

Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Gordon Borough Council was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015. The meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building and Council Vice President Valerie Stitzer was presiding. Council persons present: Valerie Stitzer, Richard Babb, Jason Quick, Jeffrey Hoffman and Shannon Dumboski. Absent: Councilman Barry Brecker and President Michael Rader, Mayor George Brocius. Also present at this meeting: Borough Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Esq., Borough Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Paul Snyder, Assistant Linda Gately; and Citizens Ramon Soto, Leo Rauber, Dominic Puglia, Bill Magdeburg, Bill Rock, Jeremy Rock and Todd Houser.

Vice-President of Council Valerie Stitzer called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call to establish a quorum in the absence of Council President Rader.

Motion by Hoffman that borough council accept the minutes from the last meeting October 13, 2015, as they were presented by the secretary-treasurer. The motion was carried unanimously.

Council was provided a line item budget of all accounts showing month and year to date revenues and expenditures against budget. Motion by Dumboski 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 carried unanimously. Snyder also recommended a budget meeting to be scheduled once the assessed value per capita is received by the county, along with a liquid fuels allocation amount and the borough's % for PA Unemployment Compensation for 2016.

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. Motion carried unanimously upon voice vote. Citizen Leo Rauber asked progress on Portnoff collection of outstanding sewage delinquent accounts. Solicitor Riedlinger responded that Portnoff's arrearage figure of \$62,458.⁰⁷ includes inflated penalties to be recalculated, with the penalty to be charged just once for each delinquent quarter. Once this is resolved, payment collections and turnover of fee receipts to Gordon Borough can begin. Riedlinger will check to see if a resolution to amend the current ordinance or an ordinance to this effect must be implemented, but his initial reaction is that the current ordinance (05-90) is sufficient; the confusion is in the interpretation of the ordinance.

Snyder read the current invoices for borough council approval, including a Pottsville-Republican ad for the budget meeting (\$79.⁴⁸), PPL \$945.³⁶), Aqua PA (\$418), Berkheimer EIT (106.⁶³), Mid Penn Bank roof loan (\$802.⁷⁸), Solicitor (\$275), Portnoff delinquent sewage correspondence (\$150), and a Tiley \$2,500 heating system repair estimate in addition to their work performed for cleaning and servicing of oil burners as approved last month (\$947). Tiley reported problems with the handler during their service of the municipal building heating unit. The shaft is worn and needs to be rebuilt with a shim for support and maintenance re-greasing at regular intervals to get us through until a permanent unit can be sourced and installed. Councilman Quick asked for two other contractor bids before the 12/8 council meeting to compare at a Building Committee meeting before approval in the general session. Motion by Hoffman to pay outstanding invoices was carried unanimously.

Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Esq., reminded borough council to adopt a tax ordinance by the end of the year. Riedlinger was asked by Dumboski if the clock had expired on the time allowed Dr. Weber regarding property maintenance violations from the solicitor's September letter. Riedlinger asked for pictures to be taken again documenting the property as it appears now to compare to pictures of alleged violations at the time of the notice of violation letter. Before a citation can be issued, the new Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) candidate must be officially confirmed by council. Motion by Quick to appoint Robin Ennis as CEO at \$15 per hour/10 hours per month, hereby authorizing her to issue criminal citations and enforce Gordon Borough maintenance code ordinances, was carried unanimously. Numbered citations may be picked up from District Justice Christina Hale's office.

In the absence of Mayor Brocious, Snyder reported Butler Township submitted September's monthly police report for council review. The report indicated 49 calls and complaints in Gordon Borough, including: 19 phone assignments, 9 follow-up investigations, 8 requests for assistance, 3 MVAs, 3 EMS calls, 2 requests for information, 2 disturbances, 1 automatic alarm, 1 burglary, and 1 domestic dispute.

Snyder reminded citizens and council that the next regular meeting of borough council is the second Tuesday of the month, December 8, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building.

Gordon Borough's website, <http://gordonborough.com/> is active through PSAB. More community group information, photos, and events are needed to publish and expand the site's content.

A firefighter workmen's compensation claim was filed this week for an injury received at the scene of the November 6th Ashland fire. An insurance adjuster is expected this week.

Kreitzer Sanitation was sold to County Waste, Greeley, PA, and a new Dumpster was brought to the borough municipal building lot.

Snyder is getting a backhoe to drag two big tree pieces that fell into the stream, knocking down fence sections. Lok-Weld has been contacted for fencing quotes, and an insurance claim was filed.

Butler Township has agreed to provide anti-skid material to Gordon Borough, and Paul Dean has once again agreed to help with winter maintenance/snow plowing as needed.

Three fire police were on duty in the borough for Halloween Trick-or-Treat night.

In Public Participation, Citizen Bill Magdeburg asked if there was a time limit on his Dumpster now that it has been received. He was told the limit is usually 1-2 weeks, which is usually sufficient for debris removal.

Citizen Bill Rock asked for a council letter for his grandson Jeremy to prove his attendance at this meeting toward part of his community service requirement in school. Snyder filled this request.

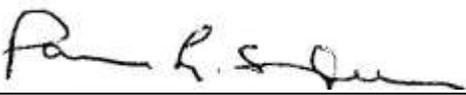
An update from Citizen Jessica Slotcavage on her petition was read to council. Greater than 500 signatures were forwarded to Attorney Hampton and Governor Wolf. There are now more than 100 new signatures in the second round. When Slotcavage questioned a council member about progress

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recently, she was told to read the minutes from this meeting and last month for an update on the truck traffic issue on the Gordon Mountain. Senator David Argall, Mary Beth Dougherty, and three PennDOT engineers met this today at the borough with Paul Snyder. However, they stated that representatives from Cass, Butler, and Barry Townships have to also be in attendance to agree on a final plan of action, so another meeting must be scheduled. The cause of most accidents was found to be defective equipment. The borough is getting more than 40 trucks in excess of 19 tons daily, despite the road sign placed at the top of the mountain last month prohibiting them, with a total traffic count of 2500 vehicles daily. Citizen Ramon Soto noted that there has not been as much truck turnaround traffic through the development in town. The PennDOT proposal is to have no trucks of any size allowed on the downward mountain side, marking the lane coming down this side with hot thermal plastic on the road leading to one lane. Trucks over 19 tons are routed in GPS to use exit 116. Quick noted that a trucker using a private car or phone's GPS unit will continue to steer traffic down the mountain. PennDOT's suggestion to lower the truck load limit to 5 ton was rejected, since there is no scale equipment available nor certified personnel necessary to perform weight checks. Solicitor Riedlinger stated that before an ordinance to prohibit truck traffic is enacted, borough engineer Don Cuff of EnTech will have to be contacted to do a geometric investigation required by the state, at the cost of approximately \$1,000. A study of ALL borough roads would be cost prohibitive. In addition, there is no history of accidents other than on Biddle Street. Once an ordinance is enacted, if a police officer is in town for an accident, we can issue citations. Riedlinger added that the borough may spend \$2,000 on engineering research, drafting, and advertising an ordinance to possibly not solve the issue, but it will show citizens that we are attempting to do something about the issue.

Councilman Quick proposed taking measures to begin the process of adding stop signs in the borough at Park at Oak Street, in addition to one in both directions of Hobart and Otto Streets, and Hobart and Royer Streets. He added that a stop sign there is obstructed by vines in front. Snyder replied that he will take care of the weeds. Quick added that the speed limit has already been reduced to 25 mph on Hobart. Solicitor Riedlinger added that he will research what needs to be done legally in the form of a resolution to amend the current borough streets ordinance. Citizen Todd Houser voiced his support for Quick's plan.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Dumboski that this meeting of the Gordon Borough Council be adjourned, carried unanimously upon voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Attest:  Paul L. Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer November 10, 2015