

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

**May 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, Mayor David Norris, Lynn Schadle, Bruce Wolfe, William Reed President Kylie Bender Absent

Glance Associates: Pete Fleszar

Solicitor: Sean Logsdon, Esq

Lehigh Engineering: Absent

Citizens: Tim Leshner, Lori Williard, Cameron Koppenhaver, David Koppenhaver, Clair Koppenhaver, Dreama Troutman, Miranda Huber, Brian Novinger, Christina Stephens, Dan Stephens

This meeting is being recorded.

Pledge to the Flag

On a motion made by Lynn Schadle and second by Bruce Wolfe the minutes were approved as read Motion Carried

**Report of Engineer:** Pete reported that Glance Associates has been taken over by JHA Companies, See Attached information that has information on the Company. Pete is still getting information on the Company. Pete has been making a list of all the projects and will be sending thru email the list to everyone. Bruce thanked Pete for doing the list. Bruce would like if Pete could come to the June 1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Planning meeting from 9 to 12. Pete will check with his Company if that would be allowable. Pete had ask if there was a planning commission meeting. Sean said there is none this month. As soon as Sean knows a date, he will let everyone know.

**Citizens to be Heard:** Brian reported that the roof over at the community leaked and his insurance will not pay for his damages. Lynn ask the cost of what was damaged. Brian said it was around \$600.00. Lynn said get us paperwork with the damage that was done as well as a bill of what it would cost.

Dreama Troutman said she got a letter in the mail regarding the Ordinance 3-13-24 which requires that property owners who rent to let the Boro know who is renting. Dreama said that her son lives in the home she owns. Lynn said if within the family we don't need that letter filled out.

Miranda Huber said she got a letter that they were in violation of the wood. Miranda explained that it is Firewood for the Garage, and it is on pallets. Lynn ask if that was Ed and said that he would talk to Ed. Lynn explained that if the firewood is neatly stacked and not all over the yard there is no problem. Miranda explained the wood that was against the window was to protect the window from the firewood. Miranda said everything else is cleaned up to what the letter had

said. Lynn said that he thinks Ed is going to say paint it to match the garage.

David Koppenhaver reported they had a very successful Arbor Day Celebration. Couple of things he mentioned was the flagpole so the flag can be flown. Tim is getting a lift to hang up the Senior Banners and at that time he will fix the flagpole. David gave Council an updated ordinance for the Shade Tree Committee to be reviewed and updated some of the sections in the ordinance. Lynn said that if Cameron could put this on a PDF with the correction and or the changes so the Council can review and then we can get together for a meeting. David is looking for someone to trim the trees and Lynn said we don't want to do it until fall anyway. After further discussion when David goes to talk to the residents regarding the trees to have a Council person go with.

Dan and Christina Stephens talked about having a Flea Market in one of their parking lots for the local families and wanted to know if that was ok to do. Lynn thinks there is a permit required but he will find out from Ed. Lynn explained that if they are doing it for themselves, they do not need a permit, but if there are other people doing the Flea Market, Lynn feels that a permit is needed. Bill found the ordinance on page 99 under Flea Markets.

Christina told Council she has an empty lot across the street from her residence, what can she do with it. Christina said what she would like to do is put 3 tiny homes on the lot. Lynn said she will let her know what needs to be done, he knows there are setbacks and requirements for other things. Lynn said this would have to be permanent houses. Lynn will double check with Ed regarding the Flea Market and the Tiny houses and let Christine know.

**Community Center:** Tim Leshar reached out to the Insurance guy regarding the Community Center Roof. Tim said they went on the roof and there are a lot of missing screws. Screws that are loose, and screws that are missing washers. Tim did get a quote for all the screws and the cost would be \$4300.00. Lynn ask if the insurance is going to pay for any of this, Tim said No. Lynn then ask how is it going to fix the ice that is jammed underneath. Lynn feels that the roof is a bad design. Lynn suggestion is to have Tim talk to the Engineer that was here again and Bruce said about getting a second opinion. Roof needs to be fix before we fix anything inside the building.

**Code Enforcer and Zoning/Bldg Permits:** No questions on Ed's report.

**Sewer Authority:** Brian reported that he did not have much, meeting is next week. Bruce had said that before we get into the Master Service Agreement we should discuss if the water should become part of an entity of the Borough on if the Water Company should be on its own.

**Planning Commission:** Sean will schedule a meeting for this month.

**Report of Waterworks and Pumping Station Attendant:** No Report

**Report of the Tax Collector:** No Report

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor David talked about Arbor Day and the Christmas tree planted.

Emmanuel Weslyn Church invited Mayor David to attend the National Day of Prayer. David ask Jem when the last day of school was, he is going to see if anyone is interest in the Junior Council position.

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Recreation:** David reported for Kylie clean up day is May 18<sup>th</sup>, looking for Volunteers. Lori will help with the flowers again this year. May 25<sup>th</sup> will be the fireworks.

Kylie mentioned that Rusty Hubler would like to work part time for the Boro, grass maintenance etc. Trying to get help for Tim. Tim likes Mowing grass and Tim would like to have extra help like flaggers and help with 2 men jobs. Council talked about the speed sign if it was working on slowing down the vehicles. Some say that it was not working others said that they feel that it is working. The State Police have been around by sitting at Shade's and Link bank and have been stopping vehicles that are speeding, so we are seeing the State Police around more. Bruce ask about having a town cop if that would help. Lynn explained the cost of getting a town cop and if we would share a cop from another township and if share another cop there would be complaints that they are not here when we need them. Sean had explained some of the issues that come with sharing a cop.

**Cogs:** No Report

**Highway:** Bill and Tim met with Bressler's about doing some road work. Three different locations: Project 1 would be Spruce Street. Project 2 would Spruce Street Dirt Road. Project 3 would the Dirt Road on Spectown Road. Total cost of the projects would be \$12,574.00. See Attached Estimate. Discussion on the proposal for North St from Spruce St to Center St. North St from West St to A Point (directed by Municipality) this was written up by Rick Levan to come out of the PLGIT Account.

**Information Committee:** No Report

**Ag Security:** No Report

**Budget and Finance Committee:** No Report

**Insurance:** Bruce reported they met with Keystone and Bruce said that we have not had a quote for the last 4 years. Bruce also ask for some break out information. Cindy will give Brian a copy of our insurance to take down to Harrisburg to an insurance company Brian works with to see about a quote.

**Solicitor's Report:** Sean had a few things for tonight and wanted an executive session. Sean re-enforced the Junior Council position; how important it is for students to have the experience by being on a Boro Council.

Sean discussed the executive session we had on the Master Service Agreement; he feels that we had a good meeting and got a lot done. Bruce would like a little more advance notice for the meeting.

Sean said we did the extension for the Sungrow Battery Storage will have them for our Planning Commission meeting which they want to discuss the waterline. Lynn wanted to make sure they

know the difference between the public waterline and the Private waterline, like where it goes. Brian explained to Council where the lines would be run, and it needs to have a 6-inch line to the water hydrant.

Sean had a meeting with DEP and had gone over different things to make sure that we are doing everything that we are required.

Sean said that on the Master Service Agreement he got it down to 9 pages and the signature page. Sean reviewed the changes. Lynn said that we will look at the documents Sean has sent us and then we can talk about it again. Lynn said we can set something up remotely like we did before.

Sean will work on the Shade Tree Ordinance and make those changes.

**Other Business:** Bruce had reviewed the Strategic Planning Meeting. See attached information. This meeting will be June 1, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Lynn said that the Historical Society is having an open house Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4:00 and it is free for both Amish and English with live music and food.

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

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

**Adjournment:** No further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 P.M. on a motion made by Lynn Schadle and second by Jem Jeffries. 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.