

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

June 11, 2025

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

JHA: Absent

Solicitor: Sean Logsdon, Esq

Lehigh Engineering: Absent

Citizens: Troy Schadle, Coy Rickert, Brian Novinger, Tim Leshner, Bill Byler, Michelle Sweigard

This meeting is being recorded.

Pledge to the Flag

Public Notice: The Gratz Borough Council will hold a public hearing on June 11, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. at the Gratz Municipal Authority Building at 125 N Center Street, Gratz, Pa. to consider adopting an Ordinance amending the Gratz Borough Zoning Ordinance, Part 2 Section 202, the purpose of which is to identify and revise the permitted areas for Major and Minor Solar Energy Systems. The public hearing will be immediately followed by the regular meeting of the Borough Council at which time they intend to consider adopting the Ordinance. Copies of the Ordinance are available for inspection at the Gratz Borough Municipal Authority Building during normal business hours.

Attorney Sean Logsdon reviewed the ordinance with the Council and the Citizens that were there.

Lynn commented that the reason we are doing this is because we are doing an undo expense for our single and 2 families for the \$1000.00 Hearing for Exception for panels on the roof.

Sean as for any questions or comments

After further discussion a motion was made by Lynn Schadle and second by William Reed to approve Ordinance 061125. Motion Carried.

A Motion was made by Lynn Schadle and second by Bruce Wolfe to close the Public Hearing Meeting. Motion Carried.

Minutes: Bruce Wolfe had a Question on the Report of the Engineer. He said when he read it it looked like we already had those grants. Lynn said to add that we had email notice of the grants that were awarded to the Borough.

On a motion made by Lynn Schadle and seconded by Bruce Wolfe to approve the minutes when the amendment it made. Motion Carried.

Report on Engineer: Lynn Schadle reported that Tim Leshner and himself had the letters for the gaming awards. \$70,000.00 for the Borough and \$70,000.00 for the Sewer. Lynn said that the

bathrooms that exist now are very expensive to convert into handicap accessible and the size of the doors, not to mention the bathrooms, are very small. Lynn said we have a classroom right across from the hall from the all-purpose room that is not being used. Tim Leshner thought we could enlarge the door into that room make a wall North to South and create a coat room and then straight ahead put a utility closet. Straight into that we would have a Men's Room and a Women's Room and put the stalls against walls of the utility room Run the Sewer waste down the center of utility room go right out the building 2 feet turn right we would hook up to the sewer hookup. Lynn explained that we would save a lot of money by doing it this way. Lynn explained we would also be making some changes to the heat because the cost of the heat is high. We would put 3 mini splits in that room to heat and cool that room and take out the oil heat in that room. Close the windows and just put 2 windows in that room. If we run over the \$70,000.00 grant monies, we could use the CD interest money on the \$500,000.00 Cd we have. We are going to be getting the contracts by the end of the month; we will need to put it out on bid and have a general contractor to do this work. Lynn would like permission to contact Pete and through his company have someone come out and walk with Tim and Lynn to make sure we are ADA Compliant.

Bruce liked what Lynn and Tim came up with the only concern he had is the location the best with not having a master plan on how we are going to utilize this building. Tim explained he feels that this is the best place for the bathrooms.

On a motion made by Bruce Wolfe and Second by Jem Jeffries to talk to Pete and Company. Motion Carried.

Citizens to be Heard: Bill Hepler and Michelle Sweigard were at the meeting for a Demo Permit for his home that caught on fire.

Community Center: Cindy had told the Council the Cleaning lady had talked to her about purchasing a Vacuum Cleaner for the Community Center, she had taken the one that we have at the office, and she said it does not pick up very well. On a motion by William Reed and second by Jem Jeffries to pick up a vacuum cleaner for the Community Center. Motion Carried.

Code Enforcer and Zoning/Bldg Permits: Report was given to Council from Lehigh Engineering LLC. Lynn said that we had some requests for extension which have been denied. Ed is also going to meet with Becky Margerum to file a second lien notice and to talk about repeated violators.

Tim asks if there was any interest in deputizing. Lynn said we should see how Ed makes out with the meeting with Becky.

Sewer Authority: Brian Novinger reported that there was not too much for Sewer or Water. Brian talked about the Electric for the Borough. Brian got a letter from the electric supplier saying the way things are going our rate would go up 1.75 per cent unless we sign a 3-year extension and we would be locked into 2031. Bill Reed and Brian Novinger talked about it and decided not to sign a 3-year extension. Borough prices are still good until 2028. The sewer is good until April of 2026.

Planning Commission: Sean said nothing from the Planning Commission. Sean had talked about a policy that if anyone had something for the Planning Commission it would have to be at

the Borough the Thursday before the Planning Commission meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month. So, it would be the 2nd Thursday of the month for the meeting to be held on the 3rd meeting of the month. Lynn said the Planning Commission would like someone to type of minutes. Lynn said there was a talk about expanding Tracey work so she would do the minutes. There was discussion on getting AI Programs to transcribe the minutes that are being recorded.

On a motion made by Lynn Schadle and seconded by Jem Jeffries to have a resolution declaring that the items that need to go on the Planning Commission meeting agenda must be submitted to the Borough on the 2nd Thursday of the month for the Planning Commission meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month. Any special meeting for the Planning Commission will also require items to be presented within 72 hours of advance. Sean will make up the Resolution Motion Carried

On a motion made by Lynn Schadle and seconded by Bruce Wolfe to look for someone to do the agenda and to review the minutes for the Planning Commission. Motion Carried.

Sean reported that Morris is resubmitted their plans and they may be at the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, Sean will let the Council know.

Mayor's Report: No Report

COMMITTEE REPORT

Recreation: Jem reported that the Parks and Recreation is asking the Boro to help pay for the Fireworks next year. Parks and Recreation will continue to reach out for donations. On a motion made by Lynn Schadle and seconded by Lori Williard to approve the payment of the Fireworks by the Boro. Motion Carried.

Jem reviewed the Expenses; George Ely associated for \$141.00 American Fireworks \$8000.00 98.9 WQLV-FM for \$450.00 and Millers Supplies \$85.90 total amount \$8676.90. On a motion made by Lynn Schadle and second by Lori Williard to approve the expenses. Motion Carried.

Jem reported that the Mommy and me program has started. The Park is rented thru out the Summer. Thanks to Lori for the flowers.

Cogs: No Report

Highway: Bill reported that potholes will be patched, and drains will be fixed. Tim and Bill will get together for any roads that need to be paved.

Information Committee: No Report

Ag Security: No Report

Budget and Finance Committee: No Report

Insurance: No Report

Strategic planning: Bruce reported they are planning to have an event, but it is not clear when there will be two options on the table. Trying to get at least \$1000.00 to pay for organizing a Non-profit Organization. The Non-profit Organization they are talking about is 501-C3 and it would be called Gratz & Lykens Township Incorporated. This would be to support Gratz and Lykens Township programs. Included in what Bruce sent is a copy of the By-Laws.

Bruce reported that a letter went out to the Gratz and Lykens Twp for approval to move forward on this or if no one is interested. Bruce said that it is unclear who the executives would be, he said he will not be. Bruce will be available for support and guidance. Bruce has not heard back from the Lykens Twp. Council would like to see what the Lykens Twp says. Also see if the \$1000.00 can be raised.

Bruce will continue forward.

Solicitors' Report: Sean reported that he heard there has been money allocated for Police. Sean explained that a letter of intent is needed. After further discussion, Sean thinks that it may not work for Gratz, it is more for Municipalities who have a Police force. Sean will keep Council posted.

July 4th is coming up and Sean talked about the Fireworks.

Sean talked about the State passing Recreational Marijuana. About personal growing of Marijuana.

Sean talked about the Cell phone Ban use while driving, Sean said they will start out with warnings. Lynn said he had a question regarding children using cell phones in the back seat, would that be a problem too. Sean said no, just the driver.

Sean said he received the Right to know request and will take care of it. Sean will send the email with the information to Lynn.

Sean talked about a Grant that he thought he seen there was no match.

Sean talked about two Ordinances

1. Ordinance regulating the Keeping of Chickens in the Borough
2. Ordinance of adopting the 2024 Edition of the International Property Maintenance Code of Gratz Borough.

These Ordinance Sean will Email to be reviewed by the Council and discussed at the August Meeting.

Any other Business: No other Business

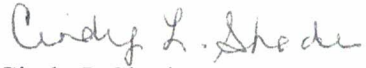
Treasurer's Report: The Treasury Report was read on a motion made by Lynn Schadle and second by Lori Williard to pay the bills.

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

Adjournment: No further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M. on a motion made by Lynn Schadle and second by Bruce Wolfe. Motion Carried

Council went into Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy L. Shade".

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.