

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2010**

Call to Order / Moment of Silent Meditation

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, January 4, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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

Reverend Father Bud Murhammer of St. Margaret's of Scotland Church led the group in an invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

Members Present:

Vincent J. Abbato, Mayor
Mark Sampogna, President
Daniel Behanna
Paul Kirsch
Janine Palmer
Ron Panza
Ed Schenck
Arthur Tintori

Also Present:

W. David Montz, Borough Manager
Peter Molinaro, Jr., Borough Solicitor
Deborah N. Gawryla, Stenographer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 7, 2009

Motion:

Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2009 Council meeting as presented.

Motion carried, 6-0-1, with Mr. Schenck abstaining because he had not attended this meeting.

December 21, 2009

Motion:

Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2009 Council meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

There was no one present who wished to be heard.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Abbato

Mayor Abbato made the following statement to those present as his last Mayor's Report:

"I appreciate the four years you gave me as your mayor. Hopefully you saw accomplishments not seen before in our Borough. The list is long, and Council, as well as myself enjoyed every minute of it.

We weathered a recession that paralyzed the state and our country and still held taxes in check, improved the look of the Borough, continued to offer great services, and most importantly, left a surplus in our budget.

The fiscal responsibility is unmatched anywhere else in Western Pennsylvania. Every department – police, public safety and administration – tightened their belts and showed the rest of the surrounding boroughs and municipalities what fiscal responsibility is.

I know that Council will continue the great work they started, and as a resident and businessman in the Borough for over 30 years, I look forward to seeing improvements continue.

Thanks to all the staff – Jan Ward, Janice Adamski, Diane Mutchler, Babette Legler, Debbie Gawryla, and everyone – for guiding me these past four years. I would also like to personally thank the "deputy mayor," Carl Dupper, Bill Carlisle, Chief Lisiecki, and everyone else. Happy New Year and let's watch Green Tree grow. Thank you."

REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Schenck

Mr. Schenck had nothing to report at this time.

B. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Dr. Kirsch

Dr. Kirsch had nothing to report at this time.

C. PUBLIC PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT - Mr. Tintori

Mr. Tintori had nothing to report at this time.

D. FINANCE - Mr. Behanna

1. Motion:

Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to ratify the actions of the Borough Manager in paying the December 2009 General Fund EFT payments totaling \$16,559.70, Payroll Account totaling \$174,250.62, Capital Projects Fund totaling \$280,882.19, Educational Service Agency totaling \$4,853.30, 2002/2009 Sanitary Sewer Bond totaling \$38,091.90, and other bills on the bill sheet totaling \$43,136.29.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to approve payment of the January 2010 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$119,858.09, Capital Projects totaling \$142,574.50, and the 2002/2009 Sanitary Sewer Bond totaling \$38,139.48.

Motion carried unanimously.

E. PUBLIC SAFETY - Ms. Palmer

Ms. Palmer had nothing to report at this time.

F. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza

Mr. Panza had nothing to report at this time.

Comments from Dr. Paul Kirsch

Dr. Kirsch made the following statement with this being his last meeting as a Council member:

"My four years on Council have been extremely rewarding. I have had the opportunity to see my community grow in many regards. I've had the opportunity to be associated with a competent Council and Mayor, comprised of folks with integrity, dedication, and devotion to Green Tree. I've had the opportunity to work with a professional Borough staff and an outstanding Borough Manager. I've had the opportunity to live in a community where the police department, the

volunteers who provide fire protection, and the Department of Public Works, which maintain our streets, roads and parks, are absolutely second to none.

I've become fully aware of the over 100 folks who sacrifice their time to serve on various commissions, committees and agencies to better our hometown with special recognition to our long-time solicitor, Peter Molinaro. Peter and I go back 30 years, maybe longer – 1971 – United States Marine Corps.

I'd also like to recognize an often overlooked group which contributes to the overall success and achievement of all these folks – our families. The wives, children, significant others. Without them and their unquestioned support, little would occur.

Thanks for a great time in my life. God bless everyone and God bless America."

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Mr. Schenck made a motion, seconded by Mr. Behanna, to adjourn the meeting until the reorganization meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

**GREEN TREE BOROUGH
REORGANIZATION MEETING OF COUNCIL
Monday, January 4, 2010**

A. Introduction of the Honorable Gary M. Zyra - Solicitor Molinaro

Solicitor Molinaro introduced the Honorable Gary M. Zyra to swear in the newly elected Council members and the new Mayor. He stated that Judge Zyra has been a magisterial district judge since 1978 and has had the distinction of being elected to that position prior to actually becoming an attorney. He was elected to that position in 1978 and graduated from Duquesne University School of Law in 1980. He has been married for 31 years, the same length of time that he has been a judge of the magisterial district.

B. Administration of Oath of Office and Loyalty Oath - Honorable Gary M. Zyra

Judge Zyra asked the four newly elected and re-elected Council members and the newly elected Mayor to step forward. He administered the Oath of Office and Loyalty Oath to Councilperson-Elect Daniel Behanna, Councilperson-Elect John Novak, Councilperson-Elect Mark Sampogna, Councilperson-Elect Edward Schenck, and Mayor-Elect C. F. Hammer.

C. Call to Order and Election of President of Council - Mayor C. F. Hammer

Mayor Hammer requested a roll call.

Roll Call

C. F. Hammer Mayor
Daniel Behanna
John Novak
Janine Palmer
Ron Panza
Mark Sampogna
Edward Schenck
Arthur Tintori

Mayor Hammer opened the floor for nominations for President of Borough Council.

Motion:

Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to nominate to re-elect Mr. Mark Sampogna as President of Green Tree Borough Council.

There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hammer turned the gavel over the Mr. Sampogna as the newly elected President of Borough Council.

D. Election of Vice President of Council

Mr. Sampogna opened the floor for nominations for Vice President of Council.

Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Behanna, to nominate and elect Ms. Janine Palmer as Vice President of Green Tree Borough Council.

There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed.

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Statements by Members of Council

Mr. Daniel Behanna

Mr. Behanna made a the following statement:

"I would like to thank my wife and kids for all their support both during the election and over the past four years, and you guys have to get ready for Daddy to go to many more meetings over the next four years. I couldn't do any of this – I think Paul [Kirsch] said it best – without the support of my wife and my family.

Thanks to all of the members of Council for the last four years and I look forward to the next four years. John [Novak], I am sure you are going to enjoy working with this group. Mayor Hammer, I am sure you are going to enjoy working with this group as we continue to try and get things done for Green Tree.

Obviously, a lot of thanks goes to David Montz. I don't think David gets a lot of the credit he truly deserves for the hours and hours he puts in both at the 8-5 job, and then also the evening meetings almost every night of the week. That dedication is validated every time I am with other communities, whether I am with COG or some type of conference, about the great job that Dave does.

I want to thank everyone who helped me with my campaign. I know a bunch of you are out there and I couldn't have done this without every one of you, so thank you very much.

I am looking forward to four more years of working with the residents of Green Tree. It is truly my honor to be doing this for four more years. I thank the residents for voting for me and for having the confidence in me to serve for four more years. As always, I have an open door for all of your concerns. Any questions or comments, I am accessible as humanly possible. Thank you."

Mr. John Novak

Mr. Novak made the following statement:

"Dear Fellow Citizens, I want to thank the Lord for letting me serve the good people of Green Tree. Secondly, I want to thank my wife, Mary, and my daughter, Melody, for giving me permission to serve. I also want to thank the great people of Green Tree for giving their approval of me to serve the best borough in the state. Last, but not least, I want to thank my campaign managers, John and Adele Bonassi, for helping me with the election process and the many friends who helped me at the polls.

With that being said, I am looking forward to working with the current members of Council and our Borough Manager, Dave Montz, to help our community thrive in these economically-challenged times. I believe what makes our Borough so great is its people, who roll up their sleeves and get

involved. Looking out for each other is what makes our community feel like home. Happy New Year and may God bless you. Good night."

Mr. Edward Schenck

Mr. Schenck made the following statement:

"I'd like to thank everybody that re-elected me to serve another four years. I am looking forward – as is everybody here – to serving another four years. For the past four years Dan Behanna sat on my right. As soon as he got a chance to move, he took it and moved further down. So I told John [Novak] that, so in four years if I decide to run for re-election, who knows where he's going to want to move. [Laughter.]

Some of my friends have asked me why I want to be on Council. I tell them there are three reasons:

(1) We have a very professional manager who has been here for over 20 years. He knows what he is doing. He is intelligent. He can be an advocate when he has to. He can be conciliatory when he has to.

(2) For the last four years, even though we have had disagreements on Council, I believe it has been a very professional Council and everyone would talk to each other at the end of the evening even though they would disagree with me on occasion.

(3) Green Tree Borough has been fortunate enough to have a surplus over the past four years and we have not had to raise taxes in a few years. A new contract with the garbage collectors was just renegotiated for the next five years and there was enough money to do that.

I would like to thank Vince Abbato. I think he did a very good job. He actually exceeded my expectations to begin with. I didn't know how he was going to do. I didn't know how I was going to do either, for that matter because I was new too. But I think that anytime we needed an advocate for the Borough, he would call the Port Authority, he'd call on businesses, he'd call the state representatives, he would do what it took to represent and be an advocate for the Borough. So I would like to thank him for that. Another thing, he was the best dressed on Council all the time, so now that is up for grabs, and my wife bought me a new tie for tonight, so I will compete for that title. [Laughter.]

I would also like to thank Paul Kirsch. He was on Borough Council for four years, but he was also on the school board for 22 years, so he was a true public servant. He was always professional and always respectful. Twenty-six years is a long time for public service.

I would also like to thank the people that work here. We have good departments. The Public Works Department under Kary Rahner does an excellent job. I had some people visiting that looked at the roads in Green Tree and they were judging all of Allegheny County based upon the roads here in Green Tree.

The Police Department and Chief Lisiecki. We hired Chief Lisiecki from the City of Pittsburgh. We did not go in-house, but he has been doing a fine job and every now and then I think it is good to have some change and to see some new things. We have an excellent Police Department.

The Library is doing very well under Ms. Adaena Tray. She is new in that position. Council budgeted a certain amount of dollars for the library and she has come back to us and tells us that she doesn't need that much money. That's refreshing.

The Green Tree Volunteer Fire Department – Rino Lindsey and Dan Walsh do an excellent job. They go out 300 times a year – that's how many calls they get. I was talking to Dan Walsh yesterday and he had been out three times in the last 24 hours. Without the volunteer fire department, the Borough would be hard up to have a paid department.

The Borough staff – I would like to thank all of them. They are very professional. Jan Adamski is here and does an excellent job. Any time we need anything. And Debbie [Gawryla] here, the stenographer, she will make this sound like it flowed when you read it in the minutes.

I would like to congratulate Chuck Hammer and John Novak. I am looking forward to working with them and I am sure they will uphold the professional spirit that we have had over the past four years and they will do an excellent job.

I would also like to thank the people who always come to these meeting. Carl Dupper is here, Irene Bocchino, Marilyn Albitz didn't make it today, but she is usually here, Bill Carlisle is usually

here, and Bob Bartell. They are our five fans. I don't know why they do it, but we appreciate them coming.

Lastly, I would like to thank my wife for her support. Thank you, everybody, for coming this evening. I appreciate it."

Mr. Arthur Tintori

Mr. Tintori had no comments at this time.

Ms. Janine Palmer

Ms. Palmer congratulated the newly elected and re-elected members of Council and Mayor Hammer. She welcomed them all.

Mr. Ron Panza

Mr. Panza welcomed Council's newest member, Mr. John Novak, and welcomed back Mayor C. F. Hammer. He noted that the people of Green Tree had clearly spoken by electing both of them. Mr. Panza said he was looking forward to working with both of them to move Green Tree in the right direction.

F. Statement by Mayor C. F. Hammer

Mayor Hammer had the following statement:

"I would like to thank Mayor Abbato for serving for the past four years and representing Green Tree Borough. Some people think that this job is done for publicity or for honor. However, there is a lot of time spent behind the scenes and people do not realize how much time you must give up. I want to thank Mayor Abbato personally for serving over the past four years.

I am not going to try to equal Mr. Schenck's speech, but, if I were Dan Behanna I would have moved too. [Laughter.] Thank you very much."

G. Statement by President of Council, Mr. Mark Sampogna

Mr. Sampogna made the following statement:

"Thanks to my wife, Joyce, for all her support. She lets me go to all of the different meetings that I have to attend. I love it. I really do.

I want to thank Vince [Abbato] and Dr. Kirsch for their great counsel and steadfast work that they put in over the past four years. And I want to thank the current members of Council for their vote of confidence in re-electing me to the presidency. I will try to do my best to live up to your expectations."

H. Setting date, time and place of regular, monthly Council meetings

Motion:

Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to hold regular Council meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Tree Municipal Center, with additional meetings on the following Mondays, as needed. The only regular monthly meetings in 2010 that will not be held on the first Monday of the month, will be in July, because of the Independence Day holiday, and September, because of the Labor Day holiday. In July and September, Council's regular monthly meeting will be held on the second Monday of these months, on July 12, 2010 and September 13, 2010.

Motion carried unanimously.

I. Designate Official Borough Depositories

Motion:

Ms. Palmer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to designate PNC Bank, PA Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT), and First National Bank as official Borough depositories for 2010.

Motion carried, 6-0-1, with Mr. Behanna abstaining because of a conflict of interest.

J. Designate official publication

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to designate the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette as the official publication for Green Tree Borough.

Motion carried unanimously.

K. Designate official Borough auditor/authorize proper officers to sign agreement for services

Motion:

Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to designate Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood as the official Borough auditor and to authorize the proper officers to sign the agreement for services.

Motion carried unanimously.

Manager's Report - Mr. Montz

Mr. Montz said that there was a need for Council to meet later this month to hold a public hearing for the possible transfer of a liquor license from another municipality to Green Tree. In order to meet the advertising requirements of the public hearing, the earliest the public hearing could be held would be on January 18th. Following a discussion, Council agreed to meet on Monday, January 18th to hold the public hearing.

Benediction - Reverend Fred Soberg - Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church

Mr. Sampogna introduced the Reverend Fred Soberg, pastor at Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church. Reverend Soberg provided the benediction.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Behanna, to adjourn the meeting to January 18th.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Sampogna, President

W. David Montz, Manager