

Gratz Borough Council  
N Center Street  
PO Box 305  
Gratz, Pa. 17030

December 10, 2025

Present: Dave, Lori, Bill, Jem, Lynn, Bruce

Solicitor: Sean Logsdon

Citizens: Dave and Cameron Koppenhaver, Brian Novinger, Troy Schadle, Nathan Steinbach, Coy Rickert, Rusty Hubler, Tim Leshner

Minutes: Motion Lynn, Second Jem... approved unanimously

Engineer – No report, will be at 1/5 reorg meeting

Citizens: Dave Koppenhaver discussed the Tree City/Arbor Day/Shade Tree Committee. Some trees have been damaged (i.e. cut down). Proposed a draft letter that would be sent with the water bills to all residents. Some of the letter is incomplete and needs info. Dave would like to talk to the resident that cut the tree down to find out why, with a Council representative accompanying him. Looking at Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> in 2026 for Tree City ceremony, but that depends on DCNR schedule. Another potential date would be 4/24 (Friday). Still working on an exact date. Dave would like to have a set date from year to year. Asking for ideas, recommendations etc. for next year's plantings. Requested expenses from Shade Tree Committee for 2025 (needed for paperwork). Dave is working on getting an estimate for up trimming. Drake has contacted Kylie about planting a tree (and where) at the park in memory/honor of Clair Koppenhaver.

Sewer Water: Working on gaming grant. Water Co. approved LOC repayment which will happen in January. Brian's term is up, motion Jem, seconded Bruce, vote unanimous to renew Brian's term for 5 more years. 12 grinder pumps were ordered from last round of gaming grant along with check valves and additional funds for interior of new bathrooms.

Mayor: No report

Community Center: Room next to the food bank will be ready to rent out in January. May set 1 room to rent for meetings and small parties. Discussed possibility of a kitchenette but that can be decided later.

Code Enforcer: Bench warrant was issued on 12/5 for 501 E Market (as appeared in last month's minutes)

Planning Commission: Sean had a meeting on the recommended data center ordinance which needs reviewed by Council. Brian suggested water allocation permit language be included; Sean will add 'will serve' language to the ordinance.

Recreation – Bingo in November raised \$3600 profit. The backstop has been installed but not yet paid by the softball league. The committee wishes everyone a Merry Christmas. New ornaments are available for pickup at the Grand Entrance.

COGS – No report

Highway – Salt spreader has been purchased via email vote. Old one should be placed on Municibid once Tim is ready. Motion Lynn, second Lori.. vote unanimous

AG Security – No report

Finance Committee – No report

Insurance – no report

Strategic Planning – Nothing new to report

Solicitors Report – reorg meeting on Jan 5<sup>th</sup>. Skill games came up in court 11/20, expect ruling early 2026. If considered chance, they will be regulated like slot machines. If ruled as skill, Council will have to decide how to proceed. Sean feels that the court didn't buy the argument that they are skill games. Data center ordinance will be in 2026; vote to advertise will be in February.

Other Business – MIS quote for new computer. Motion Bruce, second Lori, vote unanimous for Cindy to get a new PC

Core – Tim and Rusty will have authority to do the first notice on ordinance violation. After time period for correction it goes to Ed for follow through. Ed will train them; additional discussion will be held at January meeting. Discussion of a letter to be sent to each resident (Bill already has and it may be included with a water mailing).

Website: now has headers and the ability for people to rent the community center, pavilion at park and complete complaint forms. Bill would like the zoning documents to be searchable; Brian said Tracy will handle.

Treasurers report – Motion Lynn, second Bill vote unanimous

Expenses – Motion Lori , second Jem, vote unanimous

New business: Dave Norris submitted his resignation as mayor. He recommended Lynn Schadle as replacement. Sean went through the process. Dave provided a letter effective immediately. Lynn agreed to accept the position and will serve until the first Monday in January after the next municipal election. Vote to accept Dave's resignation – motion Jem, second Lori, vote unanimous. Lynn will have to resign by resolution. Motion to accept Lynn's resignation Jem, second Lori, vote unanimous. Motion to appoint Lynn as mayor Jem, second Lori vote unanimous. Proposed Nathan Steinbach as new councilperson. Motion by Bill , no second.. motion died. Sean discussed mayoral duties. No movement on appointing a new person so it will require a special meeting. Motion to advertise the reorg meeting on 1/5, followed by a special meeting to appoint someone for the vacant council seat made by Bill, seconded by Jem. Lynn provided a written resignation letter and will be sworn in by a notary on Thursday, December 11th

Motion to adjourn made by Bruce, seconded by Bill

Borough Minutes by

Tracey Bixler for Cindy Shade