

BOROUGH OF GORDON
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2018

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The regular monthly meeting of Gordon Borough Council was held Tuesday, February 13, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building. Council present: Richard Babb, Shannon Dumboski, Jeffrey Hoffman, Todd Houser, Tracy Hughes, Richard Korn, Jason Quick. Also present: Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Esq., Secretary-Treasurer Linda Gately; Citizens Lynn Korn, Jess Slotcavage, Carol Fetterolf, Barb Liem, Hailey Maurer, and Leo Rauber, Jr.

President Houser called the meeting to order, confirmed a quorum by roll call, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation: Citizen Jess Slotcavage asked for a wall to be erected of boulders where the land slopes to make entry into town more appealing. Slotcavage added trucks are still speeding down past her house. Resident Barb Liem asked about police traffic patrols to justify the monthly coverage amount.

Motion by Korn and Hoffman for council to accept minutes from both the January 2nd reorganization meeting and regular council meeting as presented by Secretary-Treasurer Gately carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: General Account 8709 Checking Opening Balance February 1, 2018: \$144,079.⁹⁷; Receipts: \$14,590.⁵², Expenses: \$13,099.⁵³; (\$3,809.⁷⁶ uncleared) Balance 2/28/18: \$145,570.⁹⁶. CD 0830 matured 3/2/18, rolled over @1.25% for 12 month term, Balance: \$14,551.⁶⁶. Reserve CD 3802 Matures 5/2/18 @1.2%, Balance: \$70,442.⁶⁷. Muni. Bldg. Fund CD 3430 Matures 5/3/18 @.35%, Balance: \$2,185.⁰¹. CD 4024 @1.2% Matures 6/29/18, Balance: \$5,075.⁶¹. Revenue CD 0431 Matures 4/5/19 @.8%, Balance: \$86,776.⁷⁵.

Motor License Fund Checking 9509 Balance 2/1/18: \$49,634.⁶⁵; \$582.⁷⁹ Expenses inc. \$264.⁴¹ uncleared; Balance 2/28/18 including \$22.⁷⁷ Interest: \$49,051.⁸⁶; Mtr. Lic. CD 4025 Balance 2/28/18: \$84,003.⁴³.

Community Hall Savings 2966 Balance 2/28/18: \$665.⁹⁷ after \$160 hall rentals deposit; Home Depot Foundation Gift Card 1458 (Park Grant) Bal. 2/28: \$330.¹⁰. Park Savings 2917 Balance 2/28: \$2,639.¹². Petty Cash Balance 2/28: \$98 without \$10 handicap parking sign 2018 permit refund to be given to deceased resident Sadusky's widow as approved last month. Hoffman and Korn's motion to accept all accounts' January finance reports as read carried unanimously.

Invoices: General Account-Aqua PA (\$418), Berkheimer EIT-LST Commissions (\$224.⁶³), Butler Twp. Police (\$2,750), Entech (\$480), Gene's Supply (\$54.⁰⁶), Gordon Borough Tax Collector-Old School R.E. Bill (\$345.⁹⁴), PPL-LED Street Lights (\$1,005.⁶⁹), PPL-Garage, Muni Bldg., Park (\$287.⁶⁷), PTD (\$99.⁹⁵), Patterson Hardscape (\$56), PA Dept. of Revenue (\$11.¹⁶), PSAB Grant Writing Seminar 3/15 (\$100), Solicitor Riedlinger (\$595), SECV (\$56.⁴⁷), Schuylkill County Treasurer R.E. Tax Bills (\$63.⁸⁴), SWIF (\$977), W.B. Mason (\$29.⁹⁹), Mtr. Lic. Fund-Full Svc. 122 LLC (35-gal. Skid Loader Fuel \$105), Turkey Hill Borough Trucks' Gas (\$236.¹⁵), Best Line (Bobcat Warranty Svc. \$264.⁴¹). Babb and Hoffman's motion to pay all invoices carried unanimously.

Mayor Brocious received Butler Township Police's monthly report for January 2018 from Chief Ed Tarantelli, showing 23 calls and complaints within Gordon Borough. Code Enforcement Officer Robin Ennis had no report. Mayor Brocious added that the fire hall had a Super Bowl party February 4th, the Boy Scouts' Pinewood Derby is February 24th and the Blue and Gold banquet is March 10th. Girardville council and AOH sent a letter asking for local fire police at their annual St. Patrick's Day parade March 24th which will be handled by John Denchak.

Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Esq., reported two notice of violation forms (NOV) were OK as revised for properties in the borough up for judicial sale; 46-4-25 at 312 McKnight and 46-4-137 at 189 South McKnight. There is a 30-day period for owner/lien holder response before April 13th's tax claim office listing.

Borough Communications/Committee Reports: County demolition paperwork was submitted for the two properties Riedlinger mentioned above. A resolution must be passed next month on this issue. Michelle O'Connell from the county demolition office used state grant money for the work by Madonna Enterprises of Port Carbon. The old school's cornerstone was shown, with a Memorial Day time capsule opening ceremony by FOG is in the works, according to Babb. Reclaimed bricks were preserved with 105 stenciled and to be sold as a fundraiser. Riedlinger noted the tax bill will be for improved property, and council wants to change that to unimproved status to reduce the tax bill or appeal for exemption for public use, with the assessment hearing in May. Motion by Dumboski and Korn to file the appeal and pay the March real estate tax bill hoping for reimbursement. The larger tax bill from the school district comes in July. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.

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Borough Manager Quick will submit an insurance claim to a trucking company that damaged a borough stop sign. Entech sent \$700 to Schuylkill Community Action for use of local food banks. Motion by Hughes and Babb to accept the 2018 Proclamation naming April as Safe Digging Month carried unanimously. Motion by Babb and Korn to approve the COSTARS salt participation purchase agreement for 30T, with a minimum of 22T required and up to 42T allowable. Amount may be changed until March 15th. Motion carried unanimously. PP&L's bill is \$468 to move the guide wire up for the new pole building. Motion by Babb and Hoffman to approve up to \$17,500 for the new pole building including the line move was approved unanimously. Quick noted the quote was for the structure without flooring material.

Quick reported the fire company paid a \$795 invoice for propane delivered to the new tank. On hall paint materials (with labor provided by Schuylkill Probation Court), low quote was Behr/Home Depot (\$670.³⁰) with supplies extra (approximately \$300) plus pizza for the workers. Motion by Korn and Babb to accept the low quote was unanimously approved. Motion by Dumboski to cap all expenses for hall painting at \$1k and also have a written agreement with the fire company to reimburse the borough half of the hall bathroom remodeling cost in installment payments was approved unanimously. FOG is looking into a grant for a canopy for the building. Citizen Barb Liem added she has heard good talk about the community hall progress.


Council reviewed a \$45/mo. pest plan for the municipal building and a vegetation management quote from Ehrlich in three parts (\$315+\$295+\$622) to spray curbing along McKnight, Biddle, East Plane and Hobart Streets, the fence line around the ballfield, and both sides of the park creek bed to the fork in the bank. Council tabled action until the next meeting. Playground grant applications end May 2018. Council plans to order new equipment outright using taxpayer money rather than apply for and wait for grant acceptance, since DCED and DCNR have alluded that the high amount of CDs held from former sewage system funds makes a grant unlikely.

Quick issued UCC permit 2018-01 for the old school demolition at 209 East Biddle Street. The fire company truck bay roof leak submission report was sent to Syntec. Quick received ballfield requests from the Over 50's for Sundays and Tuesdays, Jackie Stitzer (Mon. & Thurs. 5-8 p.m.) and Ray Jones (Wed. 6-7:30). The Fish Rodeo is May 4th-6th with Friday set-up, event Saturday, Sunday clean-up. Korn recommended checking the dates against Whippoorwill's event. Quick answered Slotcavage's inquiry that a handicap access ramp through a DCNR grant for ADA compliance is a slow process, but he completed a prerequisite DCNR webinar for grant applications.

Hughes stated she and Dumboski each purchased a copy of the PA borough code book. Secretary-Treasurer Gately explained that the state no longer issues updated hard copies, and amendments to the 2014 borough code they purchased are available online as previously stated (and sent to council), and must be used to keep current. Multiple 2014 code book copies are still available in the office.

Hoffman and Babb motion to set secretary-treasurer position at 30 hours. Hughes and Dumboski motion to add with no paid holidays and no compensatory time for hours worked over that. Roll call vote; all in favor. Gately reminded council that until mid-2016, holidays were paid, with comp time to catch up with the sewage system transfer, back audits and file organization and scanning continuing until now. The hours reduction makes the budget the same for two years, eliminating the salary increase gain from late last year.

The next Gordon Borough Council Meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 in the Gordon Borough Municipal Building. Schuylkill County Election Bureau sent notice of 2018 election dates: May 15th (primary) and November 6th (general). There being no further general business, motion by Korn and Hoffman carried unanimously to adjourn the regular Gordon Borough Council meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Attest:  Linda S. Gately, Secretary-Treasurer February 13, 2018