

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

June 12, 2024

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

JHA: Pete Fleszar Absent

Solicitor: Sean Logsdon, Esq

Lehigh Engineering: Absent

Citizens: Lori Williard, Jim Hepler, Troy Schadle

This meeting is being recorded.

Pledge to the Flag

On a motion made by Jem Jeffries and second by William Reed the minutes were approved as read Motion Carried

Sean reviewed the Borough Zoning Ordinance Redefining Electricity Generating Plant and changing regulations regarding wind farms and major solar energy systems

On a motion to except the Zoning Ordinance was made by Kylie Bender and second by Lynn Schadle. Motion Carried.

Report of Engineer: Pete Fleszar was absent

Citizens to be Heard: Jim Hepler gave Council a Site Plan on which he would like to construct a steel storage shed at the end of his property. Lynn said that it is zoned Residential 1, and the building would need to be 35 feet from the property line. Jim is asking the Council for common sense for the 35 feet it is family land, and it would not affect anyone. Lynn explained that it is zoned Residential, Lynn said we can change Residential zoning. Kylie question if there could be a variance. Sean explained to Jim what he would need to do for a variance to continue this project. Jim would need an application and there would be a Public Hearing Notice. Jim also had an issue of the \$1000.00 cost. Lynn explained to Jim that the cost of a stenographer, Attorneys and advertising, the Boro is still losing money. Council explained to Jim what application he needs to have and get it to us ASAP and then we can advertise. See attached Hepler Site Plan

Troy Schadle ask Council about the minutes being on the Web Site. Cindy was on the understanding that if someone wanted to see the minutes to contact the Boro Office and they could come by to read the minutes. After further discussion Cindy will email Bill the minutes to put on the web site.

Community Center: Kylie had said that Curtis reported that the claim for the Community

Center Roof was denied. Kylie said the adjuster said the roof was horrible. Zartman's did the roof, and the question was asked is it under warranty. Sean will investigate it.

Code Enforcer and Zoning/Bldg Permits: Council had Ed's report

Sewer Authority: David and Lynn reported that the Water Company purchased a used pickup truck and the Water Company had paid for it. Since the Boro owns the Water Company someone from the Boro to go with Tim to do the transaction. Tim is checking for galvanized pipes. Lynn said there was only 4 properties that needed changed so far Tim needs to do the other side.

Planning Commission: Kylie reported that there is a meeting next Monday, the 17th.

Report of Waterworks and Pumping Station Attendant: No Report

Mayor's Report: David reported he had to two complaints, the property that the Dunn's used to live in, the hedges are high, and the grass needs mowed. Lynn said the complaint went to Ed for the mowing. Also, the dumpster that is on Market Street in front of Schoffstall Store should be removed if the construction is completed, it is very difficult to see when pulling out. Sean had looked and it is the zoning ordinance.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Recreation: Kylie reported that the Little League had done a lot of work with the ball fields because of all the Tournaments that were back there and the total cost was \$4800, and they are asking if the Boro could pay \$1500.00 of the invoice. On a motion made by Lynn Schadle and second by Kylie Bender to have the Boro pay \$1500.00 to the Gratz Little League for the help of the field. Motion Carried

Kylie told the Council that there is no Teener Teams using the Teener field and thought it would be a good idea to use that field for Girls Softball as well as Little League they would just have to purchase a movable pitcher mound, and then it can be used for both Girls Softball as well as the Little League. Council feels that would be a good idea.

Kylie said the Fireworks went well even if we had some rain. She is concerned about the Parks and Recreation to continue to fund this event because it takes a lot of money, and she did not get a lot of donations. Council would like to see it continue so Bill said plan for it for next year and we will figure it out.

Cogs: No Report

Highway: Bill reviewed the paving that is going to be advertised this paving will be paid out of the PLGIT account. Bill had gotten a bid packet ready. See Attached information. Cindy will advertise thru Citizen Standard and the bids will be open on July 10, 2024. On a motion made by Kylie Bender and second by Bruce Wolfe to advertise. Motion Carried.
Bill went over the other projects that will be paid for out of the Highway construction account.

Information Committee: No Report

Ag Security: No Report

Budget and Finance Committee: Bruce had ask if we had done anything more with the Water Company. Bruce ask where we stand on the Audits. Lynn said Deb plans to be here and work on the Audits so they will be completed by the end of August. Lynn would like to work on Grant Applications in September. The question with the Water Company, asking if the Sewer Authority could take on the Water Company. Sean feels we need a workshop meeting just to focus on the Water and Sewer.

Insurance: Council would like to get other quotes starting the beginning of the year.

Solicitor's Report: Sean said the Planning Commission Meeting on Monday, if Mr Hepler has the application filled out and gotten to Lynn we can also discuss what Mr Hepler wants to do. Lynn said that he will tell Jim to get the application to him so this can be discussed at the meeting on Monday. Meeting will start at 7:00 P.M.

Would like an executive session after meeting.

Sean talked about the agreement in 1993 that the Boro had with the Dauphin County Emergency Management. Sean said there is something going on between Paxtang 1 and Paxtang Boro. Sean is saying the Paxtang is putting us on notice that if we would need help, we would be on the hook for any claims. Brett Welker is our Emergency Management contact. Sean feels we should look at this agreement.

Sean said that he got some information on Mord Grant Program this is a financing program for Municipalities and some other grant information. Sean said he will send this to Pete and see if this is anything we want to be apart of.

Other Business: Bruce reviewed with Council the Strategic Planning Meeting that was on June 1, 2024. He felt the attendance was good. Bruce discussed the Strength and Weakness and there was discussion on the opportunities for the Community. Bruce said once he can review the reports that are being done and any feedback of the meeting, he will be able to discuss more.

Bill Reed would like to revisit the Burn Ordinance; he feels there should be no burning.

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

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

Adjournment: No further business and the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 P.M. on a motion made by Lynn Schadle and second by Kylie Bender 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.