

**BOROUGH OF GIRARDVILLE**

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**Regular Meeting**

Place: Municipal Bldg. Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 Time: 7:30PM

**OPEN MEETING:**

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council President Charles Marquardt

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Mayor Dave Brennan  
President Charles Marquardt  
Vice President David Willis  
Councilman Dan Heiser

Councilwoman Sarah Purcell  
Solicitor Shane Hobbs  
Secretary/Treasurer/AORO Harley  
Ingersoll

**Absent:** Brian Dempsey

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA:** NONE

**APPROVAL OF REPORTS:**

**Minutes:** Motion to accept Minutes of the previous meeting made by Charles Marquardt, Motion Accepted by Sarah Purcell and seconded by David Willis. **Vote: All. Motion Carried.**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Motion to accept Treasurer’s Report of the previous meeting made by Charles Marquardt, Motion Accepted by Sarah Purcell and seconded by David Willis. **Vote: All. Motion Carried.**

**Mayor Report: Dave Brennan**

Mayor Brennan reported that bottled water was distributed to residents affected by the recent water outage. Assistance was provided with loading water into vehicles and delivery was offered through public outreach.

A Motion to accept the report was made by Charles Marquardt, Motion Accepted by David Willis and seconded by Sarah Purcell.

**Vote: All. Motion Carried.**

**Code Enforcement Officer’s Report: Read by Council President Charles Marquardt**

Monthly activity included:

- Inspections conducted — 2
- Re-inspections attempted — 1
- Violation notices posted — 4
- Condemnations posted/reposted — 2
- Citation matters pending/prepared — 2
- Administrative/legal coordination items — 3
- Citations and letters issued — 120

A Motion to accept the report was made by Charles Marquardt, Motion Accepted by David Willis and seconded by Sarah Purcell.

**Vote: All. Motion Carried.**

**REVIEW AND AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS:** A motion was made to approve by Charles Marquardt, Motion Accepted by Sarah Purcell and seconded by David Willis. **Vote: All. Motion Carried.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**a. Advanced Code Consultants**

- a. Council discussed the transition of code enforcement services to Advanced Code Consultants. It was noted that the agency will assume responsibility for quality-of-life enforcement matters including grass, garbage, and general nuisance complaints, as well as floodplain management and Uniform Construction Code inspection services previously handled by Building Inspection Underwriters and Flood Plain Manager Daniel Cress. Council further discussed that the current Code Enforcement Officer Nick Hazlett will continue to address larger enforcement matters already in progress, particularly those involving court action, in order to ensure continuity during the transition period. Members acknowledged that there may be temporary overlap in billing as responsibilities are transferred. Discussion also included the importance of ensuring enforcement practices remain reasonable and mindful of residents’ financial limitations. Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve contracting with Advanced Code Consultants. Motion carried. A motion was made to approve by David Willis, Motion Accepted by Sarah Purcell and seconded by Dan Heiser. **Vote: All. Motion Carried.**

b. **Doo Dah Parade Planning**

- a. Council discussed preliminary planning for the Doo Dah Parade scheduled for July 11, 2026 at 12:00 PM. The event is anticipated to follow the traditional parade route through the Borough and conclude at a community field day event being coordinated in partnership with the Girardville Civic Association. Additional details regarding event logistics and community participation will be developed and announced as planning progresses.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

a. **Resolution 2026-1 — LSA Grant Revision (Rangers Hose Company)**

- a. Council reviewed a resolution related to revisions to a previously submitted Local Share Account grant application in the amount of \$350,000 for proposed fire company facility improvements. Prior to executive session, public comments and discussion were provided by **Alex Grigas** and **Mary Beth Dougherty**, who raised concerns regarding the Borough's potential financial exposure as the municipal applicant, the competitive nature of grant funding, and whether the project could affect the Borough's ability to pursue future grant opportunities. Additional concerns were expressed regarding project scope, engineering considerations, and possible construction within a floodplain area. Council entered executive session at 7:52PM for further discussion. Upon reconvening at 8:01PM, and following recommendation from the Solicitor, a motion was made and seconded to table the resolution pending receipt of additional information and legal review. *A motion was made to table by Charles Marquardt, Motion Accepted by Sarah Purcell and seconded by David Willis. **Vote: All. Motion Carried.***

b. **Resolution 2026-2 — Emergency Operations Plan**

- a. Council considered a proclamation adopting updates to the Schuylkill County Municipal Emergency Operations Plan as required under state emergency management regulations. The plan outlines coordinated actions to be taken by municipal and county officials to protect life and property during natural or human-caused emergencies. Following brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded to adopt the proclamation. *A motion was made to approve by Charles Marquardt, Motion Accepted by David Willis and seconded by Sarah Purcell. **Vote: All. Motion Carried.***

**COMMUNICATIONS / LETTERS / FLYERS / NOTICES**

- a. **Girardville Civic Association:** Request for use of Little League Field and concession stand for Doo Dah Parade field day. Approved by motion.
- b. **Rangers Hose Company:** Request for road closure on Ogden Street (Line St. to 2nd St.) on March 29, 2026 at 12:30 PM for Easter Egg Hunt. Approved by motion.
- c. **Cub Scout Pack 749:** Request permission to plant red, white and blue flowers in Borough planters for America's 250th Anniversary. Approved by motion.

**REPORTS ON COMMITTEES, COUNCIL MEMBERS AND SOLICITOR:**

- a. Street Committee
- i. Approximately three tons of cold patch were installed on major potholes on A Street, Ogden Street and other locations. PennDOT coordination is underway for estimates on limited milling and resurfacing on sections of Second Street and Ogden Street. The County will contribute funding for paving work associated with the Second Street bridge. Council discussed ongoing delays in water line replacement work and possible contact with the Public Utility Commission. There will be continued discussion on paving projects and the best course of action to ensure that all problem areas are addressed.
- b. GBA
- i. Paul Kowalick, President of the Girardville Basketball Association (GBA), addressed Council to provide an update on recent improvements completed at the gym facility and ongoing operational matters. He thanked Council for its continued confidence in GBA's management and reported that several upgrades were completed over the past year, including installation of new exterior lighting along the front of the building, repainting of doors, pillars, and railings, and renovations to the main entrance area consisting of epoxy flooring, drywall work, installation of a closet, and a new ceiling with updated lighting. Additional work was also completed on the stage area, with further improvements anticipated. Kowalick noted strong participation in the youth basketball program, stating that more than 300 children are currently involved and that the organization is hosting multiple games each night. He also indicated plans to operate a shortened summer program this year to three days (June 8-10)
- ii. Kowalick further addressed ongoing parking concerns associated with games and tournaments, explaining that GBA has taken steps to communicate with residents, particularly those with handicap parking needs, and has encouraged visitors to utilize designated parking areas near the basketball courts. While these

efforts have reduced some complaints, limited parking availability remains a recurring issue. He suggested that Council consider exploring long-term solutions such as the potential acquisition and demolition of a nearby church property to create additional off-street parking, which he estimated could accommodate approximately 18 to 25 vehicles. He also inquired about the possibility of utilizing available space near the former school property, noting that site modifications such as relocating fencing, constructing a retaining wall, or installing steps may be required. Council members acknowledged the concerns, agreed the matter should be discussed further, and indicated they would review property ownership information and consider potential options to help address parking demands.

#### **OPEN THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mike Manbeck again addressed Council regarding the deteriorated condition of the neighboring blighted property, stating that he had first raised the issue approximately one year ago and expressing frustration that “nothing has been done” and that the situation continues to impact his quality of life. He questioned the lack of visible progress and asked Council “where things stand now” with enforcement and demolition efforts. Mr. Manbeck emphasized that the structure remains unsafe and unsightly and conveyed concern about ongoing delays in achieving resolution.

Code Enforcement responded that the property owner had been cited and ordered by the magistrate to demolish the structure. It was explained that the owner had submitted an application for partial demolition which was denied, as demolition must occur in full. Council was further advised that additional citations have been issued on related properties and that at least one bench warrant is outstanding. The Solicitor noted that efforts toward demolition have been complicated by the involvement of multiple parcels and uncertainties regarding ownership, which may affect the Borough’s ability to pursue county assistance for demolition funding.

Council acknowledged Mr. Manbeck’s continued concerns.

Rob Krick raised concerns regarding a developing sinkhole condition within the Borough and reported that he had attempted to obtain sewer system mapping from the Girardville Area Municipal Authority (GAMA) in order to better understand potential underlying infrastructure issues. Mr. Krick stated that his request was denied by the Authority, which cited national security considerations as the basis for withholding the information. Council acknowledged the concern and discussed the importance of ensuring appropriate evaluation of ground conditions and potential impacts on public infrastructure. The matter was recognized as requiring continued monitoring and possible coordination with the Municipal Authority and other relevant agencies.

Mike Manbeck also addressed Council regarding a recent newspaper article concerning Girardville. Mr. Manbeck stated that he was “not happy” with the article and described it as “making the town look bad.” He further indicated that he felt the article presented “a negative picture of what’s going on here” and questioned why such coverage was being allowed without response. Mr. Manbeck emphasized that he believed the Borough should be more proactive in addressing public perception and ensuring that residents’ concerns and ongoing efforts to improve conditions are accurately represented. Council acknowledged his comments.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** *A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Charles Marquardt, accepted by David Willis and seconded by Sarah Purcell. Vote: All. Motion Carried.*

**The Next Meeting Held On:  
April 15, 2026**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Harley Ingersoll  
Secretary/Treasurer**