

Mount Gretna Borough
Minutes
May 12, 2025

William Kleinfelter, President, called the meeting of the Mount Gretna Borough Council to order at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held in the Hall of Philosophy.

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT:

William Kleinfelter, President	Robert Eynon
Allan Feldman	Michael Bell
Deborah Simpson	Keith Kilgore, Solicitor
Joseph Shay, Mayor	William B. Care, Director of Public Works
Betsy Goepfert, Secretary/Treasurer	

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

none

ALSO PRESENT:

Chief Hopkins, for police report only	Katie Knol, reporter with LebTown
Bill Osburn, 108 Temple Avenue	Kerry Royer, 315 Muhlenberg Avenue
Linda Bell, 200 Brown Avenue	Travis Haak, Mount Gretna Fire Company Chief
Gary Verna, Lebanon County Department of Emergency Services (DES)	

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Hopkins, Cornwall Borough Police Department, read the April police report. Chief Hopkins stated that the Police Department now has an E-Bike up and running, and it will be useful in the Borough for parking patrol. The bike was made possible by a donation from the James Beaver family.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Gary Verna the Deputy Director of the Lebanon County Department of Emergency Services (DES) presented information regarding appointment of DES as the Local Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) for the Mount Gretna Borough. Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Code requires that each municipality must appoint its own Emergency Management Coordinator. Mount Gretna Borough does not currently have a government appointed EMA Coordinator on record. Currently John Breive is the volunteer EMC for Mount Gretna Borough, and he will be retiring at the end of the year. Gary Verna stated that the EMC must attend multiple training courses throughout the year, and this can be difficult for volunteers. DES already attends the trainings needed as part of their requirements. Deborah Simpson asked if there is a financial obligation to the Borough. Gary Verna stated that currently there is not a cost associated with DES taking over the role of EMC for Mount Gretna Borough, but he could not guarantee that wouldn't change going forward. DES is currently acting as EMC for ten municipalities. William Care stated that he believes this is a good idea and that he would like to work with the county on a drought plan. Allan Feldman asked how DES is funded. Gary Verna stated they are funded by the county general fund, emergency preparedness grant and Hazard materials response fund. Fire Chief Travis Haak stated that he is involved with DES through South Londonderry Fire Board and he would recommend the Borough work with them. He stated that using them would still be cheaper than employing a full-time employee. Gary Verna stated that if the Borough moved forward with DES, the local EMC would be Brianna Laliberte.

Allan Feldman made a motion to appoint DES as the local Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) for the Mount Gretna Borough. Deborah Simpson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

AGENDA:

Michael Bell made a motion to accept the agenda as corrected, seconded by Deborah Simpson. All were in favor.

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Michael Bell made a motion to accept the April meeting minutes as corrected, seconded by Allan Feldman. All were in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND INVOICES LIST:

Deborah Simpson made a motion, seconded by Allan Feldman, to accept the financial report and invoice listing as presented. All were in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority May Meeting minutes available on website - www.goglra.org

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MAYOR:

No report

MOUNT GRETNA FIRE COMPANY:

The Gretna Fire Company report was distributed to Council members prior to the meeting. A copy of the report is attached and heretofore made part of the minutes. Mayor Joseph Shay reviewed the report. Mayor Shay made mention of the upcoming Pancake Breakfast on May 24, 2025 at the Fire House.

SOLICITOR:

Agenda Updates: Solicitor Kilgore stated because the agenda needs to be posted 24 hours prior to a meeting, no additional items can be added to the agenda once it has been posted. He will send out a memo stating that.

Ordinance 235: Solicitor Kilgore presented Ordinance 235 for review. Robert Eynon made a motion to approve. Deborah Simpson seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Handicapped Parling Spot: Solicitor Kilgore stated upon further review, the Borough can approve a request to assign a handicapped parking spot on Borough streets. He also stated the original requestor provided their handicapped placard. Robert Eynon asked if it would be a named spot and Solicitor Kilgore stated it would not be a named spot. Per Solicitor Kilgore, the council could revisit the original request if wanted.

Mount Gretna Authority Chairperson: Solicitor Kilgore stated that at the January re-organization meeting, the appointment of Edward Kosoff as Mount Gretna Authority was missed. Michael Bell made a motion to approve the appointment of Edward Kosoff to a five-year term as the Mount Gretna Authority Chairperson. Robert Eynon seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

ROADS AND STREETS:

Spring Brush & Leaf Collection: William Care stated that Spring leaf collection was completed on 5/12/2025.

Paving: William Care stated that the paving on Stevens Avenue is on hold for the following week due to anticipated rain. He stated that utility patches will be repaired as well.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

William Care stated he received a request from the Playhouse Operating Committee to allow a contractor to work during quite hours. William Care stated that the setting of the sculpture in front of the Playhouse is scheduled for May 24, 2025. The request is for the contractor to be able to work on Sunday, May 17, 2025 and after 7:00 PM the week of May 13th, 2025 until he is finished. Robert Eynon made a motion, and it was seconded by Deborah Simpson. All were in favor.

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VARIANCE REQUESTS:

None

LIAISONS:

Pennsylvania Chautauqua:

Allan Feldman encouraged all to continue reading the Chautauqua Talk regarding the land on the southern border. He said that a long-range planning document is being worked on.

Allan Feldman stated that the bridge installation is complete. They are now working on the path and lighting which should be completed in the next few weeks. Deborah Simpson asked if all would be done for the Summer Kick-Off and William Care stated no it would not be finished by then.

Mount Gretna Authority:

Water Authority: William Care stated that the drought has not been lifted yet.

OLD BUSINESS

Short Term Rental License:

None

Salt Bin reconstruction:

William Care stated he received a verbal quote from Arleen Keener of \$11,000 for a fabric roof to cover the salt bin. He is waiting on the written quote. The roof would be supplied by Yoder Way Fabric Buildings and the Borough staff will install under Keener's direction. William Care asked for approval to move forward with the fabric roof at a price not to exceed \$12,000. Allan Feldman made a motion, and it was seconded by Michael Bell. All were in favor.

William Care stated that the concrete blocks are on order and expected to be delivered in the next week. The Borough staff will start setting them in place this Summer.

NEW BUSINESS

Subdivision:

William Care stated that the Borough received an inquiry from the Lebanon County Planning Division regarding a Land Subdivision Plan for Flowers & LeFevre. There is nothing for Borough Council to do until the plan is forwarded to the Borough Office. At that time, it will need to be signed by Borough Council President.

ADJOURNMENT

Per motion made by Michael Bell, seconded by Allan Feldman the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Goepfert
Secretary/Treasurer
Mount Gretna Borough Council