

BOROUGH OF GORDON
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2018

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The regular monthly meeting of Gordon Borough Council was held Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building. Council present: Richard Babb, Shannon Dumboski, Todd Houser, Tracy Hughes, Richard Korn, Jason Quick. Also present: Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Esq., Secretary-Treasurer Linda Gately. Absent: Councilman Jeffrey Hoffman and Mayor George Brocious. Citizens: Lynn Korn, Jess Slotcavage, Carol Fetterolf, Barb Liem, Leo Rauber, Jr., and students Jacen Bingaman, Tyler Aguilar, Jenna Filiziani, and Cade Ermert.

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

Public Participation: Citizen Jess Slotcavage presented council with flyers for both the fish rodeo (May 5th) and town-wide yard sale (June 2nd from 8-3) to be posted to the borough website. Park cleanup volunteers are needed; Slotcavage suggested anyone needing community service contact her. Fish stocking will occur March 23rd (the day before mentor day), April and May. A food fundraiser table will also be manned for the first day of fishing March 31st, the yard sale and the Memorial Day Block Party. FOG representative Carol Fetterolf revealed a wine and paint event in the community hall April 21st which also includes a terrarium building activity. Fetterolf also announced the Good Friday egg drop event in the park, and reminded council of the \$5 stenciled brick fundraiser from the old school demolition. Resident Barb Liem suggested the borough use the old school property on Biddle Street for the new playground equipment rather than the park "where drug dealers are." Lynn Korn expressed concern about the two blighted properties on the agenda for county demolition funds, saying taxpayer money should not be used on the ½ double's adjoining property with "free siding" which will benefit the owner without personal expense. "I just want to go on the record this is not fair." Quick responded that if the property in question is purchased by another party, it will be with the stipulation it must be demolished within 60 days. Council welcomed comments from local school student doing a mandatory civics class report, inviting them to become a junior councilman.

Motion by Dumboski and Hughes for council to accept minutes from the February 13th 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 w/o \$10 sign reimbursement approved last month for Sadusky's widow.

Babb and Korn's motion to accept all accounts' February finance reports as read carried unanimously.

Payment of Invoices: General Acct.-Aqua PA (\$418), Berkheimer EIT-LST Comm. (\$224.⁶³), Butler Twp. Police (\$2,750), Entech (\$480), Gene's Supply (\$54.⁰⁶), PPL-St. Lts. (\$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), Riedlinger (\$595), SECV (\$56.⁴⁷), Sch. County Treas. R.E. Tax Bills (\$63.⁸⁴), SWIF (\$977), W.B. Mason (\$29.⁹⁹).

Motor License Fund Payments-Full Service 122 LLC (35-gal. Skid Loader Fuel \$105), Turkey Hill Borough Trucks' Gas (\$236.¹⁵), Best Line Equipment (Bobcat Warranty Svc. \$264.⁴¹).

Babb and Korn's motion to pay all invoices carried unanimously.

In Mayor Brocious' absence, Tracy Hughes read Butler Township Police Chief Ed Tarantelli's monthly report for February 2018, showing 16 calls and complaints within Gordon Borough. Code Enforcement Officer Robin Ennis had no report. Gordon Fire Police notified the borough they will not be assisting with Girardville council and AOH's request for help with their annual St. Patrick's Day parade March 24th due to issues from prior years.

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Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Esq., reported two blighted properties in the borough will be 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. Motion by Dumboski and Babb for Resolutions 03132018A and 03132018B, approving submission of demolition request to the county for two properties, 46-4-25 at 312 McKnight and 46-4-137 at 189 South McKnight. Michelle O'Connell from the county demolition office will use state grant money for the work. Riedlinger recommended voiding the tax bill check (\$345.⁹⁴) for improved property and have a revised (reduced) tax bill issued as unimproved status since completing demolition. Council plans an appeal to gain exemption for public use. The assessment hearing is May 8th at 8:45 a.m.


Borough Communications/Committee Reports: 2018's Liquid Fuels allocation of \$27,794.⁹⁶ was deposited into the Motor License Fund. Motion by Korn and Hughes to cancel the \$630 copier annual service contract with CopyCat and purchase a Xerox for \$549.⁹⁹ was approved unanimously. Babb thanked council for their support during the Stitzer family's recent bereavement.

Borough Manager Quick submitted an insurance claim to a trucking company that damaged a borough stop sign, but received a check only for materials; a second check for borough labor costs will be forthcoming. PP&L's \$468 bill to move the guide wire up for the new pole building will be waived after Quick contacted a manager about the issue. Most of the apartment rental permit inspections and one follow-up have been completed; most noncompliances were with smoke detectors and fire extinguisher regulations. The focus going forward will be on single dwelling rentals. Quick issued a fence and driveway permit for 106 McKnight. The fire company truck bay roof leak was fixed by Carlisle-Syntec. NSCOG will have a joint code enforcement presentation at Ashland Borough Hall Wednesday, March 28th at 7 p.m.

Last month's motion by Dumboski to cap all expenses for hall painting at \$1k was met (\$670 for paint and \$266 for supplies). New emergency lighting will be added. Motion by Babb and Korn was approved unanimously to authorize solicitor Riedlinger to prepare a tentative agreement with the fire company to reimburse the borough for half of the projected hall restroom remodeling costs less \$1k deposit (\$12,882.³⁸ total including a camera to check for drain blockage and a 15% overage) in 24 installment payments at 2% interest. Motion by Hughes and Babb to approve the electric supply upgrade/40 gal. rheem hot water heater installation (\$642) to replace the old oil burner for municipal building kitchens and restrooms approved unanimously.

Motion by Babb and Dumboski approved unanimously (with Quick abstaining) to purchase Gravely ZT HD 60 Model 991166 zero turn mower, seat spring kit, & ROPS kit, Total \$4,823.⁴⁸. Council tabled a \$45/mo. pest plan for the municipal building. Motion by Babb and Korn to approve a vegetation management quote from Ehrlich (\$315+\$295+\$622=\$1,232) to spray curbing along McKnight, Biddle, Hobart, and East Plane (behind municipal building near a/c unit pads) the fence line around the ballfield, and both sides of the park creek bed to the fork in the bank. Motion passed by majority roll call vote: Hughes-no (will not vote to use taxpayer money for residential curbsides; should be owners' responsibility), Dumboski-yes to park area only-not curbside, Korn-yes, Quick-yes, Houser-yes, Babb-yes. Council plans to vote at the April meeting on a vendor and order new playground equipment. DCED and DCNR have indicated that the high amount of CDs held from former sewage system funds makes grant acceptance unlikely. A 2019 grant application is planned for dredging the creek, compost toilets, and ADA compliance (handicap accessible ramp). Quick received no commitment on a tentative ballfield request; the remaining slots are for Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

The next Gordon Borough Council Meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 in the Gordon Borough Municipal Building. There being no further general business, a motion by Dumboski and Babb to adjourn the regular Gordon Borough Council meeting at 8:10 p.m. carried unanimously.

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