

BOROUGH OF GIRARDVILLE

201 North 4th Street

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Regular Meeting

Place: Municipal Bldg. Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 Time: 7:30PM

OPEN MEETING:

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

ROLL CALL:

Present: President Charles Marquardt

Vice President David Willis

Councilman Daniel Heiser

Absent: Mayor Dave Brennan

Councilman Kevin Fidler

Councilwoman Sarah Purcell

Solicitor Shane Hobbs

Secretary/Treasurer/AORO Harley Ingersoll

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 David Willis and seconded by Sarah Purcell. **Vote: All. Motion Carried.**

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

Tax Collector's Report: Motion to accept Tax Collector's Report and pay the Tax Collector made by Charles Marquardt, Motion Accepted by Daniel Heiser and seconded by David Willis. **Vote: All. Motion Carried.**

Mayor Report: None

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Presented by Vice President and Committee Chair David Willis

Notes that our Quality-of-Life Officer is doing a good job so far and that there will be discussion later regarding revisions to the rental policy.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. *Paving Estimate Updates & Approvals:* Council reported that the paving contract had been awarded to Pave It, Inc. of Danville. The project will include curb-to-curb paving of Second Street rather than paving only the travel lane as originally discussed. Ogden Street will also be paved, with work consisting of paving the driving lane on both the east and west portions of the roadway. Council discussed plans to utilize millings generated from the project on C Street as a temporary improvement measure. It was noted that C Street requires significant reconstruction, including installation of two stormwater boxes, and that the estimated cost of fully reconstructing the roadway is substantial. Council stated that grant opportunities are being pursued to assist with those future improvements. Additional drainage concerns were also noted on Lower Railroad Street, where stormwater infrastructure improvements may be necessary. No project start date has been provided at this time. The contractor is expected to notify the Borough once scheduling is finalized, at which time the public will be informed. Residents on affected streets will be asked to refrain from parking on the roadway during construction. Traffic control measures, including flaggers and temporary road closures, are anticipated, with Second Street expected to be closed during portions of the paving operation. Resident Mike Manbeck asked whether the project cost had changed from the amount previously discussed. Council reported that the revised project cost is approximately \$130,169, with approximately \$10,500 to be reimbursed by Schuylkill County for paving associated with the County bridge on Second Street. Council also noted that a portion of paving work on the lower end of Ogden Street located within the township will be the responsibility of the township.

Mr. Manbeck further inquired about utility markings that had recently been painted on Second Street and whether Aqua Pennsylvania planned to perform work before the paving project. Council explained that the markings were placed by Aqua and are associated with identified water line leaks. Council reported that Aqua had advised Borough officials that repairs to those leaks were expected in the near future. Solicitor David Willis reported on information obtained during educational sessions attended at the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) Conference. Discussion included roadway preservation practices utilized by other municipalities, including the use of road opening moratoriums following major paving projects. Council discussed the possibility of implementing a five-year moratorium on Second Street following completion of the paving project to protect the Borough's investment and limit non-emergency utility excavations. It was noted that utility companies would be required to restore any roadway cuts in accordance with applicable requirements should excavation become necessary during the moratorium period. Council further reported that discussions with Aqua representatives indicated that larger-scale water system replacement work previously anticipated for Second Street may not occur for several years due to ongoing infrastructure projects elsewhere within Aqua's service area.

- b. **Sinkhole Concern – 1 W Main Street:** Council discussed a reported sinkhole condition in the vicinity of Mr. Krick's property following recent PennDOT activity in the area. A Council member noted that the roadway area had been recently addressed by PennDOT, appearing to consist of patching or temporary fill rather than a confirmed permanent repair. Mr. Krick addressed Council and expressed ongoing concerns regarding continued ground settlement and roadway/sidewalk elevation changes in the area. He further stated concerns related to potential subsurface infrastructure issues, the ability to safely place equipment on the affected pavement, and possible impacts to his property insurance renewal due to the condition of the site.

Council discussed prior coordination involving PennDOT and acknowledged uncertainty regarding the scope and permanence of the recent work performed. Council further discussed the need for clarification of site conditions and appropriate corrective measures.

Council directed Borough Secretary to coordinate a site meeting with PennDOT representatives and the property owner to review current conditions and determine appropriate next steps.

- c. **Cold Patch Material Evaluation:** Council discussed a potential supplier offering year-round cold patch material for roadway repairs. Council agreed that additional information and a product demonstration should be obtained before any purchasing decision is made.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. *Vote to Advertise Ordinance 2026-1: Amendments to 2016-2 Appeals Board Jurisdiction:* Council reviewed an amendment to Ordinance 2016-2, which originally established the Borough's Appeals Board. The amendment expands the jurisdiction of the existing Appeals Board to include appeals of quality-of-life violations, which were not previously expressly covered under the ordinance and had therefore been handled by Council in an interim capacity.
- The amendment also establishes uniform filing deadlines for appeals. Appeals related to quality-of-life citations must be submitted in writing to the Borough Secretary within 15 calendar days of issuance. Appeals arising from other code enforcement decisions remain subject to a 45-day filing deadline, consistent with existing ordinance provisions.
- It was noted that the Appeals Board is required to hear appeals properly filed within its jurisdiction. Discussion further clarified that appeals are intended to address the validity or basis of the citation or enforcement action at the time of issuance, and are not solely for the purpose of dismissal based on subsequent corrective action, although compliance may be considered by the Board in its review.

A motion was made to approve by Charles Marquardt, Motion Accepted by David Willis and seconded by Sarah Purcell. Vote: All. Motion Carried.

- b. *Vote to Advertise Ordinance 2026-2: Repealing & Replacing 2016-1 Occupancy Permits & Rental Registration Changes:* Council considered a motion to advertise Ordinance 2026-2, which repeals and replaces Ordinance 2016-1 governing occupancy permits and rental registration.

The ordinance was prepared by the Borough Code Enforcement Officer responsible for occupancy inspections and rental registration administration. Council noted the draft is extensive and primarily contains technical and definitional updates intended to clarify and modernize existing requirements.

Key substantive changes discussed include:

- Non-transferability of occupancy permits: An occupancy permit does not transfer with property ownership. A new owner must obtain a new occupancy permit regardless of prior approval or inspection status.
- Rent-to-own clarification: Occupants under a rent-to-own agreement may reside in the property following required inspection approval; however, they may not lease or sublet the property to others during the agreement. Only the legal owner may act as landlord.

Council also referenced that prior recommended updates were incorporated into the draft, including revisions to reporting requirements previously adjusted from a two-year to a one-year cycle and other administrative clarifications.

*A motion was made to approve by Charles Marquardt, Motion Accepted by Daniel Heiser and seconded by David Willis. **Vote: All. Motion Carried.***

- c. *Bid Award for Parcel 45-3-82: 227 E Mahanoy Ave:* Council amended the agenda to consider a bid received for a Borough-owned property located on East Mahanoy Avenue.

Discussion included:

- A bid of \$1.00 submitted by an adjoining property owner.
- Concerns regarding foundation issues affecting the neighboring property.
- The condition of the Borough-owned parcel and its impact on adjacent properties.

Council approved acceptance of the bid and authorized the sale.

*A motion was made to approve by Charles Marquardt, Motion Accepted by David Willis and seconded by Daniel Heiser. **Vote: All. Motion Carried.***

COMMUNICATIONS / LETTERS / FLYERS / NOTICES: NONE

REPORTS ON COMMITTEES, COUNCIL MEMBERS AND SOLICITOR:

- a. **Personnel:** Council reported several administrative improvements:

- ❖ Employee wage increases have been implemented.
- ❖ Direct deposit will be introduced through the Borough's QuickBooks subscription at no additional cost.
- ❖ Electronic payment capabilities have been established for payroll tax remittances.
- ❖ Reduced reliance on paper checks is expected to generate cost savings.
- ❖ The ability to electronically pay payroll taxes will further reduce administrative expenses.

- b. **Parks & Recreation: Doo-Dah Parade:** Council announced the cancellation of the Doo-Dah Parade. The cancellation was attributed to insufficient planning time and competing obligations.

Although the parade was canceled, the Civic Association will continue with scheduled activities at the baseball field on July 11, including:

- ❖ Bounce houses
- ❖ Family activities
- ❖ Live music
- ❖ Fundraising efforts

Council encouraged public participation and support.

OPEN THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Resident Mike Manbeck inquired about the status and upcoming court proceedings related to properties located at 132 West Main Street and 136 West Main Street.

Council / Solicitor Response

Solicitor Shane Hobbs and Council discussed ongoing legal proceedings regarding the Borough's efforts to obtain ownership of the blighted properties located at 132 West Main Street and 136 West Main Street.

It was noted that hearings are scheduled for June 16, 2026, at 2:00 PM at the Schuylkill County Courthouse in Pottsville, with the specific courtroom to be determined.

Council confirmed that Solicitor Shane Hobbs and Council Vice President David Willis would attend the hearings on behalf of the Borough.

Discussion included updates on communications with property owners, deed research, and the procedural status of the acquisition process.

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

The Next Meeting Held On: July 8, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,

Harley Ingersoll
Secretary/Treasurer

Property of Girardville Borough