

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

**October 12, 2022**

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

Fred Willard          Absent Angela Sitlinger

Glace Associates: Pete Fleszar

Solicitor: Sean Logsdon, Esq

Citizens: Lori Williard, Troy Schadel, Tim Leshner, Brian Novinger, Dan and Christina Rodichok, Trooper Gary Williard Commander of Lykens Barracks

This meeting is being recorded

Pledge to the Flag

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

Trooper Gary Williard Station Commander of the Lykens Barracks introduced himself. Trooper

Gary was attending all the Municipality meetings to review the incidents in the Boro

Trooper Gary wanted to let the Boro Council know the calls they received as well as the services they did for the Boro Trooper explained the numbers from January 1<sup>st</sup> until today October 12<sup>th</sup> had a total of 99 calls that they responded to. Last year at this time there was a total call of 100 which he explained is very good. Trooper Gary then reviewed a few statistics. Trooper Gary said they had 17 arrests, 5 crashes, 23 traffic violations, and 17 warnings.

Kylie mentioned to the Officer that she lives on Rt 25, and she sees a lot of cars passing and there is a no passing zone, and she is asking if there is any way to get more patrols in the morning.

Kylie then asked the Trooper how they would handle when there are 3 buggies racing on Rt 25 on a Sunday night all night long. Trooper said rules are rules they have insurance, and they would fall under the same umbrella as vehicles. Lynn had talked about the Amish not having seat belts. Trooper Gary said he likes being out with the communities. Trooper Gary said they will be present on Trick or Treat night.

**Report of Engineer:** Pete brought up that he has been coming here 15 years and when people come with Land Development Plans and the practice as he understood it, they always come to Council and then Council decides whether the plans need to be reviewed. Pete said that in the past month there are other companies reviewing the plans. Pete said there was a denial for a home being built. Pete wanted to know if the Boro wants to maintain the policy that we have. Lynn explained that when someone comes with plans for building a house or farm, or Barn and

they come with a Storm Development plan that has been created by Birch Assoc. and they are presented to us as part of a package. Lynn said we should have the Storm Development plans be reviewed by our engineer, and when they are acceptable what we should be doing is collecting an escrow that would pay for the fees. What happens is we ended up denying someone building permit pretty much the 11<sup>th</sup> hour because they were in a R1 residential area which does not allow double wide mobile homes. Lynn said the authority went and got items and the double wide mobile home was ordered without a permit.

Going forward we should collect the fees and the Storm Development plan go to Pete to be reviewed. Sean will investigate a written policy for how this will be taken care of.

Lynn just wanted to bring up that the individual that did the application we gave every attempt to help him to fill out the application and Lynn wanted to thank Ed Wenger in going in with the zoning permit he was going to return it because it was incomplete, Ed was the one that caught that this was a mobile home, so rather Ed called the individual and said that he had a problem and this individual was able to stop the production of the home.

Fred asks Pete if his point is to have Pete review everything in going forward especially the storm water development plans.

The Council will issue a policy regarding the steps that applications need to go through.

Pete mentioned there is another Multimodal grant that Lynn will check on, it is due November 14<sup>th</sup> deadline that we will then copy and paste the application we put in before.

**Citizens to be Heard:** Dan and Christine Rodichok ask about Building Permits and zoning application. Cindy gave them a copy of both, and Lynn said to call if he needs help filling the applications out. Dan asks about improvement for winter ice skating on the tennis court. Kylie said we will talk she loved his idea.

**Community Center:** Lynn said for the 20<sup>th</sup> are the lights on the stage fixed. Tim said the lights that were out are fixed.

**Code Enforcer and Zoning/Bldg Permits:** No Report

**Sewer Authority:** Brian told Council that the Swift 911 will be now called Rave. Brian said will get together with whoever wants training regarding the Rave.

**Planning Commission:** No Report

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

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

**Mayor's Report:** Dave came across information on a School Council person program, Dave didn't know if that would be something that the Council would be interested in. We would have to pass a resolution for High School Students, and they would come to meetings and get credit. Dave thinks it would be a good idea for young people to get involved in Council. Dave didn't know if they would have to be in the Boro, he needs more clarification. Dave said if we want to pursue, he will pull the documents.



## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Recreation:** Kylie had a few things, Treat or treat was reviewed, Kylie said that Bill and Leslie Hepler and Kylie met about the monument for Jack Hepler, and they are looking at different ideas and would need Lynn's help with names of other baseball players. As soon as they get the quote Kylie will let everyone know. This was Larry Shade project.

Kylie said the Grandstand needs work with the steps and it is a safety issue at this point, there are rotten boards Gerry Stauffer quote on the cost of the steps would be around \$2400.00 but in saying that once he rips it out, he does not know what else he is going to find. Kylie did ask if he could use rough cut wood and said he does not suggest that because of it rotting again. Lynn said you could get rough cut treated lumber. Tim asks if it needs to be roped off. Kylie asks if this could be done right away. Kylie said the Teener out field is all shale, and she did get a quote to have it fixed up by a gentleman who did it over at Lykens Tigers in Lykens, the cost would be \$4700.00. Lynn said he agrees with Kylie but what about the car shows that are back there. Kylie said she did ask about that and he said if you maintain it every year it should be good. Lynn said to find out about a maintenance plan Fred feels the Grandstand and the Teener Field should be priority. Kylie said that the Parks and Recreation are focusing on that area this year, putting in benches and good garbage cans.

Kylie reported that she is working on the Holiday Parade with Tim. Santa truck is still happening the VFW is buying the popcorn balls again. On March 18<sup>th</sup>, Kylie is having a Comedian, this is not a fundraiser, this is just for entertainment. One question Kylie had could we have it BYOB so Kylie asks Curtis what it would cost for one time insurance on BYOB and Curtis said it would cost \$300.00. Park will pay for everything. Fred said better safe than sorry regarding the insurance. Sean will look at the agreement for renting the Community center and maybe change the agreement. Sean will look at our agreement and amend that.

**Cogs:** No Report

**Highway:** No Report

**Information Committee:** No Report

**Ag Security:** No Report

**Budget and Finance Committee:** No Report

**Insurance:** No Report

**Solicitor's Report:** Sean reported that after the meeting he would like to go into Executive Session.

Sean reported that the Act 57 of 2022, he needs approval to advertise, See Attached Ordinance. On a motion made by Lynn and seconded by Bill to approve the advertisement of this Ordinance. Motion Carried.

Sean reported that the Prohibiting the Harboring of an animal nuisance exceptions penalties, See Attached Ordinance On a motion made by Lynn and second by Fred Willard Motion Carried. Sean reported regarding the Webb Property the Leffler did purchase it and there should be a payout of the monies that are owned to the Boro.

Sean said he was hoping he would have the final agreement for the Cell Tower, once Sean gets them, he will send them to us to look at. They have not been altered everything is done as we requested. Once we sign, they would send us a copy along with check within 10 days.

Sean said he was talking to Ed and he wanted Sean to talk about a few things with Council. Sean asks Council if there is any interest in adopting the International Maintenance Code. Lynn said not the one the state has put out. Lynn would like to see something that is not so intense. Kylie feels if we are not going to enforce it why have it. Sean said that most Municipalities that he works with do some form of the International Maintenance Code, he said you do not need to adopt the whole code. Council thinks we should investigate it.

Fred said that he needs to say something to clear his conscience sitting and listening about somebody not having paint on their house but want about the junk yard that is sitting in the middle of town, talking about not enforcing anything. Fred does not understand. The Hepler property has more cars than anyone. Fred does not have any issues with the family but of all the issues that we talk about those issues never gets resolved. Kylie said he had talked to Marshall Hepler and he is trying to find someone to take the barn down.

Daniel Rodichok asks about the house that Larry Shade owns beside Shade's store he wanted to know what is going on with that. Kylie told him that is in legal suit. Lynn said that this property is owned by 3 different people and the Bank has part of it. Council told Daniel that it being torn down.

Sean brought up about a Zoning Amendment regarding horses in a residential garage. This is not permitted has of this date Could change to read if there are any special exceptions. Council don't feel this is a good idea.

**Other Business:** No other business.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasury Report was read on a motion made by William Reed and second by Fred Willard 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 William Reed 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 William Reed and second by Fred Willard Motion Carried.

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.