

Mount Gretna Borough
Minutes
July 14, 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 Mount Gretna Fire Hall

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:

Sgt. Conklin, for police report only	Katie Knol, reporter with LebTown
Birdie Johnson, 209 Harvard Avenue	Kerry Royer, 315 Muhlenberg Avenue
Linda Bell, 200 Brown Avenue	Travis Haak, Mount Gretna Fire Company Chief
Kyle Seyfert – Jigger Shop	Richard Mentzer – Jigger Shop
Pam Tricamo – Lebanon PA 250 Committee	
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Pitt, 108&110 Pennsylvania Avenue	

POLICE REPORT:

Sgt. Conklin, Cornwall Borough Police Department, read the June police report. William Kleinfelter stated that there are 2-4 teenagers riding around on electric scooters, coming down Lehigh onto Pennsylvania Avenue. He stated that they are speeding down the hill and not stopping before they turn onto Pennsylvania. He is afraid that someone might get hurt. Sgt. Conklin asked if they were Borough residents. William Kleinfelter stated that he did not know. Sgt. Conklin stated that he would pass the information on to patrol to watch for them. Allan Feldman brought up issues with trash cans left at the curb. William Care stated this falls under the Property Maintenance Code for which ABI enforces, not the Cornwall Police Department. Robert Eynon further stated that he looked at the code and it specifically calls out Short Term Rentals only. William Care asked that if someone sees someone in violation, to please contact the office, and the office will notify ABI.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pam Tricamo with the Lebanon PA 250 Committee spoke. She said that any volunteers are welcomed to help with the event. She stated that all municipalities are invited to an event at the Lebanon Expo Center on July 29, 2025 @ 4pm. Sponsorships and tables would be available. She also stated that the fireworks for 2026 will be moved to the Lebanon Expo Center on July 4, 2026, from 3pm to 9pm.

Kerry Royer with Lebanon Bicycle Event - Bikes, Bites and Art spoke. She requested the closure of Gettysburg Avenue from Pennsylvania Avenue to Rt 117 on October 8, 2025, from 4pm to 8:30pm. She stated there will be food trucks and artists for the event. Deborah Simpson made a motion to approve the closure, and it was seconded by Michael Bell. All were in favor.

Kyle Seyfert and Richard Mentzer with the Jigger Shop spoke. He stated that he has been made aware of a proposed parking ban/closure of parking on Rt 117. He discussed how a parking ban on Rt 117 could affect this business. He mentioned counting parking spots in Mount Gretna and that during a shift change his employees could take up to 40 parking spaces. He requested that parking on Rt 117 not be banned. A discussion ensued. William Kleinfelter stated that Soldiers Field was not made to be a replacement but to be additional parking. Richard Mentzer stated that he felt if a ban was to be implemented, that he felt a survey should take place prior

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to a decision being made. He also stated that he felt that parking cars on Rt 117 helps to slow down traffic. Kyle Seyfert was in agreement with this statement. William Kleinfelter asked if they felt that parking on Rt 117 created a hazard. Kyle stated that he did not feel it created a hazard and that most cars are parked off the white line. Chief Haak stated that he felt parking should be restricted on at least one side of the other, so as to allow for emergency vehicles to get through safely. Kyle Seyfert agreed with Chief Haak and stated he felt that would be a good compromise. Deborah Simpson asked Chief Haak if he thought one side of the road was better than the other with regard to the ban. Chief Haak stated if he had to make a choice, he would recommend that parking be banned on the south side of Rt 117. Richard Mentzer asked if restricted parking could be implemented from September through May. Charlie Pitt asked if the auxiliary Police are still paid for by the Chautauqua. William Care stated it is paid for by the Borough and then cross billed to entities that events are associated with, and the Jigger Shop when they are open. William Care stated that there can be multiple events going on throughout Mount Gretna at the same time and the Auxiliary Police have been made aware of the additional parking available at Soldiers Field. William Kleinfelter stated that parking signs directing drivers to park in Soldiers Field were put up on July 14, 2025. Birdie Johnson stated that she noticed that Soldiers Field parking lot appeared to be in use the past week. Allan Feldman asked if Jigger Shop employees could be directed to park at Soldiers Field or down by the Roller Rink. Kyle Seyfert stated that the majority of employees are teenagers, and he did not feel it was safe for them to be walking alone at night. William Kleinfelter closed out the conversation by stating that further discussion needs to take place regarding additional parking and alternatives.

AGENDA:

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

MINUTES:

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

FINANCIAL REPORT AND INVOICES LIST:

Allan Simpson made a motion, seconded by Deborah Simpson, 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:

Mayor Shay stated that he will be stepping down as Mayor, effective July 31, 2025, as he will be moving out of the Borough. He said he will attend the August meeting. When asked how long he has been mayor, he replied "I have no idea". The board thanked the mayor for his years of service.

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.

SOLICITOR:

Mayor resignation

Solicitor Kilgore stated Mayor Shay will officially resign at the August meeting and an interim mayor will be appointed through January 2026.

Appointment of DES as the Local Emergency Coordinator for the Borough

Solicitor Kilgore stated that he reached out to Gary Verna and had not heard back. He will follow up with him

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again.

Parking on Rt117

Solicitor Kilgore stated Senator Gebhard's office stated that PENNDOT will not require the Borough to have a study. It was asked if signs stating parking for Jigger Shop employees only could be put up. Solicitor Kilgore stated that probably not because it is public property.

2025 Art Show Street Closings

Streets will be closed from 8am on August 14, 2025, through 6pm on August 17, 2025. It was the same as prior years, with one addition; Muhlenberg Avenue will be two-way from Pinch Road to Princeton Avenue. The letter was forwarded to Borough Council prior to the meeting and was signed by Mayor Shay at the meeting.

Temporary Parking on Rt117

A letter regarding a temporary parking ban on Rt 117 35 feet east and west from the walking Path on the north side on Rt 117 near intersection of Carnegie Avenue and Rt 117 was forwarded to Borough Council prior to the meeting. William Care stated that 100 feet is needed on the east side. Solicitor Kilgore will revise the letter, and Mayor Shay will sign.

ROADS AND STREETS:

Waterway on Harvard/Princeton Avenues to Brown Avenue

William Care stated that there is damage to the sandstone waterway. He said that they need to decide how to repair it. Whether to use sandstone or concrete.

Curbing on Lancaster Avenue

He stated that the curbing on Lancaster Avenue is sending water down the stairs and that this needs to be corrected.

209 Harvard Avenue

William Care stated the resident stated that there is heavy run-off at 209 Harvard Avenue all of the time. He went and looked and stated that they might need to do storm water work or temporary curbing. He will get pricing on piping. Robert Eynon stated that on Lafayette Avenue near 210 Pennsylvania Avenue there is a wash out. William Care will take a look. He stated that if anyone sees any storm water issues to please contact the office.

Soldiers Field path lighting

William Care stated that there has been vandalism to 3 lights on the new path. They were knocked over but not damaged. South Londonderry Police were notified, and an investigator was sent out. William Care is checking with current security company to get a quote for cameras on the path and in the parking lot.

Salt Bin cover installation

William Care stated the installation of the Salt Bin cover is scheduled for September. This will be paid for through Liquid Fuels/State Fund money.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

none

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

A request from a resident was made to park against traffic on Lafayette Avenue due to the fact that they have an electric car and the cord they have is not long enough to reach their car if they are parked in the right direction. William Kleinfelter stated that the Borough cannot supersede motor vehicle laws set by the state. Solicitor Kilgore stated that there is no provision for a variance.

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LIAISONS:

Pennsylvania Chautauqua:

Allan Feldman stated that the annual stockholders meeting would be held on July 18, 2025, at 7pm. He stated that there will be an election, selection of a long-range plan, and voting on potential changes to land at the top of the hill.

Mount Gretna Authority:

Water Authority:

William Care stated that there was approximately 10" of rain on June 30th.

Sewer Authority:

William Care stated that they have been working to get into compliance with ammonia nitrate levels, and for the last couple of months they have been in compliance.

OLD BUSINESS

Short Term Rental License:

Robert Eynon made a motion to approve the short-term rental application for 7 Muhlenberg Avenue. Deborah Simpson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

This brings the total completed short-term rentals to 17, with 1 in process.

NEW BUSINESS

none

ADJOURNMENT

Per motion made by Michael Bell, seconded by Allan Feldman, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Goepfert
Secretary/Treasurer
Mount Gretna Borough Council