

Mount Gretna Borough
Minutes
January 12, 2026

Deborah Simpson, 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.

President Simpson introduced the members and the new officers of the Borough Council to the newspaper reporter. She also noted that October 7, 2026, is the 100th anniversary of the Mount Gretna Borough and that more information would follow.

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT:

Deborah Simpson, President	Mark Malay
Michael Bell	Linda Bell
Allan Feldman	Keith Kilgore, Solicitor
Kerry Royer, Mayor	Betsy Goepfert, Secretary/Treasurer
William B. Care, Director of Public Works	

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

none

ALSO PRESENT:

Chelsea Peifer, reporter with LebTown Chief Hopkins, for police report only.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Hopkins, Cornwall Borough Police Department, read the December police report and the 2025 yearly police report. A copy of the report is attached and heretofore made part of the minutes. He also reported that in the Spring there will be an educational session regarding scams that will be put on by Congressman Mesuer's office. He said that there have been some scam attempts via phone and internet. It was requested that Cornwall PD start enforcing the 2026 parking permits in the Borough effective January 19, 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

none

AGENDA:

Michael Bell made a motion to accept the January meeting agenda. It was seconded by Allan Feldman, and all were in favor.

MINUTES:

Linda Bell made a motion to accept the December meeting minutes. It was seconded by Mark Malay, and all were in favor.

The January reorganization meeting minutes were amended to reflect the correct date and Deborah Simpson to the list of Council members present. Michael Bell made a motion to accept the amended January reorganization meeting minutes. It was seconded by Linda Bell, and all were in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND INVOICE LIST:

Michael Bell made a motion to accept the financial report and invoice list as presented. It was seconded by Linda Bell, and all were in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MAYOR:

Mayor Royer wished everyone a Happy New Year. She also congratulated all re-appointed and newly elected Borough Council members and thanked them for stepping up.

MOUNT GREтна FIRE COMPANY:

No report was available.

SOLICITOR:

Mount Gretna Authority Board Appointment: Solicitor Kilgore noted that Michael Sherman was up for re-appointment to the Mount Gretna Authority Board. Michael Bell made a motion to reappoint Michael Sherman to the board. Allan Feldman seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Draft Resolution regarding handicapped parking application: Solicitor Kilgore presented a draft resolution to Borough Council prior to the meeting based on the December meeting. Deborah Simpson forwarded suggestions to Solicitor Kilgore prior to the meeting. Solicitor Kilgore suggested a workshop be scheduled to firm up the application process as the resolution proposed was only for the form itself. Voting on the resolution was tabled.

ROADS AND STREETS:

William Care reported that we have had some snow events and that all equipment has worked well during the storms. He said that quite a bit of salt has been used so far and that a second purchase of 75 tons will be placed.

William Care reported that the new Bobcat Toolcat is scheduled for delivery on Tuesday January 13th. He stated that it will be put into use immediately. He stated that the accessories we have are all compatible with the new machine.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

none

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

none

LIAISONS:

Pennsylvania Chautauqua:

No report was given.

Mount Gretna Authority:

William Care stated the Authority received a notice from DEP stating that there is a drought watch in 39 counties. An email will go out to the community similar to previous years listing what to do and what not to do during a drought watch.

William Care reported that there will be upcoming work to do on the secondary settling tanks at the treatment plant.

OLD BUSINESS

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2026 Budget Clarification:

Secretary Betsy Goepfert reported that there was an error in the calculation of real estate taxes expected from Lebanon County for 2026. The millage was computed based on the assessed values provided on 9/9/25 instead of the assessed valued provided on 11/13/25 by Lebanon County Board of Assessment.

This resulted in a reduction to real estate income (acct# 301.100) of \$3,146.16. The budget has been adjusted to reflect the decrease in income by reducing expense acct# 438.20 (Repair to Roads & Storms Sewers) by the same amount. Linda Bell made a motion to approve the adjusted budget. It was seconded by Allan FEldamn, and all were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

2026 Short-Term Rental Licenses:

Secretary Betsy Goepfert stated that there are 3 short-term licenses ready for approval:

7 Muhlenberg Avenue
418 Yale Avenue
216 Pennsylvania Avenue

Allan Feldman made a motion to approve all 3 short-term rental licenses. Michael Bell seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Deborah Simpson stated that the website needed to be updated to reflect all approved short-term licenses.

Labor time study clarification:

Deborah Simpson spoke out about a Chautauqua Talk article that reference the Mount Gretna Borough would be completing a labor time allocation study. She clarified that she spoke to William Care and determined that a time tracking effort would happen in 2026 with the Borough staff. The effort would involve tracking hours worked, the entity worked for and the equipment used. The data gathered will be used toward the 2027 budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Michael Bell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mark Malay, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Goepfert
Secretary/Treasurer
Mount Gretna Borough Council