

Mount Gretna Borough
Minutes
November 10, 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
Michael Bell	Deborah Simpson
Allan Feldman	Keith Kilgore, Solicitor
Kerry Royer, Mayor	Betsy Goepfert, Secretary/Treasurer
William B. Care, Director of Public Work	

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

none

ALSO PRESENT:

Bill Osburn, 110 Temple Avenue	Katie Knol, reporter with LebTown
Linda Bell, 200 Brown Avenue	

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Hopkins, Cornwall Borough Police Department, read the October police report. He stated that it was a fairly quiet month. He noted that a horse led the Halloween parade. Chief Hopkins explained the solicitation process. He stated that there are 30/60/90-day solicitation permits that they issue. Each applicant is fully vetted (criminal history, clean record, reference checks with other townships). He said that it can take 5-10 days for a criminal background to be completed. The Cornwall Borough Police Department administrator notifies the Borough that a solicitation permit has been issued. Bill Osburn asked if the individual has to carry a copy of the permit with him, and the Chief stated yes, they do. William Kleinfelter stated that the current ordinance states that the Borough Secretary can issue a permit, and he believes this should be removed and the ordinance updated to reflect on the Cornwall Borough Police Department has the authority to issue a permit.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

none

AGENDA:

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

MINUTES:

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

FINANCIAL REPORT AND INVOICE LIST:

Robert Eynon made a motion to accept the financial report and invoice list as presented. It was seconded by Deborah Simpson, and all were in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

MAYOR:

Mayor Royer reported that Halloween was celebrated by the community with a parade from the Jigger Shop to the Fire Hall. She stated that the mid-term election concluded and she thanked the volunteers. She went on to congratulate Allan Feldman for his reelection to Borough Council. She stated that she is unaware who the write-in winner is.

MOUNT GRETNA FIRE COMPANY:

The Mount Gretna Fire Company report was not received and therefore not reviewed.

SOLICITOR:

Solicitor Kilgore stated that in the past he has split the cost for preparing the new Police fees with West Cornwall, Cornwall and Mount Gretna Borough. He said he would have the documents ready for the next meeting.

ROADS AND STREETS:

William Care stated that the first week of leaf pick-up has concluded and the second week would start on Tuesday (11/11/25). He mentioned that they would go around a touch-up after week two was completed. He stated that brush collection will occur during the weeks of November 17 and December 8th, and if there is any storm damage they will go around at that time.

William Care stated that the windstorm on November 25th caused tree damage at the following houses: 114 Princetown Avenue, 208 Harvard Avenue, 102 Muhlenberg Avenue, and 205 Brown Avenue. He has been in contact with the MetEd Forester regarding trees located next to primary wires at the following locations: 210 Harvard Avenue, 104 Princeton Avenue, 204 Lancaster Avenue, and 207 Lancaster Avenue. He also reported that the Borough has been added to the 2026 MetEd Tree Trimming Program which should occur from Spring through Fall. They will be trimming branches away from primary wires. He went on to state that he would like residents with any storm damage to contact the office, rather than Chautauqua board members.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

none

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

none

LIAISONS:

Pennsylvania Chautauqua:

Allan Feldman reported that there has been interest from several people with regard to the Circle Building availability. Michael Bell asked why the present renter is not renewing their lease. Allan stated that they wanted a lower rent and to pay on a different cycle. He stated that no rent reduction was offered, so the tenant decided not to renew.

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Mount Gretna Authority:

William Care stated that the water main project has finally been completed. All service lines have been connected. Robert Eynon offered his congratulations.

OLD BUSINESS

none

NEW BUSINESS

2026 Preliminary Budget

A copy of the preliminary budget was distributed to Council members.

Allan Feldman had several questions:

He asked why don't we raise rental rates from Short-Term rentals? Solicitor Kilgore stated the fee cannot be raised any higher than the cost of the administrative time.

Allan Feldman asked why we are paying \$3,500 to meet in the Fire Hall when we could use the Board Room?

William Care stated that the boardroom is too small of an area to handle the meeting. Linda Bell made a comment that the Borough used to pay the Chautauqua to rent the boardroom and William Care stated that we will not be paying rent to the Chautauqua going forward.

Allan Feldman asked if the snowplow rates could be increased. William Care stated yes, they can, and yes, we are.

Allan commented that the accounting rates seem to be going up. William Kleinfelter stated that yes, we are anticipating an increase as we are reviewing new accounting firms to replace the current one that is retiring.

William Kleinfelter stated that there most likely needs to be a tax increase based on increases in costs in accounting, police services, health insurance and cost of living. He asked that all members review and contact the office with any questions they may have prior to the next meeting.

Michael Bell made a motion to approve the 2026 preliminary budget. The motion was seconded by Allan Feldman, and all were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Per motion made by Michael Bell, seconded by Allan Feldman, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Goepfert
Secretary/Treasurer
Mount Gretna Borough Council