

**GRATZ BOROUGH COUNCIL  
N CENTER STREET  
PO BOX 305  
GRATZ, PA. 17030**

**August 14, 2024**

The Regular Meeting was held in the Gratz Boro Meeting Room at 7:00 P.M. with the following, persons attending: Mayor David Norris, Lynn Schadle, Bruce Wolfe, William Reed

Absent: President Kylie Bender and Jem Jefferies

JHA: Pete Fleszar

Solicitor: Sean Logsdon, Esq

Lehigh Engineering: Absent

Citizens: Lori Williard, Troy Schadle, Tim Leshner, Brian Novinger, Jason from Birch Associates

This meeting is being recorded.

Pledge to the Flag

On a motion made by Lynn Schadle and second by Bruce Wolfe the minutes were approved as read Motion Carried

Jason from Birch Associates presented a Subdivision Plan for John Hartman. Jason and Pete reviewed the Plan with the Council. Sean said that Ed must do a quick zoning review on the Plan. Sean said that if Council is ok with the Plan, he had no problem with it to be signed by Council. Bill made a motion to have John Hartman Subdivision Plan done by Birch Associates to approve it upon the approval of the Zoning Officer, Lynn Schadle second the motion. Motion Carried.

**Report of Engineer:** Pete mentioned that he received a Plan for the Solar Fair Grounds that he understands it is with the Planning Commission Agenda.

Peter and Ed are working on a Flow Chart as to how plans should be received. So, any concerns should be referred to the flow chart. David said that Ed did send out a flow chart to be reviewed. Pete needs to see the flow chart that Ed did. When Pete prepares the flow chart, he will see that Council gets the update.

Pete said that Cindy received a contract from JHA, Pete would like the Council to table the contract. Pete said they will be sending out a revised contract.

**Citizens to be Heard:** N/A

**Community Center:** N/A

**Code Enforcer and Zoning/Bldg Permits:** Ed's report was given to the Council. Lynn reported that Ed was in town today and took some pictures, Ed is issuing a citation to Pierce Dreher for weeds. Ed went up to Karen Trynoski and took pictures and walked around the back alley. Lynn

said that Karen had until July 1, 2024, and she is 43 days past the compliance date for 22 E Market Street. After Ed was there Ed got an email mid-morning from Karen and workmen showed up around noon to work on the building. Kylie called Lynn and said that we gave her every opportunity and we need to file a civil complaint. Sean said we should go to the Dauphin County Court and file for \$12,000.00. With the Council permission, Sean will file for the Borough for \$12,000.00 plus Sean and Ed's cost. Lynn ask if Sean needed anything from Cindy the cost that was already paid in regards to Karen Trynoski. Sean said not at this time any of that information is needed. After further discussion a motion made by Bruce Wolfe and second by Lynn Schadle to have Sean file with Dauphin County Karen Trynoski property at 22 East Market Street. Motion Carried.

**Sewer Authority:** Brian handed out to Council to get a new sign for the door. Brian said that Chad will make the new one for \$75.00 and the Sewer Authority will pay for it. Brian said the Web Site address will be listed on the sign. The door will be cleaned and painted. Brian wanted permission. Council agreed to have Brian do the sign.

Brian said that we get deliveries here at the Boro office and often no one is here. Brian said they talked about getting an outside box for these items to be put in. The cost would be under \$100.00. It will be next to the door attached to the building. Lynn ask about the items that needs to be signed. Brian said they would still go into Klines if anything needs to be signed.

Brian reported that the Website needs to be ADA Compliant and Brian ask more about it and they said they can go in an switch to make it ADA Compliant. Brian said it would make it easier for anyone that has disabilities to use the Web Site. The Cost would be \$500.00 extra a year. Brian said we could upgrade now or wait until November when our contract renews. Brian is asking if it must be done now or can it wait until November. Sean said his understanding that the mandate is coming, and we have until April of 2027. Sean feels that it could be done sooner rather than later. Brian will take care of it.

Tim reported on the gaming grant. The Boro is the co-applicant, and they must make a list of priorities. After further discussion, Lynn suggested Tim, Lynn, Brian and Cindy get together meet at 10:30 Thursday to get this information done since it must be done by the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Planning Commission:** Sean reported they are meeting on Monday regarding the Gratz Solar Company and the solar map amendment.

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor reported that the Brush pile is rather large, and Tim did got an estimate to have it hauled away for \$300.00 and an estimate to have it ground up for \$600.00. On a motion made by Lynn Schadle and second by Bruce Wolfe to have Tim get it hauled away for \$300.00. Motion Carried.

Mayor David regarding the Strategic Planning for a float chart on the Web Site for zoning issues and permits. David reached out to Ed and Pete, and they will add frequently ask questions to the float chart. Ed sent a draft to look at.

Mayor David decided to take on himself is Communication. David would like to get a monthly calendar or even a couple month calendar and put it out on social media, also posting it at the Bank, Post Office and getting a Board at the Community Center. David feels there is a lot going on in town that the residents are not aware of. David would like to see better Communication for

the residence. David will be the central point in doing this. Bruce said he had the same conversation with Lydia, and she is willing to help. Bruce said she had some additional things in mine to discuss.

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**Recreation:** N/A

**Cogs:** Lynn attended the meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, regarding the Solar Farms etc. Lynn said it was very interesting and very well attended. Lynn said they had a gentleman there with his expertise in Solar Farms and he works with the Penn State Extension. Lynn said he talked to him privately and told him about our Solar Ordinance and Lynn welcome him to look at it and discuss any recommendations. Lynn sent it to him, and he will get back to Lynn by the end of the month. Lynn said he will be back, and he is scheduling a field trip to go to a Solar Farm to see what it is like.

**Highway:** Bill reported that he has another project that he would like to discuss with Council. The project is on West and South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. It is to replace the stormwater pipe that runs across 2<sup>nd</sup> street. The pipe is exposed and needs to be replaced. Tim said they looked at it in two different ways. After further discussion, Bill said the cost from Bressler's would be \$7,701.54 plus Boxes. Bill would like to make a motion to approve the project on West and South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Lynn second the motion. Motion Carried.

Bill reported we got everything back from Eastern Industries for the Bid that was done last month and he said that will be done September and October to get that project done.

**Information Committee:** No Report

**Ag Security:** No Report

**Budget and Finance Committee:** Bruce saw from the water company that there was no response from Norm regarding the audits. After further discussion, Brian will reach out to him. Bruce will also talk to Norm and send us an email on the update. Brian did explain that he thought Norm went thru invoices and recipes because we sent all those items with the year of the audits.

**Insurance:** Brian did not hear anything from Erie. Tracey sent some information to Erie, but if it is to high, they are not even going to bother getting a quote.

**Solicitor's Report:** Sean reported that they are working on the re-zoning of James Hepler property to re-zone the property to the Agricultural Zoning District. This is on the agenda for the Planning Commission.

Comments will be ready for the September meeting. Lynn said we need to advertise to the Citizen Standard 2 weeks.

Sean feels that we should have a workshop meeting regarding the agreement with the Authority. Sean went over the Master Service Agreement regarding the Sewer Authority with the Council. After his discussion, he would like to have a workshop meeting to go over all the issues.

Sean said Kristen had looked for the Articles of Incorporation that was filed with the State. Sean will send them out to everyone. Brian will send the Article of Corporation to Sean. Lynn said that we should do this sooner than later. Lynn would like to have this done by the end of the year, so we can start the new year off right.

Sean brought up the Burn ordinance since Bill was not at last month meeting. Bill would like to continue this discussion because of the burn situation that his neighbor had.

Sean talked about a 1 person police department. Sean does not see anything in the Boro Code that would prohibit Gratz to have a 1 person police department, however Sean reviewed the issues that would come along with a 1 person police department. Sean discussed with Council.

Sean went over the small game and chance. Lynn said he gave the person that took over Shades the ordinance and he said they were grandfathered, Lynn said they are not, and the game machines were taken out. Sean said we are going to keep our eyes on Shell, Sean said there is no grandfather.

Lynn said we should have the gaming machines removed from Shell. After further discussion a motion was made by Bruce Wolfe and second by Bill Reed to have Ed and Sean go get rid of the machines at shell. Motion Carried.

**Other Business:** Lynn said regarding the roof at the Community Center. Tim said he had a card that came thru the mail and Tim had called the Company is Suncrest Roofing, LLC Levi came down and looked at the roof and said there are a lot of screws that are bad, and needs replaced. His recommendation is to replace the screws that are bad and put a special seal on all the screws spread primer on it. Spray the coating on the roof. See attached proposal & contract. The price he gave us is \$57,300.00. After further discussion, Lynn thinks this should go out for Bid, since it is over the amount of \$23,500.00. Sean will put this out for bid and send the information to Citizen Standard and Shamokin News item. (Weekender)

Bruce Wolfe reported on the Strategic Planning Meeting on July 29, 2024. See Attached Report. Bruce would like to see a commitment from the organization that they would at least have one person to be at the meetings. Bruce would like to set up a monthly meeting and the people that were there would like to have it on a Monday from 7 to 9, and the meeting would be at the Community Center.

Bruce said they would like an agreement with the organization. Bruce said they will see what is going on in Millersburg and Halifax. Bruce said before we go that route, we need the commitment that there is participation.

Bruce would like to see the Strategic Planning put on the Agenda.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasury Report was read on a motion made by Lynn Schadle and second by Bruce Wolfe to pay the bills.

**Expenses to be Approved:** The Expenses for the month were read. On a motion made by Lynn Schadle and second by Bruce Wolfe to pay the bills. Motion Carried

**Adjournment:** No further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 P.M. on a motion

made by Bruce Wolfe and second by Lynn Schadle. Motion Carried

Council went into Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted:

Cindy L Shade  
Borough Secretary

These notes are intended as an overview of the meetings discussions and not intended as an exact word account of what was said. So, if there are any comments or concerns or objections to what is written within this report. Please forward those comments and we will gladly make any adjustments after the approval of the Gratz Borough Council Meeting.