

The regular monthly meeting of Gordon Borough Council was held Tuesday, October 10, 2017, at 7 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building. Council Present: Richard Babb, Shannon Dumboski, Todd Houser, Richard Korn, Jason Quick, and Michael Rader. Also Present: Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Mayor George Brocious, and Secretary-Treasurer Linda Gately. Citizens: Barb Liem, Ramon Soto, Carol Fetterolf, Tracy Hughes, Lynn Korn, Sherry Ney, Tim Wiehl, John Cheeseman, and Leo Rauber, Jr. Absent: Councilman Jeffrey Hoffman.

Council President Rader called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Shannon Dumboski for borough council to accept the minutes from the September 12th regular meeting as presented by Secretary-Treasurer Linda Gately carried unanimously.

General Account 8709 (MPB) Opening Balance September 1st: \$41,317.²⁷, Receipts: \$14,665.³¹, Expenses: \$22,298.²³ + \$100 moved to petty cash, \$2,858.⁶⁸ uncleared checks; Bal. 9/30: \$30,925.⁶⁷. MPB Gen. Acct. Muni Fund 3430 balance unchanged 9/30: \$2,181.¹⁶. MPB General Acct. CD 0830 bal. 9/30: \$14,475.⁶⁶. BB&T Gen. Acct. CD 8835 bal. 9/30: \$5,109.⁶³.

Community Hall Fund (MPB Savings 2966): \$866.³⁰. (\$.06 interest, \$799.⁵⁰ gen. acct. hall reimbursements).

Motor License Fund 9509 (MPB) Balance 9/1: \$53,241.⁸⁷, \$19.⁰³ Interest, Expenses: \$101.⁰⁴, (traffic signs), Balance 9/30: \$53,159.⁸⁶, MLF CD 20018 (BB&T) Balance 9/30: \$84,090.³⁴.

Sewage Revenue MPB Checking Acct. 6609 Opening Balance 9/1/17: \$258,149.⁰³, Receipts of \$92.³⁰ Interest; Balance 9/30: \$258,241.³³. MPB Sewage Revenue CD 0431 Bal. 9/30: \$86,486.³⁴ (matures 4/5/19).

Sewage Op./Maint. MPB Checking Acct. 8209 Balance 9/1: \$4,571.⁸¹, Expenses: \$155 (Entech-SCMA), Receipt of \$1.⁶¹ interest, Balance 9/30/17: \$4,418.⁴².

Sewage Reserve MPB CD 6530 Balance 9/30: \$70,371.⁷². Dumboski's motion approved unanimously to move balances of Sewer Revenue 6609 and Operations/Maintenance 8209 accounts to General Acct. 8709, and balance of CD 6530 at maturity 11/2/17 to a 6 month CD @ 1.2% interest. Dumboski's motion to accept all accounts' September finance reports as read carried unanimously. Solicitor Riedlinger referenced PA Borough Code § 1316 Subpart C to research authorized types of investments for borough funds.

Invoices: General Account-Aqua PA (\$418), Berkheimer EIT/LST (\$72.⁶⁸), BIU-Engr. (\$888.⁸³), Butler Twp. Police (\$2,750), Gene's Supply (\$118.²⁰), Entech (\$465), Lavas-tax comm. (\$37.⁴⁹), MPB roof loan (\$802.⁷⁸), PPL (\$856.⁵⁰ LED, \$363.⁴⁹ HSV St. Lts., \$120.³⁸ Muni Bldg.), PTD (\$99.⁹⁵), Riedlinger (\$563), SWIF workmen's comp. ins. (\$1,005), DCED-UCC permits (\$12). Dumboski's motion to pay all invoices carried unanimously.

Mayor George Brocious read Butler Township Police Chief Ed Tarantelli's monthly report, with 28 calls and complaints within the Gordon Borough in September. Brocious, Rader, and Quick have yet to meet with Tarantelli. The mayor and council must first agree on the type and level of increased police coverage and acceptable costs.

The mayor will perform another wedding ceremony scheduled for October 14th. Gordon Citizens' Fire Company No. 1 will host the annual Towey Scholarship Chinese auction fundraiser October 28th with a shop and drop on Friday the 27th. The fire company is applying for a state grant (www.osfc.gov) for equipment and heating in the truck bays. Fire police will assist with FOG's Pumpkin Glow Night October 28th and Trick or Treat Night Tuesday, October 31st.

Schuylkill Firefighters' Financial Development Organization is reaching out to municipalities to consider a pledge of \$5k toward the \$2.4 million cost of the new fire school project; tabled by council. The mayor added that Gordon Citizens' Fire Company No. 1 will donate \$2,500 spread over three years. If the borough matches that, the requested pledge amount will be fulfilled.

Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Esq., will follow up with Angela Toomey at the tax claim office about the title search for a blighted property at 312 McKnight (46-4-25, Tye) to be pulled for 2018 judicial sale. A CDBG demolition project cooperation agreement was signed for 209 East Biddle (old school) Tax Parcel 46-4-103, and will be returned to the borough once fully executed. The contractor will preserve the cornerstone and bricks for a potential fundraiser, according to Borough Manager Jason Quick.

Riedlinger was informed by Quick that a Gordon Borough-County Waste Refuse and Recyclables Contract issue is still being reported by residents. The correct amount is still \$17 per residential unit including recycling as approved by council agreement (effective through July 31, 2018) with County Waste, whose rate went up elsewhere to \$21 two months ago to cover landfill costs. Riedlinger suggested asking for longer options on the next agreement to avoid such price increases.

Solicitor Riedlinger will draft a letter to Verizon about a phone line behind Councilman Richard Korn's property with several trees on it. Council also authorized Riedlinger to update and advertise ordinances (a Rental Permit Ordinance Girardville draft to be modified adding code enforcement officer inspections and Pottsville's section requiring landlords to be current on all bills to obtain permits), plus increasing the current Street Excavation Ordinance base fee (needs resolution only) and stipulating reconstruction conditions (ordinance required) as verified with borough engineer Cuff. Another ordinance to draft for adoption was Handicapped Parking Sign requirements (Riedlinger's Rush Twp. Draft or Hazleton version).

Borough Communications/Committee Reports: An elected officials' dinner is being offered at Pottsville's Union Station Thursday, November 16th from 6-8 p.m.; no charge, reservations requested (570-622-1942). Jason Quick responded to PA One Call notices for Cheeseman's drainage issue, the sewage plant, and downed wires, erected a handicapped parking sign, picked up asphalt to repair borough potholes, and created a database of street signs by location, with a 7 yr. replacement plan. Building permits were issued to Kaufman (roof, windows, siding), Moser (roof), Rattling Run new construction, and Brzoska (patio/deck).

North Schuylkill COG minutes show a new two week time limit for equipment rentals. The rented skid loader was used for brush control. Quick has yet to rent a chipper but will get more wood chips for under playground equipment from a Frackville donation. Dumboski's request to use the playground fund toward new equipment before the vendor's sale ends November 15th was tabled upon Houser's suggestion to review available grants. Rader proposed a community park design contest via the Gordon Borough Facebook page.

Council President Rader noted that with the divestiture of the sewage system and access to capital, a 2018 projects list and preliminary budget figures for roads and land/building maintenance are being prepared. Secretary-Treasurer Gately asked to meet with Finance Committee members Hoffman, Korn, and Houser to review 2017 YTD budget performance and draft a proposed 2018 budget before the next meeting so it can be advertised and adopted on schedule. Todd Houser's motion to buy a skid steer Bobcat loader through a COSTARS vendor (not to exceed \$50k with two buckets, attachments, tire chains) carried unanimously.

Quick reminded council of Footprint Zero's quote for LED light replacement in municipal building, tabled for review. J&S salt shed price increased from the original quote two months ago; also sourcing via COSTARS or look into a \$3k shipping container for salt storage. Need to follow up on painting the hall (probation officer for labor), bathroom updates, and two more HVAC quotes (\$18,950 from Cool Works, vendor for the other half of the municipal building). No action was taken on Babb's maintenance helper request.

Rader and Quick discussed changing to propane heat (A/C is electric) for the borough building and garage and an on-demand hot water heater. Motion by Houser to approve purchase up to \$19k of the HVAC system for the fire company side of the building including the community hall, pending the receipt of three quotes required. Motion carried, with Dumboski objecting due to not splitting expenses with the fire company (after Mayor Brocius noted sufficient funds are not available).

BOROUGH OF GORDON

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Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2017

Public Participation: Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) Robin Ennis' had no reported activity from previous citations issued: 304 E. Biddle, 514 McKnight, 516 McKnight, 214 E. Plane, 501 Hobart, 200 Hobart, 226 E. Biddle; properties at 508 McKnight, 312 McKnight, and 300 Elm Street received condemnation notices. A deteriorated porch at 607 Hobart is causing neighboring damage; complaint will be given to Ennis. Motion by Babb carried unanimously to appoint Quick as Assistant CEO for the borough to help Ennis with complaints. Quick added Constable Barry Brecker is now certified and can pick and choose local warrants to serve.

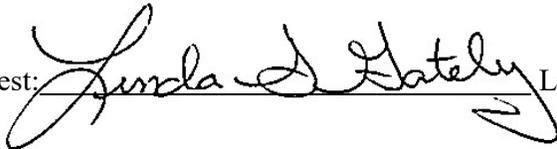
Residents Tim Wiehl and John Cheeseman complained about a cousin still taking items from the 508 McKnight Bixler property since the condemnation notice period expired. Butler Township Police will enforce violations of the maintenance code and/or a possible trespassing citation.

Shannon Dumboski asked that drug activity be given a priority. A golf cart is riding on streets, according to resident Tracy Hughes, saying the situation is dangerous and someone may get hurt. Babb questioned cars parked in yards for two years or more. Rader responded state law allows for removal of unlicensed or uninspected vehicles. Former council member Lynn Korn replied the borough ordinance allows storage of unlicensed/uninspected vehicles if they are covered. The ordinance will be reviewed and updated if that is the case, according to Rader. Korn also cautioned council on dump trucks backing out into traffic while building a house across from hers. Quick said the borough replaces speed limit signs for less than 35 mph, but he can also look into placing an additional sign more in the open by Cheddar's.

Citizen Sherry Ney asked about a Biddle Street property with garbage in the alley for weeks, dirt piles from dig holes, and weeds that have now become trees, saying the code officer sent a letter to the magistrate and property owner but the problem continues. Citizen Barb Liem commented on the good job done by Quick (floor wax and new curtains hung in the hall).

Council chambers must be set up for Election Day, which is Tuesday, November 7th. The next regular Borough Council meeting is Tuesday, November 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building. There being no further general business, Gordon Borough Council adjourned the regular meeting at 8:35 p.m. to go into executive session regarding a personnel matter with no action taken.

Attest:



Linda S. Gately, Secretary-Treasurer October 10, 2017