

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

January 8, 2024

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

Solicitor: Present by Zoom

Lehigh Engineering: Absent

Citizens: Lori Williard and Kent Williard, Tim Leshner, Brian Novinger, Thomas and Brooke Williard, Marshall Hepler, Gerald Wolfgang, Drake Lenker, Margaret Koppenhaver, Troy Schadle

Public Hearing: Notice is hereby given that Gratz Borough Council will hold a public hearing on January 8, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the Gratz Borough Municipal Building located at 125 N. Center Street, Gratz, Pa. 17030. The purpose of the hearing is to take public input on Local Service Tax of \$~~5~~2.00 assessed at \$1 per week per person principally employed within the Borough and earning more than \$12,000 effective January 1, 2025,

A copy of this ordinance is available for inspection at the Gratz Borough Municipal Building during normal business hours. The public hearing will be immediately followed by the regular meeting of Gratz Borough Council at which time Council intends to consider adopting the Ordinance.

Lynn reported that the Boro charges everyone that works in the Borough \$20.00 for Local State Tax, this would increase the standard tax of \$52.00. Lynn said there was not a tax increase for many years, and this would be the way to go and only affect the people that work in the Borough. Attorney Sean reiterated what Lynn had said. Lynn said this would increase our revenue by around \$32,000.00.

After further discussion Cindy Shade went down the line for a vote.

Lynn Schadle Yes

Jem Jeffries Yes

Bruce Wolfe Yes

William Reed Yes

Motion Carried.

Bill ended the Public Hearing Meeting to go into Regular Meeting

This meeting is being recorded.

Pledge to the Flag

Bill reported that since our President Kylie Bender resigned, we need to reorganize.

Lynn Schadle nominated William Reed for President and Bruce Wolfe second the nomination.

Motion Carried.

William Reed nominated Lynn Schadle for Vice President Jem Jeffries second the nomination. Motion Carried.

Vacant seat for Council. Lynn Schadle appointed Lori Williard to fill the vacancy. Jem Jeffries second the nomination. Motion Carried.

At that time Lori Williard was sworn in by David Norris.

Correction of Minutes for December 11, 2024, is as follows. On the Budget and Finance Committee Bruce Wolfe voted No. A change to a 4 to 1 vote.

On a motion made by Lynn Schadle and second by Bruce Wolfe the minutes were approved after the correction is made. Motion Carried

Report of Engineer: No Report

Citizens to be Heard: Drake Lenker and Margaret Koppenhaver wanted to play Pickleball at the Community Center. See attached information from Drake Lenker In payment of using the Community Center Drake wondered if a donation would be accepted. Lynn ask if it would be for anyone in the Community and would be a scheduled time, so if an active calendar could be set up on the Web site as well as contacting Cindy. Cindy explained that in the wintertime we have the Little League come into practice in the evenings but not the weekends. Drake mentions that his family would donate the net that needs to be used for Pickleball. Lynn suggested Drake tape the floor permanently and to get the net and the balls and get a donation Bruce ask about the liability and if someone gets hurt. Attorney Sean said it would be playing at your own risk, and maybe a sign should be put up. After further discussion, on a motion made by Lynn Schadle and second by Bruce Wolfe to allow Pickleball be played at the Community Center. Motion Carried.

Gerald Wolfgang was wondering about the renewing of the Zoning Hearing Board. Cindy explained that we will have a reorganization meeting in January of 2026, at that time Borough Council will reorganize. Gerald was talking about the EMS study that he read in the paper. Asking what was going to happen if they made a tax and if any merging of Ambulances in the Upper Dauphin County. Lynn ask Gerald if he would like to go to the Cogs meeting on January 16th at the Millersburg Borough Building at 6:30 and they will be discussing the EMS study. Lynn told Gerald that the Council had agreed to pay \$2.00 per resident toward this study. Lynn said they had gotten a grant of \$70,000.00 to do the study. Lynn said some of the things that Gerald had discussed are just rumors. Lynn said that the study is looking to improve the EMS up in the Northern Dauphin County. Lynn told Gerald to see him after the meeting to get the information about going to the meeting.

Marshall Hepler wants to cut down trees behind his garage and wanted permission if needed to come across the road. Lynn said if any damage, Marshall would have to take care of, but it would be ok to do so. Marshall needs to call and get some estimates.

Community Center: No Report

Code Enforcer and Zoning/Bldg Permits: Cindy gave Council the Report for January. Attorney Sean reviewed the Gratz Borough zoning Ordinance amendment regarding RV's Section 435 Recreational Vehicles: No Recreational Vehicles (RV's) shall be occupied on a lot for more than 60 days in the same calendar year, except for approval in a campground, said approval with the contingent upon access to suitable central sewage and water service. Mobile and Manufactured homes shall not be occupied on a lot as a residence unless they meet all the requirements for dwelling. Lynn said that the only concern Ed had was how it was going to be enforced within 60 days. Ed had two other ordinances that he will send to Attorney Sean to maybe put this back on the agenda for next month and put under old business and look at what Ed sent to Sean. Sean agreed to put back on the agenda for next month.

Sewer Authority: Brian said they had not met yet, but the audit is being conducted. Deb who has worked for the audit company is retiring, and the owner's daughter will be working on 2021, 2022. Brian said that he has 20 years in but needs to be reappointed. Lynn Shadle made a motion to reappoint Brian Novinger and William Reed second the motion for Sewer Authority. Motion Carried.

Planning Commission: Are the Planning Commission meeting going to continue to be monthly meeting on a Monday. Drake will reach out to Brian Bender to discuss.

Mayor's Report: Mayor David Norris told the Council that he was on a zoom meet regarding the Comcast Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD). David said they were supposed to send a link with the map. There is also one on Friday with Verizon trying to get grant money to expand. David received from the Pa State Association Mayor Association requesting a Proclamation of January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, this ties in with the 2020 Resolution. Wanted to make sure Council is ok with this and if so, he will issue the Proclamation. All the council agreed to have David do the Proclamation. See attached.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Recreation: Jem reported that Boro agreed last year to pay for the Fireworks if there were insufficient donations gotten. Bruce ask how much money. Lynn said they will not know until they get all the donations in, some years they get enough to pay for the fireworks. The Fireworks cost around \$8,000.00. Jem Jeffries made a motion to send out the donation forms for the fireworks and the Borough would pay the difference Lynn Schadle second the motion. Motion Carried.

Lynn got a message from Kylie that the Parks and Recreation paid for the Fireworks last year.

Cogs: Lynn reported that they will be discussing the Update Study of EMS which will be held in Millersburg Borough Building on January 16, 2025, at 6:30 PM. Lynn will be going to the meeting.

Highway: No Report

Information Committee: No Report

Ag Security: No Report

Budget and Finance Committee: Bruce ask about the audit for the Borough, do we have a plan in place. Brian said the Auditor that is doing the Sewer Authority will be starting the Borough Audit when they are finished with the Sewer Authority. Bruce is wondering if we should have a 2-step process.

Insurance: No Report

Strategic planning: Bruce reported that we are having the Community Conversation on January 16th, and it is open to the Public. Bruce would like to have the mayor give an introduction. Bruce said on the 16th at 1:00 asking people to set up for the meeting, going to offer hot chocolate and ice cream. There were assignments to make sure that everything is in place.

Bruce said on the fourth Tuesday of the month (February 25th) there will be a Strategic Meeting. Brian Novinger mentioned some of the meetings that Bonnie Kent from Northern Dauphin County had and the grants that she had gotten. Bruce said he was going to look into grants.

Solicitors' Report: Sean reported that the appointment of Lori Williard will require a Resolution. Cindy will contact the Election Board to let them know of Kylie Benders resignation and the appointment of Lori Williard.

Sean reviewed the Time Extension Agreement Gratz Borough (see attached) On a motion made by Lynn Schadle and second by Jem Jeffries to approve the Time Extension Agreement between the Gratz Borough and Momentum Gratz 1 LLC plan extend to February 28, 2025. Motion Carried.

Sean reported that we have been talking about the Skill games, the lawmakers are coming out with some additional legislation. Sean said they are talking about games of chance and not skill games. If this does come down to game of chance the state government could put a tax on them. We might have to implement an ordinance for Gratz Borough amusement Tax which will be set by the state of what to charge them.

Lynn ask about the small solar panels on the roof ordinance that was supposed to be discussed in January. Sean thought it had passed already.

Other Business: Per Lynn Schadle text vote was made for spouting at porch entrance of the Community Center. Bill Reed voted yes, Jem Jeffries voted yes, Bruce Wolfe voted yes. Lori Williard voted yes. Motion Carried. The estimate is from Woodside Services in the amount of \$525.00.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasury Report was read on a motion made by Jem Jeffries and second by Lynn Schadle 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 8:21 P.M. on a motion made by Jem Jeffries 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.