

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

January 14, 2026

The Regular Meeting was held in the Gratz Boro Meeting Room at 7:00 P.M. with the following, persons attending: President William Reed, Mayor Lynn Schadle, Lori Williard, Jem Jeffries, Coy Rickert, Nathan Steinbach

JHA: Absent

Solicitor: Sean Logsdon ESQ

Lehigh Engineering: Absent

Citizens: David Koppenhaver, Cameron Koppenhaver, Angie Sitlinger, Bruce Wolfe, Jason Klinger, Mark Welker, Lacie Engle Kahler, Tyler Kahler, Tim Leshner, Rusty Hubler, Kent Williard, Drake Lenker and Troy Schadle

This meeting is being recorded.

Pledge to the Flag

Minutes: On a motion made by Coy Rickert and second by Lori Williard to approve the minutes as read. Motion Carried.

Report on Engineer: No Report

Citizens to be Heard: Tyler Kahler had a question regarding the situation regarding the resignation of the last Mayor, what process did the Council go through to authorize the Council to take control of election. Attorney Sean explained to Tyler that the Council had to appoint a mayor to take the position of Mayor Norris who resigned. Attorney Sean explained what the Boro Code says regarding the vacant position until the next re-election. If Lynn wants to continue to be the mayor, he will have to be on the Ballot for next election. The vacancy process is only until the next election, at that time whoever wants to be Mayor would have to go through the election process and be put on the ballot. William Reed explained to Tyler that the mayor was appointed in December and that there was a full quorum for the appointment. January 5th Mayor Schadle gave the oath to the newly elected officials. Tyler did not realize that everyone was an elected official when the appointment was made.

Tim Leshner reported to Council that at the last meeting the Gratz Fire Company approved to build an addition to the Fire Station, and they are looking to do some Storm Water improvements. This is in the planning stages. Tim said that he was talking with Pete from JHA to come up with the plans. Tim said maybe it would be a good time for the Boro to look at some improvements. William said to get together with Highway committee.

Tim gave a report that the Fire Company had 144 calls last year, 900 hours of training and 900 hours of man hours. Tim said the plan is our engine is a 1991 and looking at to upgrade in 5 years. Looking at purchasing a small pick-up utility truck to take some of the calls to save on the

engine.

Code Enforcer and Zoning/Bldg. Permits: The report for Ed was given to the Council.

Sewer Authority: Tim reported that he got the grinder pumps to install. Lynn said that was part of the grant money. The cost of the grinder pumps was \$48,000.00. Lynn said the Water and Sewer approved an increase for their employees which will start with the January hours for their pay in February

Planning Commission: Attorney Sean said that he is working on a draft for the Saldo and Land Development Ordinance to be ready for review. Will need to schedule a work session to review. Drake ask Attorney Sean where did he research Saldo. Attorney Sean said that he did an outreach on a boro of 800 people, surrounded by two large townships. Drake Lenker told council that Brian Bender would like to be an Alternate for the Planning Commission, so we would need to appoint another person for the Planning Commission. Tyler Kahler said that he would like to be on the Planning Commission.

Gratz Boro Building Authority: Tim gave an update on the Community Center regarding the Bathrooms, Tim said they are going to be doing the drywall Friday January 16, 2026. Hopefully it will be completed by the end of February. Lynn ask if we were still in Budget with the Bathroom and Tim said yes. Council told Tim that the railing at the side of the building looks nice. It was put up for the safety of the people coming out of the building. Cindy, Jem and Lacie will have a meeting to go over what the authority is.

Mayor Report: Mayor Schadle had ask David Koppenhaver, chairman of the Arbor Day Committee to explain the letter that was sent out to the residence. David said that it only applies to the trees that the Shade Tree Committee planted back in 1999. Does not pertain to the trees that they did not plant. David reported that they are in the process of putting a GO tag on each tree that the Shade Tree Committee planted. Lynn ask the question, what if the Shade Tree Committee planted the tree but the homeowner paid for it. David explained that back when the Shade tree first started the homeowner paid \$75.00 for the tree which was considered a donation to the Shade Tree Committee to get the project started. If a homeowner purchases a tree other than the Shade Tree trees and plants the tree, it is their responsibility to take care of trimming etc. David said they work with PP&L and take care of the North Side and will be working on getting the trees trimmed this year to make sure that the trees are not damaging the property as well as the sidewalks and when cars park. David will get quotes and give them to Boro.

Jason Klinger said the sidewalk where Amber Daniels lives is lifted from the roots of the tree that is planted there, who is responsible for that. Jason said there are other areas that are bad. William Reed said that the sidewalks are the homeowner's responsibility. Mayor Schadle said that he has a grant for over 2 million dollars for sidewalks and curving. For any tree questions call David Koppenhaver or come to the Boro meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Recreation: Angie Sitlinger reported that there possibly be another Bingo. February 21st is the

father-Daughter dance from 1 to 4. Talked to Tim and picked out a spot for the AD system at the Pavillion. Softball will be starting up, and the Little League will be starting so the fields will be getting used. Diamond Tech cost a lot so both fields will be used. Angie said not sure about Playground equipment, not sure what going to be put in. Thinking about fixing some things at the grandstand. Tim told Angie that there is a grant from DCNR that pertains to Parks they should look into. Lynn will send Angie information on the grant. Angie, Kylie and Tim talked about putting Tin up inside the Bathrooms instead of painting.

Cogs: No Report

Highway: Tim reported the salt spreader was sold for \$1250.00.

Ag Security: No Report

Budget and Finance Committee: Cindy reported that a Cd in the amount of \$119,418.51 is coming due January 20th. Cindy will call and see what the rate is and let council know.

Insurance: No Report

Strategic planning: Lori gave council a copy of the report. A question was ask if the meeting room is available at no cost for the 3rd Tuesday of the month, the key will be given to the appropriate person. See attached report

Solicitors: Report: Attorney Sean would like a brief executive session after the meeting. Sean talked about Saldo. Sean talked about the Ag Security putting your farmland in Ag Security to protect that land from any ordinances, you need a land of 10 acres or more. Sean will get the Ag Security resolution updated. Angie Sitlinger ask Attorney Sean would the Ag Security protect the farmland if the government came in and hook up with the farmer to spread things that should not spread. After further discussion, Sean is not sure of the answer to the question. Sean does not think that the government would force the farmers to spread something that should not be spread. Sean talked about the Data Center Ordinance, since there are new members on council, he would like them to review the Ordinance and have it voted on for next meeting. Cindy will email the Data Center Ordinance to the members to have them review. This will be advertised for the February meeting.

Sean talked about the skill gaming machines; he said that it was still at the Supreme Court and as soon as he finds out the decision, he will let the Council know.

Sean talked about the Core. William Reed said that it would start out as a warning, then a follow up and then it will go to Ed for him to enforce.

Any other Business: William Reed ask about the social media Policy that President Reed had sent to Sean. President Reed will email the social media Policy to council to review and discuss at February's meeting.

Jem ask Sean about the email that she had sent him. Sean said that he did not get the information and will email her when he gets the information.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasury Report was read, and a motion was made by Coy Rickert and

second by Nathan Steinbach to pay the bills.

Expenses to be Approved: The Expenses for the month were read. On a motion made by Lori Williard and second by Coy Rickert to pay the bills. Motion Carried

Adjournment: No further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 P.M. on a motion made by Jem Jeffries and second by Coy Rickert Motion Carried

Council then 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.