

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

March 11, 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: Bruce Wolfe, Lacie Engle Kahler, Tyler Kahler, Tim Leshner, Rusty Hubler, Troy Schadle, Aiden Welch Crissinger, Brian Novinger, Kylie Bender, Andrew Motko

This meeting is being recorded.

Pledge to the Flag

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

Report on Engineer: No Report

Citizens to be Heard: Kylie Bender understands there were some questions regarding the AED Grant, it must be assessable to everyone; it cannot be locked up. Tim and Kylie sent pictures of where they are going to put it for them to approve. Lori Williard had a question regarding the AED; she wanted to know if there would be any class to get familiar with how to use the AED. Kylie said it does tell you what to do. Lori wants to make sure people know what to do immediately, not having to read the directions. Council feels if we can get a class together, to get as many people as possible familiar with the AED
Kylie said there is a Phase 2 and the Community Center could be included.

Tim and Kylie went over the schedule that is at the park. There will be practice or a game every single day of the week till July, there will be tournaments on the weekends. There will be a lot of traffic.

Kylie reported that the last fundraiser is Sunday, March 15th Bingo at the Community Center. Kylie ask about the Senior Banners if the Borough wants to put them up this year. The cost is \$50.00 We just need to make sure the address is Lykens but live it Gratz. Brian said something can be put in the water bills that are going out. Kylie will get a letter ready. Council said to continue to do the Senior Banners.

Andrew Motko has a neighbor that is constantly burning and it is out of control, sometimes blowing over by his house. It is not enclosed area; it is sometimes up against the neighbor's house and sometime the flames are higher than the shed. The neighbor also takes his garbage

without permission and goes through it. Andrew ask if you could burn in the Borough. Bill said not like that, it is supposed to be in a burn barrel and most of what you are allowed to burn is paper. Since Tim and Rusty oversee the Core Program, one of them would have to be notified when the burning is being done. Bill said our whole system is complaint driven but with Tim and Rusty helping they can do the warning and if that does not work, then Ed would be contacted to do the enforcement letter and any fines.

Anderw also talked about the chickens; there is an Ordinance on the Web site regarding the chickens.

Regarding the Stop sign, should be trimmed around the bushes so the stop sign can be seen.

Code Enforcer and Zoning/Bldg. Permits: Report given to Council

Sewer Authority: Brian was at the meeting regarding the Master Service Agreement. Reviewing the Master Service, the only added was under employees & equipment, Employees shared between Borough and Authority will be paid proportionally. Equipment and maintenance costs will be shared for the water and sewer truck, repair costs to the borrower if damaged. Everything else is the same.

On a motion made by Nathan Steinbach and second by Lori Williard to approve the Master Service Agreement. Motion Carried.

Planning Commission: Sean reported that there will be a meeting on March 16th to review the SALDO. Sean said they have got a Land Development Plan to be reviewed. Sean said MI Windows did a resubmission for recommendations for approval. Jem Jeffries said that the paperwork was not completed so MI had to resubmit the paperwork and they needed approval. Sean will make sure the Planning Commission has the information they need for the meeting on Monday the 16th of March.

Gratz Boro Building Authority: No Report

Mayor Report: Lynn reported we got the paperwork for the Grant. Bill and Lynn signed it. Will be able to start working on the Market St Multimodal Mobility Corridor. We will be doing 3 blocks going East to Chestnut Street. They will be doing surveys (this year) with the plan's bids which will be in January with construction starting next spring. \$800,000.00 is enough to do the project. Lynn said they are getting the grant ready for next year to continue this project. Tim will be getting the water issues that need to be taken care of before construction starts and this will be the responsibility of the homeowners.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Recreation: Jem Jeffries reported that it was brought to her attention that there is an unwanted guest at the park that is making children and adults uncomfortable. Jem said that she was told that 911 should be called because of this person's prior arrest, should not be around children. Tim said that the person is back at the park every day. Tim said he can go over to State Police and have them do a back round check and talk to the State Police.

There is going to be a lot of activity at the park with ball games going on. Tim is also concerned with the activity that will be going on, there are a lot of people running the two stop signs. Tim reached out to PennDOT, and they ask if we had signs. To get the temporary speed bump, PennDOT needs to do a traffic study. Tim was asking if he could get signs to put up. Council said to order signs as well as put orange cones up when it is so busy back at the park. Lynn said for the long term keep asking for a traffic study so we can get speed bumps.

Cogs: No Report

Highway: Street sweeping will be on the week of April 6th; the cost is \$600.00 for the week. It will be put on the Web site as well as notices for the vehicles to be off the street. The Spring cleanup day will be Saturday May 16th. Tim will let Sherry Stroudt know to be put on the Community website as well as the Borough website.

Tim reported that the Fire Company paid for trucking in the stones that were needed and the Fire Company is also paying for the boxes and pipes. Tim wanted to know if the Borough could give something. Lynn ask how much they have in the project so far, Tim said around \$10,000.00. Bill suggested giving the Fire Company \$5000.00 toward the Storm sewer drain that they put in. On a motion made by Nathan Steinbach and seconded by Lori Williard to give the Fire Company 5000,00. Motion carried. Will check with Rick Levan if we can use monies from PLGIT account for the Storm sewer drain.

Ag Security: No Report

Budget and Finance Committee: Discussion was had regarding the Mid Penn Bank CD of approximately \$570,000.00 up for renewal on March 20, 2026. By mutual agreement it was decided to move the CD to an interest-bearing money market account at Bank of Bird-N-Hand. This will allow the liquidity of the funds as we pay for the street project and are reimbursed by our grant.

Insurance: No Report

Strategic planning: Lori had no report. Bill ask the question are we going to continue the Strategic Planning. Bill did some research and gave everyone a report Operational Feasibility. Bill reviewed is duties which include Preside over Meetings, Execute Documents, Call Special Meetings, and Assume Mayoral Duties if needed. Basically, you would have to hire a Boro Manager at the cost of \$60,000.00 to \$70,000.00 a year salary. Sean said that you could outsource it. We could have our own Comprehensive Plan. Sean reviewed the Comprehensive Plan. Bill said that Strategic Planning and Non-Profit are two different things. Bill said he has information if Council wanted on paper as to what we are doing now. Nathan feels that we do not need Strategic Planning, we are doing our own Grants.

Bruce said the non-profit stands alone.

Bill ask for a motion to end the Strategic Planning Committee. Nathan Steinbaugh made the motion Jem Jeffries seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Bruce will bring his information to the Borough office.

Solicitors: Report: Sean would like an Executive Session following the meeting.

Sean talked about the person that needs to be removed from the park. Once it is verified, Sean will draw up a Trespass Letter, and it will have to be delivered to the person. Lynn said that Tim or Rusty can deliver the Letter. The Letter will also be given to the State Police. Tyler Kahler ask who he should call if this person continues to go to the park. Lynn told him to contact Tim or Rusty. Tyler Kahler also ask about the Gratz Fair, he feels that the Gratz Fair should be notified. Sean said that the Gratz Fair Board would have to decide what they want to do. If the public, ask to tell them the person was sent a Trespass Letter.

Sean knows we do not have a Municipal Police Department but there has been a lot of discussion about ICE. There is a program 287G that is in immigration Law, Sean reviewed this Program, just in case anyone ask questions.

Sean reported there were no comments regarding the Data Center it will be advertised for our April 8th meeting we will then vote on the Data Center.

Sean reviewed the Resolution authorizing the mayor to apply for, Execute and Administer Grants on behalf of the Borough. Brian Novinger ask about the Water and Sewer Authority if Lynn can do the grants for them. Lynn is on both Water and Sewer. Sean said that the Authority can delegate Lynn to do the grants. Lynn said that Tim Leshner helps him with the grants.

Bill Reed made a motion to approve Resolution 31126 to authorize the mayor to apply for grants Coy Rickert second the motion. Motion Carried.

Any other Business: No Other Business

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 Coy Rickert and second by Lori Williard to pay the bills. Motion Carried

Adjournment: No further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M. on a motion made by Nathan Steinbach and second by Jem Jeffries 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.

