

Mount Gretna Borough
Minutes
June 9, 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
Allan Feldman
Deborah Simpson
Joseph Shay, Mayor
Betsy Goepfert, Secretary/Treasurer

Robert Eynon
Michael Bell
Keith Kilgore, Solicitor
William B. Care, Director of Public Works

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

none

ALSO PRESENT:

PtIm. Candice Miller, for police report only
Bill Osburn, 108 Temple Avenue
Linda Bell, 200 Brown Avenue

Katie Knol, reporter with LebTown
Kerry Royer, 315 Muhlenberg Avenue
Travis Haak, Mount Gretna Fire Company Chief

POLICE REPORT:

PtIm. Candice Miller, Cornwall Borough Police Department, read the May police report. Allan Feldman asked if Cornwall PD could force trash not being taken care of in the Borough. William Care stated that it would be handled by ABI as it falls under the Borough's property maintenance codes. Solicitor Kilgore further agreed and stated that Cornwall PD enforces ordinances, not maintenance codes. A further discussion took place regarding Short Term rentals in the Borough. It was ultimately decided that an email would be sent to ALL Short-Term rental owners that reiterated ordinance regarding trash, quiet hours and parking.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bill Osburn stated that DEP released the Mount Gretna aquifer plan. He would like the Borough to consider forming a group to review a source water protection plan. William Care stated that he would take that under advisement.

AGENDA:

Michael Bell made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Robert Eynon. All were in favor.

MINUTES:

Deborah Simpson made a motion to accept the May meeting minutes, seconded by Allan Feldman. All were in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND INVOICES LIST:

Michael Bell made a motion, seconded by Robert Eynon, to accept the financial report and invoice listing as presented. All were in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MAYOR:

No report

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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. Michael Bell asked what a system malfunction was and Chief Haak stated it was a fire alarm malfunction.

SOLICITOR:

Ordinance 235:

Solicitor Kilgore stated that the updates to Ordinance 235 pertained to rental property, vehicles and traffic ordinance charge for towing. A Public hearing was opened at 6:12pm. Robert Eynon stated that the updates were administrative with regard to rental property (eliminate adjacency). Michael Bell asked if the fees would be established by resolution. No further discussion took place, and the public hearing was closed at 6:17pm. Robert Eynon made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. It was seconded by Deborah Simpson. and all were in favor.

Appointment of DES as the Local Emergency Coordinator for the Borough:

Gary Verna supplied information to the Borough office stating that an ordinance would need to be passed to assign DES as the EMC. Solicitor Kilgore stated that this can be done by Resolution and that he would notify Gary Verna.

Parking on Rt117:

Solicitor Kilgore stated that if the Borough wanted to adopt no parking on Rt117, there would have to be a traffic and engineering study done first. This could run between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Allan Feldman recommended contacting PENN DOT directly or having a conversation with Senator Gebhard's office. William Kleinfelter inquired about the timeframe. Chief Haak suggested contacting LTAP to see if they could assist. Robert Eynon asked if the general consensus was that restricted parking on Rt117 would be a good thing. William Kleinfelter asked if Borough Council agreed that it is a concern. All were in agreement that it is a concern.

Feather/Flowers Subdivision:

Solicitor Kilgore explained the subdivision request. There were no questions. Deborah Simpson made a motion to approve the subdivision. Allan Feldman seconded it and all were in favor.

ROADS AND STREETS:

Large Item Collection:

William Care stated that Large Item Collection is under way. Brush collection has been completed for the year. If there is storm damage, brush will be collected.

Paving:

William Care stated that the paving of Stevens Avenue has been completed. All utility cuts were patched in the Borough. All curbing repairs needed due to snow plowing have been completed as well.

Salt Bin:

William Care stated that the salt bin has been dismantled and hauled to the land fill. Blocks are scheduled for delivery and the roof structure has been ordered.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

William Care brought up quiet hours and what they mean. He inquired whether a resident could have a contractor work within a house during quiet hours if they are not creating any construction noise. It was agreed that yes, a contractor can work within a house during quiet hours if they are not creating any construction noise. It was further stressed that quiet hours are a noise ordinance only.

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VARIANCE REQUESTS:

None

LIAISONS:

Pennsylvania Chautauqua:

Allan Feldman stated a community meeting will be held on June 14th to discuss the 18 acres. He mentioned that the goal is some sort of preservation, however it has not been agreed upon how to do that. He suggested that residents stay on top of that. He also stated the election will be held at the annual meeting in July.

Soldier's Field Project:

Allan Feldman stated that the project has been completed with the exception of connection of power for lights which is under MetEd 's control. Deborah Simpson asked if cars can be parked there without lights and William Care said no. William Care also mentioned that there is some minor site work to be completed along the path.

Mount Gretna Authority:

Water Authority:

William Care stated that we had 11.2" of rain in May. Rain is recorded daily at the maintenance facility. We are out of the drought. Wells levels are up a bit and the streams are running again.

OLD BUSINESS

Short Term Rental License:

425 Yale Avenue:

Robert Eynon opened the discussion regarding 425 Yale Avenue. They were on the waitlist and were notified on February 26, 2025, that there was an opening available. He stated that they have been contacted multiple times and have not supplied the documentation needed within the 90-day period. In addition, there have been renovations done without a building permit. They were again contacted multiple times by the Borough to provide their permit and were uncooperative and non-responsive to requests from the Borough. Robert Eynon made a motion to deny their application for short term rental. It was seconded by Michael Bell and all were in favor. It was decided that the Borough would notify the owner that their application has been rejected and they are no longer on the waitlist.

NEW BUSINESS

Jigger Shop Anniversary:

The Jigger Shop requested to have a 130th Anniversary Event on July 12, 2025. The Borough has no issue and stated that this would fall under the Pennsylvania Chautauqua Board as it would be occurring on Chautauqua property.

ADJOURNMENT

Per motion made by Michael Bell, seconded by Robert Eynon the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Goepfert
Secretary/Treasurer
Mount Gretna Borough Council