

Mount Gretna Borough  
Minutes  
April 13, 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.

**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	Officer Dunmoyer, for police report only
Bill Osburn, 108 Temple Avenue	Lynne Davies, 3 Muhlenberg Avenue
Mt. Gretna Fire Chief Travis Haak	Julia Bucher, 415 Yale Avenue
Nancy & John Mitchell, 420 Pennsylvania Ave.	John & Elaine Feather, 221 Brown Avenue
Kyle Seyfert, Jigger Shop	

**POLICE REPORT:**

Officer Dunmoyer, Cornwall Borough Police Department, read the March police report. A copy of the report is attached and heretofore made part of the minutes. Officer Dunmoyer was asked if we can request additional slow signs to be placed in the Borough. He replied that we should contact Chief Hopkins.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Nancy Mitchell, 420 Pennsylvania Avenue stated that parking on Rt 117 is a safety hazard. Parking on Rt 117 does slow traffic down and Soldiers Field parking is not a solution.

Julia Bucher, 415 Yale Avenue stated that parking on Rt 117 has been a problem since 1967. Visitors are the cars in question, not the residents. Pennsylvania Avenue won't solve the problem as there are not enough spaces.

Lynne Davies, 3 Muhlenberg Avenue thanked the Borough Council for the informative email about parking on Rt 117. She stated that parking on Rt 117 is a safety hazard for visitors and cyclists. This has been a longstanding issue for all events here. Full time residents should be prioritized over visitors. If parking is allowed on Pennsylvania Avenue, where will it stop? Green space should be prioritized over Chautauqua parking lot and Rt 117 which are the impacted areas. North side of Rt 117 by bridge should not be sacrificed just for parking. Soldiers field use should be highlighted. Should explore using Shay's field as the Art Show pays \$17,000 yearly to rent it. This would need prior arrangement with the owners and would not impact the permanent residents. Slowdown signs in center of streets should be added to Rt 117.

William Care, Director of Public Works, stated that we have additional slowdown signs and that parking on Rt 117 has been a problem for 60 years. He sees Shay's and Soldiers fields as options.

Elaine Feather, 221 Brown Avenue stated she was in favor of parking on just one side of Rt 117

John Feather, 221 Brown Avenue stated that he was involved with the creation of Soldiers Field and the Pennsylvania Chautauqua Foundation submitted zoning application to South Londonderry Township. The

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Foundation had to commit to a parking limitation of 49 parking spaces on Soldiers Field. South Londonderry Township does not want it to become a parking lot for Pennsylvania Chautauqua and Mount Gretna Borough activities. He said he could not speak to Shay's Field.

Kyle Seyfert, 202 Gettysburg (Jigger Shop stated that if parking is removed from Rt 117, then those parking spots need to be replaced elsewhere. He did not want all parking on Rt 117 removed.

**AGENDA:**

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

**MINUTES:**

Deborah Simpson made a correction to the March minutes. Allan Feldman made a motion to accept the updated March meeting minutes. It was seconded by Michael 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 Mark Malay, and all were in favor.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority Meeting minutes available on website - [www.gogira.org](http://www.gogira.org)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**MAYOR:**

Mayor Royer reported that there are 200 slots for the 2026 Art Show, and she has received 540 applications. She also reported that Jessica Kosoff was honored at the Lebanon County Hall of Fame in Science and Technology. Jessica is a member of the Mount Gretna Authority Board. Mayor Royer requested that the Lebanon County Bicycle Recycle be allowed to park a trailer on Chautauqua Drive on May 20, 2026, from 5pm to 7pm. They will be accepting gently used bicycles and equipment to recycle/repair and give back to the community. Allan Feldman made a motion to approve the request to park their trailer on Chautauqua Drive. Michael Bell seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

**MOUNT GRETNA FIRE COMPANY:**

The Gretna Fire Company report was distributed to Council members prior to the meeting and reviewed by Chief Haak. A copy of the report is attached and heretofore made part of the minutes. Chief Haak stated that the Fire Company needs volunteers.

**SOLICITOR:**

Lebanon County Patrol Agreement: Solicitor Kilgore reviewed the agreement for parking during events in the Borough. He stated that this formalizes an agreement that has been in place for going on for about 40 years. Michael Bell made a motion to approve the Lebanon County Patrol Agreement. Allan Feldman seconded the motion, and all were in agreement.

Resolution 04-13-2026: Solicitor Kilgore reviewed the resolution which includes procedures to review a handicapped parking request and the handicapped application, along with exhibit A&B. Linda Bell made a motion to approve the resolution. Mark Malay seconded the motion, and all were in favor. President Simpson stated that the process and application will be added to the Borough website, similar to the Short-Term Rental section. Also, it was noted that the Borough secretary will notify the two residents that have previously inquired about handicapped parking spaces that a process and application have been approved.

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**ROADS AND STREETS:**

William Care reported that any resident that has a pothole near their residence that has not already been marked to please notify the office and it will be marked for paving.

William Care reported that Martin Paving is scheduled for major repairs needed at the pavilion, tennis courts and foot paths in the area of the playground and tennis courts.

William Care reported that a tree fell on the Borough Building and damaged it. The incident has been reported to the insurance company. He stated that he is waiting for an estimate from HR Weaver Building Systems to repair the building. The tree is scheduled to be removed by Bartlett Tree. There was also damage to the propane gas line and Martin Propane repaired it.

William Care reported that brush is currently being picked up. Leaves are scheduled for the week of May 4<sup>th</sup>. After leaves have been picked up street sweeping will begin.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

none

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

none

**LIAISONS:**

Pennsylvania Chautauqua:

Allan Feldman reported that there is a Pennsylvania Chautauqua Town Meeting scheduled for the upcoming Saturday. It was advertised in Chautauqua Talk. He stated that if a resident is not receiving Chautauqua Talk to notify the office and they can be added to the distribution list.

Mount Gretna Authority:

William Care stated that the Authority is doing ok.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Rt 117 Parking: President Simpson stated that a core responsibility of the Borough is safety. The Borough does not hold events, but they are responsible for parking and that is why there is the focus on parking this year.

- She reported that she has spoken to Pennsylvania Chautauqua President, John Weaver about mitigation.
- She also reported that she requested to be on the MGGOO agenda to discuss parking safety. She requested that the groups attending add parking information to their distributions, as well as remind patrons to use crosswalks at the release of events.
- She further stated that parking is a problem for all of Mount Gretna.
- President Simpson mentioned that a parking map can be added to the Borough website.
- She reported that the grass connected to the Chautauqua parking lot and bridge and Soldiers Field are Chautauqua property and the Borough cannot make decisions regarding Chautauqua land.
- President Simpson stated that public streets are the only responsibility of the Borough.
- She stated that if any changes are to be made to parking on RT 117, it will be done so through a vote at the May or June Borough Council meeting.

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- President Simpson reported that Mayor Royer has contacted PennDOT to do a walk thru to assess.
- President Simpson then opened up the discussion to Borough Council.
  - Solicitor Kilgore also mentioned that if Borough Council voted to restrict parking, he would recommend a temporary regulation for 90 days to restrict Borough parking rather than an ordinance, due to the costs involved.
  - Allan Feldman stated that he agreed with Kyle Seyfert that if we take something away then we should add something back. He further stated that he felt the resident on Pennsylvania Avenue should be attending the next meeting.
  - President Simpson stated that Pennsylvania Avenue would open up about 15 parking spaces.
  - William Care, Director of Public Works, stated that he was told years ago by PennDOT that parking on Rt 117 acts as traffic calming as long as they are parking off the white line. He also stated that we should add more slow signs.
  - President Simpson stated that when this was discussed in July of 2025, that Fire Chief Travis Haak said he would prefer the south side to be restricted parking so as to allow emergency vehicles access.
  - Mark Malay stated that if Pennsylvania Avenue only opens up 15 spaces, that it seems like a band aid solution that will impact residents.

**America250PA Lebanon County vs. America 250 Parade of Lebanon County:**

President Simpson reported that at the February Borough Council meeting, a motion passed to donate \$250 to America 250 Parade of Lebanon County towards their parade to be held in Jonestown on July 3rd. At the March meeting, it was reported that the America250PA Lebanon County organization would also be having an event that would take place on July 4 (including fireworks) at the Expo center. At the March meeting resolution 03-09-2026A was tabled until the April meeting.

President Simpson opened up the conversation with Borough Council. A discussion followed about donating to both organizations. Allan Feldman asked if the vote in February could be revoked and the money split between the two organizations. Michael Bell asked if the parade will be in Jonestown, and President Simpson confirmed that it will be. Solicitor Kilgore stated that he would draw up a new resolution for the May meeting. President Simpson asked Solicitor Kilgore if a motion would need to be made to revoke the February motion and a new motion would need to be made to split the \$250 between the two organizations. Solicitor Kilgore stated yes and that he would have a resolution ready for the May meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

none

**ADJOURNMENT**

Michael Bell's motion to adjourn the meeting was still on the table. It was seconded by Allan Feldman, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Goepfert  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Mount Gretna Borough Council