

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2016**

Call to Order / Silence for Meditation / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sampogna reported that Council had held an Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss a tentative contract with Green Tree Public Works employees, and legal matters.

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
Peter Molinaro, Jr., Borough Solicitor
Deborah N. Gawryla, Stenographer

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

December 7, 2015

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2015 meeting as presented.

Motion carried, with Mr. Lorenzini abstaining because he had not attended this meeting.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Carol Trexler, Forest Drive

Mrs. Trexler said that in the three years she has lived here she has had two run-ins with deer. A deer ran into the side of Mrs. Trexler's car on Greentree Road. Another incident was a run-in with a buck on her street that challenged her and her dog while they were out walking. She asked if Council would consider a referendum on the ballot asking residents if they would be in favor of a deer-hunting program.

Mr. Lorenzini said that he had spoken to many residents about this issue, but has been unable to get a consensus regarding what can be done about the deer population. He felt that many residents would like to see the deer population controlled, but residents are split about the method to be used to control them. Discussion continued about the deer population issue.

Mr. Panza said that Green Tree Borough would have to work in conjunction with Scott Township and Carnegie regarding the deer issue or efforts could be futile in such a small area like Green Tree. Scott Township is opposed any sort of deer hunting and are currently in the midst of a lawsuit with Mt. Lebanon regarding their deer culling. Green Tree is adjacent to Scott Township and the Forest Drive area where Mrs. Trexler lives abuts Scott Township. Mr. Panza said he would be glad to have the Recreation and Community Affairs Committee of Council look at the deer issue.

Mr. John R. Miller, Heckler Drive

Mr. Miller said he owns six acres of land on Heckler Drive and he sees many deer on his property. The deer ate many of his original plants and shrubs. Since then he has planted different shrubs that deer will not eat. He felt that many of the complaints about deer are because of residents' shrubs and gardens being eaten. Although he has seen many deer he has never hit one and felt that many people drive too fast today or are not paying attention to the road, which tends to cause many car/deer accidents.

Mr. Miller asked if it was possible to create a feed that would prevent the deer from procreating. He said that would be the most humane way to curtail the deer population. He said he enjoys seeing the deer.

Chris Short, 251 Parkedge Road

Mrs. Short said that in the past she never had a problem with deer, but now they have been invading her yard. Her dog has been eating the deer dung and has gotten sick because he is allergic to it. She said it cost a lot of money at the vet to figure out why he dog had gotten ill.

Mrs. Short said to keep the deer out of her yard she sprays almost every night with Deer Fence, but has not had much success. She has considered putting poison out, but said there are neighborhood cats that roam the area. She said that Council needs to find a way to keep the deer out of her yard or she will be asking the borough to pay her vet bills since they are invading her dog's space outside.

Mr. Molinaro advised Mrs. Short not to put out poison in her yard. She said she would not. Mr. Molinaro added that should her dog get sick again she should not bother sending her bill to the borough because the borough will not pay it.

Mrs. Short asked Council for the installation of a stop sign at the end of Parkedge coming out from the area of new homes.

Mr. John R. Miller, Heckler Drive

Mr. Miller said the Blue Belt signs on Poplar Street are in the wrong order. Although Poplar Street is a state road, he asked if the borough could have it corrected. The first sign indicates a turn on the Blue Belt before Heckler Drive and this sign should be closer to Mansfield to prevent people from making the wrong turn. Mr. Sampogna said he would look into it.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Hammer

1. Mayor Schenck said he would be holding Mayor's Office Hours on Saturday, January 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Birch Room. Chief Cleary would also be there. He encouraged residents to stop by.
2. Mayor Schenck said that long-time resident, Carl Dupper, who has attended council meetings for many years, has moved to Florida with his daughter and is quite ill. He asked people to remember Mr. Dupper in their prayers.
3. Mayor Schenck said that former Councilwoman Marguerite Canonge's husband recently passed away. She will be moving back to the Pittsburgh area to live in Asbury Village.

4. Proclamation - Celebrating Resident John K. Miller

Mayor Schenck stated he had recently attended Mr. John K. Miller's 100th birthday celebration. His son, Mr. John R. Miller, is present. Mayor Schenck said he had read and presented the proclamation to Mr. Miller at his recent party, which reads as follows:

"Whereas, John K. Miller, was born on December 18, 1915, and

Whereas, Mr. Miller moved to Green Tree in 1957 and built a home being the very first house on the freshly extended Oriole Drive at 252, for him and his wife, Betty, and

Whereas, Mr. Miller is the father of four, grandfather of seven, great-grandfather of 16, and great-great-grandfather of two, and

Whereas, Mr. Miller has been a long-time member of our community and still resides in Green Tree with his daughter, and

Whereas, Mr. Miller is celebrating his 100th birthday on December 18, 2015, surrounded by his beloved family and friends.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that I, Mayor Edward A. Schenck, on behalf of Green Tree Borough Council and the citizens of Green Tree hereby extend our sincere wishes to John K. Miller for a very Happy 100th Birthday and do hereby note in Borough records our wishes for many more."

The audience applauded.

REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Mr. Novak

1. Mr. Novak reported that Public Works used the first of this winter's salt supply this past week.

B. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza

1. Mr. Panza said the Recreation Committee of Council would discuss the deer population issue. He said he would put an article in the next Green Tree newsletter asking for residents' opinions on this issue.

C. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Lorenzini

Mr. Lorenzini had nothing to report at this time.

D. PUBLIC PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT - Mr. Rea

1. Mr. Rea reported that he had received some feedback from residents regarding proposed changes and improvements to the pool. One suggestion was to have retirees fill in as lifeguards at the end of the summer when student lifeguards head back to school.

E. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey

1. Mr. Lindsey reported that the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company has elected a new Chief. The new chief for 2016 is Mr. Don Gaupp, who is also a Green Tree Public Works employee. He thanked Chief Serakowski for his two years of service and his more than 20 years as an officer. The Fire Company also elected Mr. Matt McKinsey as the new President.

F. FINANCE - Mr. Tintori

1. Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to ratify the actions of the Borough Manager in paying the December 2015 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$154,674.74, Sanitary Sewer Bond Fund totaling \$7,941.67, Capital Projects Fund totaling \$216,462.07, Public Works Department Equipment Fund totaling \$2,400.00, Payroll Account totaling \$284,117.05, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$7,972.62.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the January 2016 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$63,758.14.

Motion carried unanimously.

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 COG had discussed the sewer insurance issue.

C. Library - Mr. Sampogna

Mr. Sampogna said the Library Board met on December 15 and Ms. Marilyn Jenkins, Director of the Allegheny County Library Association (ACLA) had attended this meeting. Ms. Jenkins noted that the local funding for Green Tree Public Library is significantly higher than what most communities provide for their local libraries. She has used Green Tree's local funding as an example for other communities. She said the borough's comments regarding ACLA have challenged them to become a better organization. He detailed some of the ACLA ideas and programs for 2016. With the current state budget situation, the Carnegie Library's exchange and transport system between libraries has not been funded since July and the Carnegie Library system has been helping pay this cost temporarily. Mr. Sampogna outlined some of the events the Green Tree Library has been offering.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna

1. CONNECT

Mr. Sampogna said he had distributed information from the last CONNECT meeting regarding the status of sewer regionalization and implementation. It showed which communities were participating and how many miles of sewers were involved. He provided additional details on the program.

Mr. Sampogna said that Pittsburgh's Mayor's Chief of Staff had spoken about the city's approach to sewer and wastewater issues. Another report was given from the EMS group stating that two-thirds of the county's EMS services lost money in the last three years.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Mr. Molinaro

Mr. Molinaro had nothing to report at this time.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Montz

Mr. Montz had nothing to report at this time.

STATEMENT OF OUTGOING ELECTED OFFICIALS

Since the council members who were being sworn in were all incumbents, it was decided that they would make their statements after the reorganization of council.

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 4, 2016**

Mayor Schenck called the reorganization meeting of Green Tree Borough Council to order at 8:00 p.m. He said that Mr. Ron Panza, Mr. Art Tintori, and Mr. Rino Lindsey had been sworn in as Councilmen on January 3, 2012, and have all been reelected and are being sworn in again tonight. This is Mr. Tintori's third elected term, serves on the pastoral council at St. Margaret's Church and is involved in the community. Mr. Lindsey will be starting his second term, and is a volunteer fireman. Mr. Panza starts his sixth term, and has been on council for 20 years, starting his 21st year as a councilman. All three are very dedicated members of council and Mayor Schenck said he looks forward to continuing to work with them.

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

Mayor Schenck introduced Father Bud Murhammer who performed the invocation.

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

Solicitor Molinaro introduced the Honorable District Magistrate Craig Stephens. Mr. Molinaro said he has had the privilege of knowing Judge Stephens for the past 15-20 years and has worked closely with him on some of the numerous Allegheny County tax appeals in the Allegheny County Solicitor's Office. Judge Stephens has also served as a Scott Township Commissioner for approximately 15 years. He said that Judge Stephens is a man of honor and integrity.

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

Judge Stephens swore in Councilmen Rino Lindsey, Ron Panza, and Arthur Tintori.

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

When asked, Mr. Sampogna said he would accept the nomination. 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. Tintori, to close the nominations.

The motion to close the nominations was carried unanimously.

Roll Call Vote - President of Borough Council

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

Motion carried unanimously.

The audience applauded. Mayor Schenck turned the gavel over to newly reelected President of Council, Mark Sampogna. Mr. Sampogna thanked council members for reelecting him as President of Council and said he was truly honored and humbled. He said he enjoys the job.

Election of Vice President of Council

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

Motion:

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

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

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Statements by Newly Elected Members of Council

a. Rino Lindsey

Mr. Lindsey thanked the community for reelecting him again. He said that a lot has been done in the past four years, but there is still a lot of work to be done. He said he was looking forward to the next four years working with the same group and was happy to be here.

b. Ron Panza

Mr. Panza said he was entering his 21st year on Borough Council. He said he had always heard about the "red tape" in government and how slowly government moves. He has learned that 20 years is hardly any time in getting things done in government. Mr. Panza said he was thankful to have another four years to continue working on projects that he felt would help Green Tree. He said that in the past 20 years, he felt that the current council is one of the best he has ever been a part of and he was proud to be a member.

c. Arthur Tintori

Mr. Tintori said he was humbled and privileged to be reelected. He appreciated the voters' support. He said Green Tree is a tremendous community, and he felt privileged to be on this council. The borough has excellent people and an excellent staff, and the borough's police force is very good with a wonderful chief. Mr. Tintori said it was an honor to serve. He thanked his wife and family for their support and said he was looking forward to the next four years in tackling some of the issues.

Statement by Mayor Edward Schenck

Mayor Schenck introduced two people who were in the audience: Mr. Matt McKinsey, the newly elected Fire Department President, and Chief Colin Cleary of the Green Tree Police Department. Mayor Schenck said he was looking forward to continuing to work with the three newly reelected councilmen, and thanked Borough Manager W. David Montz for his hard work.

Statement by President of Council

Mr. Sampogna said that all the members of council are thankful for their families' support and understanding for the long hours that they often undertake. He thanked his family for their support.

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

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to hold regular Council meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Tree Municipal Center. The only regular monthly meetings in 2016 that will not be held on the first Monday of the month will be in July and September, because of the Independence Day and Labor Day holidays. In July, Council's regular monthly meeting will be held on the second Monday of the month on July 11, 2016. In September, Council's regular monthly meeting will be held on the second Monday of the month on September 12, 2016. 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

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, 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. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lorenzini, 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. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, 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.

Mr. Tintori said that the cost of the annual audit would be \$900 less than it was last year. Mr. Montz reviewed the details of the agreement and said it included the audit of the library.

Motion carried unanimously.

Benediction - The Reverend Travis Dollinger - CityReach Church - South Hills

Reverend Travis Dollinger from CityReach Church in the South Hills provided the closing benediction.

Adjournment

Motion:

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

Mr. Sampogna noted that there would a reception with refreshments following this meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Sampogna, President

W. David Montz, Manager