cuff of Entech Engineering's feasibility study of traffic control stop signs placement on Hobart and McKnight Streets as discussed last month. Quick also asked about unlicensed vehicle code violation citations. Riedlinger suggested having Butler Township police issue these citations since they are already paying for police service to the borough, rather than incurring additional fees from the general account by paying the code enforcement officer.

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As Recreation Committee chair, Valerie Stitzer received a request to have a park cleanup day before March 20th. Recommended helpers are those who are required to perform community service and volunteers. Gordon Borough Park Cleanup Day is set for Sunday, March 20th, 2016 at 10 a.m. Stitzer also presented a park reservation schedule for April and May, which will be posted on our website. The Methodist Church enacts their annual Trek of the Cross on Good Friday, March 25th, starting at noon from the church on Biddle Street, going down Hobart to McKnight and back to the church. FOG (Friends of Gordon) is hosting their annual Good Friday Egg Drop March 25th at 3 p.m. The Gordon Fish and Game Fish Rodeo is at Gordon Park on May 7th with access Friday through Sunday to build and remove dams. Gordon Park Ballfield Cleanup Day is Saturday, April 9th and will be coordinated by volunteers from area scouts and ball teams. Snyder added that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the infield mix purchased last year is still available for use. Team sports ballfield reservation dates have been scheduled on a first-come first-served basis.

The Streets Committee can plan for parking sign installation and pothole repair when asphalt is available April 1st, according to Snyder. Rader offered to contact PennDOT about the maintenance of state roads running through the borough. Streets Chair Quick plans to look into COSTARS for a new borough riding lawn tractor, salt shed pricing estimates, and a front-end loader before next season. Quick will speak with Universal Forest Products about possibly placing the borough salt shed at the edge of their property and also asking for help loading road salt using UFP's front-end loader. Clean-out of the borough garage and recycling scrap metal was discussed. Citizen Jess Slotcavage suggested the vo-tech small engine repair shop may be interested in taking a donation of the old borough lawn tractor if the borough cannot sell it for scrap. More Streets Committee planning is involved in seeing if Pioneer Pole Buildings has a recommendation on how to add another side bay door or carport or expand the existing borough garage to fit the borough truck with a plow attachment if property lines allow an additional 10'. A major snow event cleanup policy will be developed and implemented with better resources and quicker response time. Council also approved advertising for a part-time borough worker.

Snyder contacted John Blickley at SCEMA to inform him that Gordon is working to nominate an Emergency Management Coordinator as mandated by Municipal Code Title 35. The borough's EMC nominee paperwork must be sent to Blickley for approval and appointment by the governor. Councilman Jason Quick stated he may be interested in the position, but before committing wants to review the requirements and responsibilities.

During Public Participation, Citizen Jess Slotcavage thanked council for their support and action on the petition to ban commercial truck traffic from Gordon Mountain. Rader added the ban will be implemented by PennDOT this spring, along with more signage along Routes 81 and 901. Citizen Ramon Soto mentioned he helped a truck driver looking for Walmart this month, and said a sign at the bottom of the mountain directing truck traffic up would help. Soto also volunteered to help with the borough cleanup day.

Snyder reminded citizens and council that the next meeting of borough council is the third Tuesday of the month, April 19, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building.

There being no further business, a motion by Valerie Stitzer to adjourn this meeting of Gordon Borough Council carried unanimously upon voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Attest:  Paul L. Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer March 8, 2016