

Mount Gretna Borough
Minutes
July 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 Hall of Philosophy.

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT:

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Chelsea Peifer, reporter with LebTown	Sgt. Conklin, for police report only
Joel Dechter, 420 Yale Avenue	Charlie & Marla Pitt, 110 Pennsylvania Avenue
Birdie Johnson, 209 Harvard Avenue	

PUBLIC HEARING:

Public Hearing for Ordinance #237 amending the codified ordinance of Mount Gretna Borough chapter 181 (Vehicles and Traffic); chapter 137 (Rental Properties); and chapter 155 (Solid Waste), opened at 6:01 PM. No comment from public. Hearing closed at 6:04PM.

POLICE REPORT:

Sgt. Conklin, Cornwall Borough Police Department, read the June police report. He reported that National Night Out would be occurring on August 4th, 2026. Allan Feldman asked Sgt. Conklin if patrols happen when there are events in Mount Gretna. Sgt. Conklin replied yes, both on foot and by car.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marl Pitt read a letter she prepared about parking regarding several items:

- Christmas Market - She requested that Princeton and Pennsylvania Avenues be restricted to residents only. William Care stated that if there was a storm during the Christmas Market, then the parking lot would be restricted for residents only.
- Dumpster Pick-up Time - She stated that the dumpster in the Chautauqua parking lot has been picked up shortly after 6am and that there is a noise ordinance in place. Allan Feldman asked if the Borough could inquire about the garbage pick-up time. William Care stated that yes, we can try and ask. He also stated that a larger dumpster replaced what was in the Chautauqua parking lot.
- Coffee Cottage – She questioned if the stockholders were impacted by increased expenses due to the Coffee Cottage (garbage and rest room cleaning). William Care stated that in the past the Playhouse Operating Committee paid for the cleaning of the Playhouse Restrooms for the season. They are continuing to do so and the added cleaning of the Playhouse Restrooms are being charged to the Chautauqua.
- Chautauqua Financial Position – She stated that in the past Jim Cassel report that the Chautauqua couldn't pay their sewer bill. President Simpson stated that the Borough could not speak to the Chautauqua finances.

AGENDA:

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MAYOR:

Mayor Royer reported that she met with PennDOT LTAP representative regarding the traffic on Rt 117. The LTAP representative reported that that the Borough can restrict parking on Rt 117 if they wish. Mayor Royer further reported that they will conduct a one-week study in July to count cars.

Mayor Royer reported that due to the storm on July 4th, quiet hours have been lifted to allow for clean-up. There is storm damage brush pick-up scheduled for July 20th. After the brush pick up is complete, quiet hours will be reinstated.

MOUNT GREтна FIRE COMPANY:

No report

SOLICITOR:

Ordinance #237: Solicitor Kilgore reviewed the ordinance amending the codification of Mount Gretna Borough chapter 181 (Vehicles and Traffic); chapter 137 (Rental Properties); and chapter 155 (Solid Waste). There were no questions or comments from Borough Council. Michael Bell made a motion to approve Ordinance #237. It was seconded by Mark Malay, and all were in favor.

Resolution 07-13-2026: Solicitor Kilgore reviewed the resolution to temporarily restrict parking on Rt 117 from Gettysburg Avenue to the Tennis Courts for a period of 90 days. President Simpson stated that per the traffic study done by LTAP on June 20, 2026; the Borough is allowed to restrict parking. Michael Bell asked if the resolution should state south, to which Solicitor Kilgore stated no. President Simpson stated that it also includes an exception for the art show. Michael Bell made a motion to approve resolution 07-13-2026 and it was seconded by Allan Feldman. All were in favor.

ROADS AND STREETS:

William Care gave the following report:

TEMPORARY SPEED TABLES:

William Care stated that according to LTAP, the Borough can use temporary speed tables to slow down traffic on Rt 117 at the current crosswalk and near the Post Office. He will investigate pricing for both temporary and permanent. Per William Care a highway Occupancy Permit would be needed for a permanent speed table.

STORM DAMAGE:

William Care reported that the storm on July 4th left a great deal of damage to multiple cars and one house. There were power outages from July 4th until July 7th for some residents and through July 9th at the treatment plant. He reported that the emergency response plan was put into place with the biggest issue being that the

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was no way to contact anyone (workers, staff and contractors) due to internet and cell outages. He worked with residents, PennDOT, MetEd and Bartlett Tree Service throughout the storm and afterwards. He stated that Bartlett was awesome to work with to get trees assessed and removed. He went on to say that cable wires were still down in front of 214 Harvard Avenue and that the large stump cannot be removed until the wires are taken care of. In addition, he reported the playground is closed due to downed wires and will not be re-opened until MetEd has fixed the wires. A woodchipper will be rented for storm damaged brush pick-up on July 20th.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

William Care reported that ABI conducted property inspections and issued notices of violation to 203 Brown Avenue and 4 Muhlenberg Avenue on July 13th, 2026. Solicitor Kilgore requested copies be forwarded to him.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

none

LIAISONS:

Pennsylvania Chautauqua:

Allan Feldman reported that at the July 11th meeting there was a discussion regarding the Christmas Market and that a Chautauqua Talk was issued on July 13th that addressed questions. In addition, there was discussion surrounding the woodlands conversation; however, he was not at the meeting for the whole time, so he was not sure if there was a conclusion. Marla Pitt asked if there had been a subdivision plan for the woodlands in the past. Solicitor Kilgore stated yes. Marla Pitt also asked if there were water lines up there. William Care stated it is a feedline for the pumps at the tennis courts and on Yale Avenue.

Mount Gretna Authority:

William Care stated that new procedures for testing at the treatment plant have been working well with no violations.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

President Simpson made mention that the August meeting will take place in the Hall of Philosophy. Michael Bell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Allan Feldman, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Goepfert
Secretary/Treasurer
Mount Gretna Borough Council