

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2018**

Call to Order / Silence for Meditation / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, January 2, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sampogna asked those present to remember things that they are grateful for in the past year and consider other things to be hopeful for in the coming year.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Edward A. Schenck, Mayor
Mark Sampogna, President of Council
Rino Lindsey
David Lorenzini
John Novak
Ron Panza
David Rea
Arthur Tintori

Also Present:

W. David Montz, Borough Manager
Harry Faulk, Asst. Borough Manager
Chief Colin Cleary, Green Tree Police Dept.
Donald Gaupp, Green Tree Fire Chief
Dan Short, Green Tree Asst. Fire Chief

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

December 4, 2017

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2017 meeting as presented.

Motion carried, with Mr. Lindsey abstaining because he had left the meeting early.

December 18, 2017

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2017 meeting as presented.

Motion carried, with Mr. Panza, Mr. Lorenzini, and Mr. Lindsey abstaining because they had not attended this meeting.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

There was no one present who wished to be heard.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck

Mayor Schenck commended the young attendee, Mr. Luka Rea, in the front row for coming to the meeting.

REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey

1. Ordinance #1781

To provide earned income and real estate tax relief to qualified members of the Green Tree Fire Company pursuant to State Act 172 of 2016.

Mr. Lindsey said he was recusing himself from this ordinance and Mr. Tintori would present it.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to place Ordinance #1781 on first and final reading by title only.

Mr. Tintori said this ordinance had been discussed at the last meeting regarding real estate tax relief for qualified members of the Green Tree Fire Company.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Montz read Ordinance #1781 by title only.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to pass Ordinance #1781 on first and final reading by title only.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Tintori	Yes
Mr. Novak	Yes
Mr. Lindsey	Abstain
Mr. Panza	Yes
Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Lorenzini	Yes
Mr. Sampogna	Yes

Motion carried, with Mr. Lindsey abstaining.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1781 and that it be advertised according to law.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lindsey thanked Council for passing this ordinance and said it would be greatly appreciated by the membership of the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company. He noted that the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief were in attendance this evening. Mr. Lindsey said he had recused himself from the vote since he is a member of the volunteer fire company and may benefit from the passage of this ordinance.

2. General Report

(a) Mr. Lindsey stated that the fire company had responded to a house fire on Robinhood Drive on December 4, 2017. The fire company got the fire quickly under control although there was extensive damage.

(b) The police department has received two new police vehicles and the borough is in the process of getting them ready to put into service.

B. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Mr. Novak

1. Resolution #1252

Authorizing the Borough Manager to enter into a utility reimbursement agreement with PennDOT for the repair of manhole structures within the area of Poplar Street to be repaved by PennDOT.

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adopt Resolution #1252 by title only.

Mr. Montz read Resolution #1252 by title only.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Novak	Yes
Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Lorenzini	Yes
Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Tintori	Yes
Mr. Panza	Yes
Mr. Sampogna	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

2. General Report

Mr. Novak said that the Public Works Department has probably used as much salt so far this winter as it did throughout the entire 2016-17 winter season. It is turning out to be a cold and snowy winter.

C. PUBLIC PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT - Mr. Rea

Mr. Rea had nothing to report at this time.

D. FINANCE - Mr. Tintori

1. Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to ratify the actions of the Borough Manager in paying the December 2017 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$417,737.49, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$386.99, Capital Projects Fund totaling \$230,132.80, Farmers Market totaling \$333.00, Payroll Account totaling \$211,848.23, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$4,986.30.

Mr. Sampogna said that the Farmers Market account is new to the finance report. Towards the end of this past year's market, the market started a food stamp-type program using tokens and accepting credit cards to allow customers to purchase merchandise from the vendors. It required a separate bank account to be established, and the Farmers Market fund amount on the finance statement allows those Farmers Market vendors who accepted the tokens to be reimbursed.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the January 2018 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$40,364.26.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Resolution #1253

Authorizing the issuance of a Tax Anticipation Note for the year 2018 on a principal amount of \$1,000,000.00.

Mr. Tintori said that the borough seeks a tax anticipation note at the beginning of each year. There were two bids with PNC Bank providing the low bid at 1.99% with no filing fees.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adopt Resolution #1253 by title only.

Mr. Montz read Resolution #1253 by title only.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Tintori	Yes
Mr. Lorenzini	Yes
Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Panza	Yes
Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Novak	Yes
Mr. Sampogna	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lindsey asked if the percentage rate on the tax anticipation loan was lower or higher than last year's rate. Mr. Montz replied that it was slightly higher than last year's rate.

E. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza

1. Mr. Panza said there would be a meeting of the Octoberfest Committee on January 4 with the regular monthly Octoberfest meetings beginning on January 8.

F. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Lorenzini

1. Mr. Lorenzini reported that the new Burger King restaurant has opened on Noblestown Road on December 18.
2. The Zoning Hearing Board will be meeting on January 11.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. MRTSA - Mr. Montz

Mr. Montz had nothing to report at this time.

B. Char West COG - Mr. Novak

Mr. Novak said the most recent COG meeting was held in Green Tree. The speaker was Ms. Rebecca Zeyzus, Executive Director of the Allegheny Watershed Alliance. The

Watershed Alliance is an environmental organization for clean water and provides training and support along with assistance in monitoring water quality in creeks and streams.

C. Library - Mr. Sampogna

Mr. Sampogna said October's Love Your Library month provided matching funds from the Jack Buncher Foundation, plus the foundation provided an additional \$2,000 to each county library.

Mr. Sampogna described the following library programs that were coming up at the library: Raising A Reader in a Digital World (Jan. 15), Using Negotiation to Be Your Best Self (for Teens) (Jan. 20), Women's Negotiation Workshop (Jan. 25), and Equalizing the Cost of Long-Term Care (Jan. 31).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna

A. Mr. Sampogna said he had received a note from the Local Government Academy (LGA). They thanked the borough for hosting a number of LGA classes at the Green Tree Municipal Center. Mr. Tintori is a member of the LGA Board.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Montz

Mr. Montz had nothing to report at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adjourn to the Reorganization of Council meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

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**GREEN TREE BOROUGH
REORGANIZATION MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018**

Invocation - The Reverend Father Bud Murhammer - St. Margaret of Scotland

Mr. Montz introduced Father Bud Murhammer who performed the invocation.

Administration of Oath of Office and Loyalty Oath - The Honorable Craig Stephens

Mr. Montz introduced the Honorable District Magistrate Craig Stephens. Magistrate Stephens was elected to the position of district magistrate in January 2016. He serves the Green Tree, Heidelberg, and Scott Township communities. He is a life-long resident of the area, attending Chartiers High School, Duquesne University and Duquesne Law School. He is a former Scott Township Commissioner, and is married with twins. Magistrate Stephens said he was honored to participate in Green Tree's officiating ceremonies.

Administration of Oath of Office and Loyalty Oath - The Honorable Craig Stephens

Judge Stephens swore in Mayor Edward Schenck, and Councilmen Mark Sampogna, David Lorenzini, John Novak, and David Rea. After being sworn in, the audience applauded.

Election of President of Council - Mayor Schenck

Mayor Schenck opened the floor for nominations for President of Green Tree Borough Council. He stated that the position would be for two years until the next reorganization meeting of council, or at council's discretion.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, to nominate Mr. Mark Sampogna as President of Green Tree Borough Council.

There were no other nominations, so Mayor Schenck asked for a motion to close the nominations.

Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to close the nominations.

The motion to close the nominations was carried unanimously.

Roll Call Vote - President of Borough Council

Mr. Panza	Yes
Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Tintori	Yes
Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Lorenzini	Yes
Mr. Novak	Yes
Mr. Sampogna	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

Election of Vice President of Council

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sampogna, to nominate Mr. Arthur Tintori as Vice President of Green Tree Borough Council.

There being no other nominations, Mr. Panza made the following motion to close the nominations.

Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to close the nominations.

The motion to close the nominations was carried unanimously.

Roll Call Vote - Vice President of Borough Council

Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Panza	Yes
Mr. Novak	Yes
Mr. Lorenzini	Yes
Mr. Tintori	Yes
Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Sampogna	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Schenck turned the gavel over to newly reelected President of Council, Mr. Mark Sampogna.

Statements by Newly Elected Members of Council

a. David Lorenzini

Mr. Lorenzini thanked his family for their support, his parents assisting him with work when he has been working with Council, and his immediate family, Marina, Sophia, and Bonnie. He thanked Mr. Montz who represents the Administration, and the Council members and Mayor Schenck for supporting him and helping him learn the job over the past four years. He thanked the Green Tree citizens for re-electing him.

b. John Novak

Mr. Novak said he would like to address the borough residents. He said that being on Borough Council allows him to serve the great people of Green Tree for four more years.

Council has plans this year to install new sidewalks along Greentree Road and Mansfield Avenue as a result of a grant that will pay a large amount of the sidewalk work. The borough has also received a GROW (Green Revitalization of Our Waterways) grant to remove 23 million gallons of storm water annually out of the sanitary sewer system with ALCOSAN providing up to 85% of the total cost. The project will begin this year along Poplar Street and Noblestown Road and will help the borough achieve the requirements of a federal EPA mandate.

Mr. Novak said that Council will also be working on MS-4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System), which is another unfunded mandate. This program will help to achieve silt reduction from entering the storm sewers by 10%. The estimated cost of this project to the borough will be \$1.25 million over a five-year period.

Mr. Novak stated that as a taxpayer he wants to hold the line on taxes and continually implement cost-saving ideas. Some plans are to reline sewer pipes instead of removing and replacing them, using brine to treat the roads to prevent black ice from forming and reduce the amount of salt that is used, and exploring the idea of using a coating to extend the life of the roads.

Green Tree is a member of the Char West COG (Council of Governments) and Mr. Novak said he is the borough representative to the COG. The COG shares ideas between communities as well as providing joint purchasing for supplies, such as rock salt and office supplies. Joint purchasing by a number of communities provides bulk purchasing and helps reduce the price of these items. The COG is also starting a road-paving program that would help reduce costs. The Council Committee of Streets and Public Health has the largest budget for borough infrastructure.

Mr. Novak said that as the borough's elected official, he will work to help save taxpayers money. With federal mandates, saving money can be difficult, but Borough Manager Dave Montz has done an excellent job of acquiring grants to help fund these mandates. Last year alone, he obtained \$1.7 million in grant money for various projects.

Mr. Novak said that he also wanted to thank the Green Tree citizens for reelecting him for another four years. He said he would work hard with his God-given abilities to serve the community.

c. David Rea

Mr. Rea thanked Father Bud Murhammer, Reverend Adam Sewell, and Magistrate Craig Stephens for attending tonight's meeting. Mr. Rea thanked his family and his son, Luka, who was in attendance. He thanked the voters' confidence in him to serve the community. Mr. Rea thanked his fellow Council members for working so cohesively together in the six years he has served on Council, and also the borough staff for their exemplary work to serve the residents of Green Tree.

d. Mark Sampogna

Mr. Sampogna thanked his wife, Joyce, for her love and support from the first time he decided to run for office. She has been his best advisor and she continually inspires him to be a better person. Mr. Sampogna thanked the members of Council for their personal support and confidence.

Mr. Sampogna said that he recently read a saying on a tea bag tag that read, "Minds are like parachutes; they work only when they are open." He said that saying reminded him of the way Council works together. Council does not always initially agree on issues, but through discussion and open consideration they usually reach a unanimous decision. Council has respect for each other and extends courtesy to each other, something that is sadly lacking in other levels of government today. By doing so, Council is able to get things done.

Mr. Sampogna thanked Borough Manager David Montz and his excellent administration team for all of their hard work and dedication to the borough, year-in and year-out. He said they are the ones who provide Council with the tools and facts to evaluate issues and implement decisions.

Mr. Sampogna said he wanted to thank the borough residents for supporting Council for many years. Volunteers are the core of much of what goes on in the borough, and he realized that many of the people in the audience volunteer on various committees in the borough. When residents come to Council members with an issue, Council attempts to deal with it as best as it can. He said that the residents' understanding and cooperation is appreciated.

Mr. Sampogna said the borough has some big projects in store this year. Sewer work and repaving on Poplar Street will inconvenience residents for a time. There has been a lot of engineering and preparation work to keep the sewer construction time as short as possible. The borough plans to work with PennDOT to get the job done in the least amount of time, but he asked for the residents' patience and understanding.

Statement by Mayor Edward Schenck

Mayor Schenck thanked his wife, Cathy. He referenced Winston Churchill who said, "You have to put your head in the lion's mouth if the performance is to be a success." Winston Churchill's wife, Clementine, once said, "You have wisdom because you have doubts." He said one of his favorite sayings was, "Belief plus doubt equals sanity." Therefore, doubt gives a person wisdom and doubt gives a person sanity. This applies to Council who must listen carefully to other people's opinions, temper it with doubt, to arrive at wisdom and sanity. Mayor Schenck said that Council does a great job in listening to the people and making the right decisions.

Mayor Schenck said the Mayor does not get to vote on items at Council meetings and many people have wondered why he would want to be Mayor. He said he likes to be Mayor because

he likes to talk to people, represent the borough, do ceremonial presentations, and participate in Council meetings. He thanked the borough employees who were in attendance at this meeting.

Mayor Schenck said that he "puts his head in the lion's mouth" at this time by expressing his desire for another lieutenant in the Green Tree Police Department, the purchase of a Ford Explorer purchase in 2019, and certifying persons in case the department should need another police officer. He hoped a part-time police officer would be hired soon, and he could work on the perceptions between the Police Department and Council.

Statement by President of Council

Mr. Sampogna said that Council gets things done, but they also have a good time. Council members enjoy each other's company regardless of differing opinions.

Setting date, time, and place of regular, monthly Council Meetings

Mr. Montz said that Council meets on the first Monday of each month. In 2018, the only meeting that needs to be moved from the first Monday is the September meeting because of the Labor Day holiday. Council agreed that the September meeting could be moved to the second Monday, September 10, 2018.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lorenzini, to hold regular Council meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Tree Municipal Center, except for the September 2018 meeting, which will be held on the second Monday of September – September 10, 2018 – because of the Labor Day holiday. Additional Council meetings may be held throughout the year on other Mondays in the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Tree Municipal Center, as needed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Designate Official Borough Depositories

PNC Bank / PA Local Government Investment Trust

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to designate PNC Bank and the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) as Green Tree Borough's official depositories.

Motion carried unanimously.

Designate Official Publication

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Motion:

Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to designate the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette as Green Tree Borough's official publication.

Motion carried unanimously.

Designate Official Borough Auditor / Authorize Proper Officers to sign agreement for services

Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood

Motion:

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to designate Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood as the official Green Tree Borough auditor, and authorize the proper officers to sign the agreement for their services.

Motion carried unanimously.

Benediction - The Reverend Adam Sewell - The Well Church - South Hills

Reverend Adam Sewell from The Well Church in the South Hills provided the closing benediction.

Adjournment

Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Sampogna, President

W. David Montz, Manager

dng