

BOROUGH OF GORDON

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Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of Gordon Borough Council was held Tuesday, August 8, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building, following a 6:00 p.m. presentation in the community hall by SCMA officials Assistant Director Amy Batdorf, Utility Manager Joe Smith, Operations Manager Jesse Weiss and Office Manager Mark Smith. Councilpersons Present: Richard Babb, Shannon Dumboski, Jason Quick and Todd Houser (7:30). Also Present: Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Mayor George Brocious, and Secretary-Treasurer Linda Gately. Citizens: Richard Korn, Barb Liem, Suzie Hocking, Ramon Soto, and Leo Rauber, Jr. Absent: Councilmen Jeffrey Hoffman and Michael Rader.

Council President Pro-Tem Jason Quick called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Brocious administered the Oath of Office to new councilman Richard Korn and certified his affidavit of residency. Korn took his seat at the council table for the remainder of the meeting, establishing a quorum.

Motion by Richard Babb for council to accept minutes from the July 11th regular meeting as presented by Secretary-Treasurer Linda Gately carried unanimously.

General Account 8709 (MPB) Opening Balance July 1st, 2017: \$64,272.⁶⁵, Balance July 31st: \$49,078.¹⁶. MPB General Account Muni Fund 3430 balance 7/31/17: \$2,181.¹⁶ (unchanged). MPB General Account CD 0830 balance 7/31/17: \$14,444.⁹⁷. BB&T General Account CD 8835 balance 7/31/17: \$5,100.⁹⁶.

Community Hall Improvement Fund 3014 (BB&T) Balance 7/31/17: \$1,665.⁸⁶ (unchanged).

Motor License Fund 9509 (MPB) Balance 7/1/17: \$55,104.³¹, \$20.⁹⁹ interest, Expenditures \$404.⁴⁷ (US Municipal-traffic signs), Balance 7/31: \$54,720.⁸³, MLF CD 20018 (BB&T) Balance 7/31/17: \$84,068.⁹².

Sewage Reserve MPB CD 6530 Balance 7/31: \$70,232.⁴¹(unchanged); MPB CD 0431 Bal. 7/31: \$86,368.⁹⁴.

Sewage Revenue Account MPB Opening Balance 7/1/17: \$238,272.⁵⁹, no expenditures; receipts of \$23,977.⁹² (\$88 from Portnoff) including \$95.²² interest, Balance 7/31/17: \$262,250.⁵¹.

Sewage Op./Maint. Account (MPB) Balance 7/1/17: \$13,895.⁰⁷, Receipts of \$4.⁵⁷ interest, Expenditures \$6,657.²¹, Balance 7/31/17: \$7,242.⁴³.

Motion by Dumboski for council to accept all accounts' July financial reports as read carried unanimously.

Reading and Payment of Invoices: General Account-SWIF (\$835), Aqua PA (\$418), PPL (\$858.¹⁰ LED & \$321.⁵⁴ HSV St. Lts.), Berkheimer EIT (\$65.²⁹), Tom's Car Care (\$399.⁹¹), Lavas-tax (\$10.⁴⁸), MPB (\$802.⁷⁸), Butler Twp. (\$2,750), Riedlinger General Legal Services (\$815), Turkey Hill-Gas (\$60), Gene's Supply (\$15.⁹⁶), PTD (\$99.⁹⁵), R-H ad (\$132.³⁹), Watkins Lawn & Garden (\$79.³⁵), Gordon Borough Tax Collector R.E. Tax 46-1-9(3) \$70.⁴⁹. Sewage Account-SCMA-treatment plant (\$3,456.⁹²), Riedlinger-SCMA (\$805), Feudale-Notary (\$75). Motor License Fund-Butler Twp., Salt/Anti-Skid Material (\$754.⁸⁷). Babb's motion to pay all account invoices carried unanimously.

Mayor George Brocious read Butler Township Police Chief Ed Tarantelli's June report, with 12 calls and complaints within Gordon Borough, including 5 requests for assistance, 1 phone assignment, 1 follow-up investigation, 1 domestic, 1 police information, 1 disturbance, 1 disabled vehicle and 1 EMS. The mayor issued a letter to a resident in violation of Ordinance 1978-0628 prohibiting parking on Oak Street, copying Butler Township police. Brocious relayed Schuylkill Haven's request for fire police help at the Schuylkill County Firemen's Convention parade September 16th, but has not gotten volunteers for the event. Code Enforcement Officer Robin Ennis submitted no report. Citizens' Fire Company No. 1 will hold their annual fund drive later this year to avoid conflict with the holiday. The fire company received their order for turnout gear using the \$11,884 state grant; the \$12k total cost was taken from the equipment fund. The mayor declined a request to officiate at the Hertzog/Smitrovich wedding on August 12th due to a prior commitment, but will perform two ceremonies scheduled for September 2nd and October 1st.

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Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Esq., stated the Judicial Tax Claim Bureau upset sale September 8th includes the old school building at 209 East Biddle Street. A stipulation of sale was given to Angela Toomey at the courthouse on behalf of the borough stating the property must be torn down within 30 days of purchase, which may deter prospective bidders. Riedlinger was informed borough manager Jason Quick will complete and have notarized paperwork to register and bid on the old school up to an amount agreed upon by council in executive session. Gary Bender will be notified to request CDBG demolition money for the borough if the property is obtained either at the sale or once the property is available through the repository. Riedlinger will follow-up with abandoned and dilapidated Tye and Wolfgang properties as well.

The Gordon-SCMA transfer agreement was signed and notarized July 27th. There were 2 deeds listed and 13 assignments of easements, when in actuality, there was one deed and 14 assignments of easements. The item listed in error as a deed for McKnight Street was destroyed and replaced with the correct assignment of easement for the McKnight facility only. A follow-up letter Riedlinger sent to SCMA's attorney Patel confirms that the debt service exhibits not attached do not invalidate the agreement. New copies with the changes will be notarized and filed. The borough received one of four fully executed (signed) originals. Riedlinger responded to a Portnoff email deferring to SCMA a 301 McKnight writ of execution for property owner Hannon until after the August 1st transfer date (for delinquent sewage liens).

Newly acquired deed 46-1-9(3) real estate tax bill (\$70.⁴⁹) will be paid (waiting for revised invoice replacing former owner Mummery with the borough); Riedlinger noted the current garage structure located on the property will not prevent our petition for tax exempt status being granted. Two Babb motions passed unanimously, approving Ordinance 2017-03 for One-Way traffic on Oak Street between Hobart Street and Park Street running east, signed by borough manager Quick in the council president's absence.

Borough Reports/Communications/Committee Reports: Jason Quick reported UCC permits issued to Stefanisko (garage electrical), Kile (deck), and Kaufman (porch). Quick added that Stefanisko offered two days' labor from the Court of Common Pleas in order to paint the community hall. Older ordinances being reviewed for updates include the Rental Permit Ordinance Girardville draft from Riedlinger to be modified adding code enforcement officer inspections and Pottsville's section requiring landlords to be current on all bills, plus the current Street Excavation Ordinance increasing the base fee to \$100 (needs resolution only) and stipulating reconstruction conditions (ordinance required). Verify with borough engineer Cuff. Another ordinance to draft for adoption was Handicapped Parking Sign requirements (Riedlinger's Rush Twp. draft).

A motion by Dumboski passed unanimously to approve the line painting project for 6 intersections (McKnight & Biddle, Hobart & Biddle, Hobart & Otto, McKnight & Otto, McKnight & Royer, Hobart & Royer) using Ultra Seal from Ashland. Cost: Paint \$101.⁹⁵ for 5 gallons white; 3 gallons yellow (curbs) \$81.⁵⁷, machine and operator @ \$50/hr., approximately \$300-\$500 for the total job. Quick also plans to paint no parking zones along the curb at intersections or add a designated no parking boxed area where no curb exists.

Motion by Babb passed unanimously to approve purchase of a \$600 PPT-2620 gas powered extendable pole chainsaw pruner with the capability of safely reaching branches 20 feet from the ground up that need to be removed. The quote to rent one for a week from Ark Rentals was just short of \$200. DBI curb spraying was done along McKnight, Biddle and Hobart Streets, around the ballfield, and both sides of the creek bed. Bees were exterminated from underneath ballfield fence caps. Watkins Lawn & Garden will sharpen the mower blade (\$20) from Old Schoolhouse property grass cutting (borough to track along with Quick's labor costs, 5 hrs.). A letter requesting a tree hazard at Hobart & Royer Streets be removed within seven days was delivered earlier today to the owner. A triangle of grass at 706 Hobart & McKnight the borough historically maintains is not borough property based on the deed; the current owner may continue to cut that section.

With a prior motion and approval of Todd Houser as Council Vice President, Houser requested last month to review the new responsibilities before officially accepting the position, which he did at this meeting.

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A State Surplus Equipment account was set up at the request of council president Mike Rader to look at speakers for Community Hall and future borough purchases. Peifer's Fire Protection will inspect 13 extinguishers and the fire suppression system August 15th. The Gordon Parents Park Association Fund (\$2,634.⁵⁹) will transfer to a borough savings account. Suzie Hocking will try to have the Centennial Committee Fund turned over as well.

Quick attended Schuylkill Alert Municipal Training August 3rd at SCEMA (Pottsville), the North Schuylkill Council of Governments (NSCOG) meeting July 26th in Shenandoah Heights, and a July 10th FEMA flood map seminar. The borough will register names/titles to utilize SCEMA's Total Visibility program for critical municipal employees, with photo ID. (Fire Company already has used this for three years.) Quick noted the fire hall women's restroom has one out of service stall until the flushing mechanism leak can be repaired. Only one LED streetlight replacement is left to be done. Multiple traffic signs were replaced. Five PA One Call notification responses were completed, and a garbage complaint on McKnight turned over to police. Butler Township will be sent a letter of thanks for donating five free hours' labor and tractor equipment. Two registration replacements were provided at no charge to the borough for the '02 Chevy truck.

Tabled to committee: Drain pipe running from a small culvert at the West Biddle and West Plane Streets intersection is crushed and blocked. Lack of maintenance and truck crashes throughout the years. PennDOT contacted to determine partial responsibility for replacement or repair. It is the borough's responsibility to replace the culvert and pipe. Short term fix: dig up the end of pipe and create a drain field in the area of the property we just acquired. Long term repair: dig up pipe, replace it along with a box culvert at the intersection and re-asphalt. Council must review costs of each fix and commit to a maximum dollar amount.

Also tabled: Pothole repair list made, along with a map to track them. Several throughout the borough need attention before winter. Mill existing holes, place hot asphalt material in the holes, and rolling to compact (best long term solution) could be done in-house with rental equipment. An alternate patch method would lead to premature failure from snow plowing before winter's end. Equipment rental approximately \$4,000 for street sweeping Hobart, McKnight, and Biddle, and replacing drain pipe on West Plane Street. Council approval/motion required after review. Pottsville Materials asphalt quote RJS4692 expires 8/31/17.

Winter Salt Plan tabled to committee review: Dave Kessler at Butler Township said if no catastrophic snow events happen they will be able to supply us again this year. Quick suggested the borough procure their own salt storage shed (\$7k through J&S or \$3k for a shipping container) and skid loader (\$38k) COSTARS direct order for guaranteed supply, easy access, to control salt/antiskid mixture, prevent future truck corrosion. Rental of skid loader is \$1,525/mo. + \$245RT, box broom is \$380/wk., and milling head is \$1,125/wk.

Public Participation: Resident Barb Liem expressed to council and the mayor that she has been "put at peace" knowing what is going on now with the borough's transparency in reporting methods "coming out of the dark ages" and everybody "giving it their best shot" at improving the quality of life in Gordon. Citizens Leo Rauber, Jr. and Ramon Soto asked about status of sign placement for trucks in the borough. Rauber also mentioned that the roads at Rattling Run Development and Church Street need to be tar and chipped or sealed in the near future. Rauber On a motion by Babb and unanimous council approval, Rauber was promised the borough will reimburse him \$2,101.⁷³ for a duplicate payment made during a property purchase held by the courthouse and eventually placed into the borough general account instead of against the sewage account property lien. Rauber must provide the borough with receipts as proof of payment. Quick also thanked Rauber for his donation of time and backhoe to help with recent borough projects.

The next regular Borough Council meeting is Tuesday, September 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building. There being no further general business, a motion made by Shannon Dumboski at 8:40 p.m. to adjourn the regular meeting of Gordon Borough Council carried unanimously.

Attest: _____



Linda S. Gately, Secretary-Treasurer

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