

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 7, 2019**

**Call to Order / Silence for Meditation / Pledge of Allegiance**

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, January 7, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sampogna reported that Council had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

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

**Also Present:**

W. David Montz, Borough Manager  
Colin Cleary, Chief of Police  
Deborah N. Gawryla, Stenographer

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**December 3, 2018**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the December 3, 2018 Council minutes as presented.**

**Motion carried, with Mr. Rea and Mr. Lindsey abstaining.**

**HEARING OF THE CITIZENS**

**Trina Rubano, 182 Arla Drive**

Mrs. Rubano stated that her neighbor has been lax in the upkeep of his pool. She expressed concern about the possibility of West Nile virus when the weather is warmer. The borough does not have an ordinance regarding pool maintenance and she has had to contact the Allegheny County Health Department to address the situation. She asked Council to pass an ordinance prohibiting any continued, still, dirty water like the situation at her neighbor's pool.

Mrs. Rubano said that there is also a need for a locked gate for her neighbor's pool. She said she is unable to sit outside in her backyard during the summer for fear of mosquitoes and the possibility of West Nile virus. The gate on the pool fence is not locked and she questioned whether it actually had a lock. She said the pool gate has been left open and unattended. She hoped a borough ordinance would help change this situation by providing an avenue for enforcement.

**Marilyn Obiecunas, 8 Potomac Avenue**

Mrs. Obiecunas reported that her house had been flooded when the sewers on Tranter Avenue flooded on June 20th. The water came down her driveway and up to the top of her garage door. She had over \$13,000 worth of damage and is still working on some of the repairs from the flooding. Mrs. Obiecunas asked if there is some way the borough could address this flooding issue since other areas that experienced flooding this summer have received borough assistance. She asked that the sewers on Tranter Avenue be checked and fixed to prevent future flooding. She detailed some of the other work the borough had done after flooding had taken place.

Mayor Schenck asked if there were any other homes in her area that had experienced flooding at the same time. Mrs. Obiecunas named other residents that had experienced flooding. Mr. Montz said the borough is doing a complete evaluation of all the areas that were flooded over the rainy summer months. This includes a review of the intensity of the various storms that caused flooding. The storm on June 20th, and some of the additional storms during the surrounding days and weeks, were classified as being over 25-year storms and the borough's sewer system was designed to handle up to a 25-year storm. Mr. Montz said that he is looking into the frequency of these types of storms and how they can be better handled. Years ago, extra sewers were installed along Tranter and there have not been any problems for years. However, 2018 was one of the wettest years in history. He said the borough is reviewing the information and he would get back to Mrs. Obiecunas, although this is not usually a quick fix. Mr. Montz noted that the flooding problem was not just in Green Tree. Discussion continued regarding the severity of the flooding that took place over the past summer.

Mrs. Obiecunas said that one of her neighboring properties also flooded and removed all the grass in the yard creating drainage on her property and sewers. She has had to have a lot of repairs and still needs to have more done, but hopes the borough can provide preventative measures to stop this from happening again.

**Samantha O'Brien, 237 Sheldon**

Mrs. O'Brien said that on November 19th she came home to find no heat and approximately 30 inches of sewer water in the basement. When a plumber arrived, she was told that the sewer main was backed up. It took 16 days for cleaning, restoration, and the installation of a new heater. When Robinson Pipe Cleaning arrived to check the sewer main, she was told the backup was due to a grease ball. When Mrs. O'Brien received the denial letter from the borough's insurance company, she was told the cause of the backup was due to tree roots that had entered from a crack in the lateral from a neighboring property.

Mrs. O'Brien asked if the pipe was going to be repaired by the borough. To date, she did not think that the borough had done any repairs of the sewer. She is having her home sewers snaked and inspected to make sure they are clear, but she did not want this to happen again because of roots in the lateral.

Mr. Montz said he would discuss this problem with the Borough Engineer. These types of sewer issues occur throughout the borough and repairs are placed on maintenance schedules. He said he would contact Mrs. O'Brien after talking to the Borough Engineer.

**Dan Hosko, 9 Terrace | Kris Pusateri, 13 Terrace | Lindsay Anderson, 11 Terrace**

Mr. Hosko said that they were present to address the ongoing issue of the landslide behind their homes on Terrace coming down from Clearview. Much of Clearview's storm water is directed over the hillside towards Terrace. Mr. Hosko asked if the ordinance could be changed to address the water runoff issue. He suggested that a study be done to determine the need for a storm sewer or a retention pond in the easement between Clearview and Terrace, or the installation of additional water drainage from Clearview. The heavy rainfall in the past year has made the problem worse.

Ms. Pusateri said that a resident on Clearview has placed corrugated piping down the hillside to drain his property and the water comes down into the rear yards on Terrace Drive. While the ordinance states that water cannot be directed onto someone else's property, the pipe ends before the property line of the upper property, but it still comes down the hillside.

Ms. Anderson said she is concerned about the long-term effect this issue is going to have on the Terrace Drive properties. The hillside is becoming unstable and unsafe and it is not an issue that is going to stop at any time and could expand to the backyards of other houses on Terrace. She asked the borough to consider the installation of some type of drainage system to handle the water runoff from Clearview onto Terrace.

**Laird Welsh, 160 Reed Drive**

Mr. Welsh asked what residents should do with glass containers that are no longer being accepted at the Green Tree Recycling Center. Mr. Sampogna said that glass materials should be thrown into the trash. Mr. Welsh said that this defeats the purpose of having recycling. Mr. Sampogna said that there is no market for glass recycling at this time. The borough does not have a say in what can and cannot be recycled and the changes in acceptable recycling materials are an area-wide issue. Glass can quickly break and splinter and that contaminates the entire load of comingled recyclables and damages the recycling center's equipment. Mr. Sampogna said the borough is looking into finding a company that will accept glass for recycling at a reasonable cost, but does not have such a company at this time.

Mr. Montz detailed the search for a glass recycler for the borough and he reiterated that the changes in recycling are not just a Green Tree problem, but a national issue. He is speaking to officials in neighboring communities about it and trying see if there is a market for glass recycling. Discussion continued regarding recycling.

**MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck**

**A. General Report**

1. Mayor Schenck said one the officers at the Green Tree Police Department resigned several weeks ago and the Civil Service Commission has certified three candidates. Background checks are being conducted and Council will be interviewing candidates for the police officer position in the near future.

**REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**A. 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 2018 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$386,989.33, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$341.41, Capital Projects Fund totaling \$23,705.16, Payroll Account totaling \$207,188.05, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$4,417.92.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the January 2019 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$76,916.85.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to appoint the borough's independent auditor, Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP, for the audit and financial statements of the Borough of Green Tree for the years ending December 31, 2018, 2019, and 2020.**

Mr. Lindsey asked if the borough considered going out to bid for an independent auditor. Mr. Montz said that is an option, but asked that this be approved for at least the 2018 audit since it needs to be done soon. The borough has worked with this group in the past and is familiar with how they conduct the audit, which provides continuity. Mayor Schenck asked if the borough has been satisfied with Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood's services and cost in the past. Mr. Montz said that the borough has been very happy with their services and they have held the same price for 2018 as 2017. Discussion continued regarding their services.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**4. Resolution #1256**

**Authorizing the issuance of a tax anticipation note for the year 2019 on a principal amount of \$1,000,000.**

Mr. Tintori stated that Council annually authorizes the issuance of a tax anticipation note. The tax anticipation note was put out for bid to five different financial institutions and two bids were received from PNC Bank and Brentwood Bank. The Finance Committee is recommending accepting the tax anticipation note from PNC Bank since they would not be charging filing fees.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adopt Resolution #1256 by title only.**

Mr. Lorenzini asked why some of the banks had not responded. Mr. Montz said some banks already have other outstanding tax anticipation loans and other banks do not generally like to do tax anticipation loans.

Mr. Montz read Resolution #1256 by title only.

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Mr. Tintori</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Novak</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Rea</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Lindsey</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Lorenzini</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Panza</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Sampogna</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**B. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza**

**1. Appointments for two-year terms to the Green Tree Public Library Board of Directors.**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to reappoint the following residents – Chris Zakrzewski, Ed Giles, and Mark Sampogna – to the Green Tree Library Board for two-year terms, from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**C. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Lorenzini**

- 1. Mr. Lorenzini reported that Council would be meeting on Monday, September 28 at 7:30 p.m. to continue the review of the proposed revised zoning ordinance. He hoped this would be the final review meeting for Council before it could be sent to the Green Tree Planning Commission and Allegheny County for their review.

**D. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey**

**1. Ordinance #1800**

**Authorizing the proper officials of the Borough of Green Tree to execute an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with regard to the SHACOG Police Mutual Aid.**

Mr. Lindsey said the ordinance is an updated agreement between all of the SHACOG communities. The last time the agreement had been updated was in 2012. Mr. Sampogna noted that a typographical error was in Exhibit A where the year needed to be changed from 2018 to 2019. Mr. Montz said that correction would be made.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, to place Ordinance #1800 on first and final reading by title only.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Montz read Ordinance #1800 on first and final reading by title only.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Rea, to pass Ordinance #1800 on first and final reading by title only.**

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Mr. Lindsey</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Novak</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Panza</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Rea</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Lorenzini</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Tintori</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Sampogna</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1800 and that it be advertised according to law.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

- 2. Mr. Lindsey hoped that Council would be able to interview candidates for the vacant police patrol position later this month, pending the results of the background checks.

**E. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Mr. Novak**

- 1. Mr. Novak said that residents have been expressing interest in the curbside recycling. The Streets Committee is in the process of deciding the types of recycling containers to provide to the community and how to distribute them to the residents.

Mr. Rea said residents have been frustrated about the overflowing recycling bins. Boxes are not being flattened. Mr. Montz said that the recycling bins are being emptied on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, but they still are often full. The amount of recycled cardboard has been substantially growing.

**F. PUBLIC PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT - Mr. Rea**

1. Mr. Rea said during discussions with the school district regarding the Aiken School property, it was discovered that there was an additional organization related to the school district that was on the title of the property. Mr. Montz said it was the Keystone Oaks Authority. However, the school district has hired an engineering firm to do a subdivision on the property and it appears that this item is moving forward.
2. Mr. Rea said that this year's Aiken kindergarten class is the largest class that has ever gone through Aiken. There are 63 students and enrollment seems to indicate an increase in upcoming years. By the time that this year's kindergarten class is in fifth grade there may not be enough room in Aiken to house all the students. Mr. Panza said the increase in enrollment is also taking place in Castle Shannon's school. Discussion continued regarding Keystone Oaks' student enrollment.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. MRTSA - Mr. Montz**

Mr. Montz said an ambulance was stolen from a bay at St. Clair Hospital, but the individual and the ambulance were recovered a short distance away. The policy for the ambulance keys will be revised following this incident.

**B. Char West COG - Mr. Novak**

Mr. Novak said Mr. Panza had attended the most recent COG meeting. Mr. Panza said an engineering firm gave a presentation on GIS mapping. Mr. Novak was elected Vice President of the Char West COG. The next COG meeting will be held in Green Tree on January 17th.

Mr. Novak said he was entertaining the possibility of Green Tree merging with another COG. Mr. Sampogna said he would talk with Mr. Novak about that possibility soon.

**C. Library - Mr. Sampogna**

Mr. Sampogna said the Library Board adopted a balanced budget for 2019 of \$254,840. This is approximately a 6% increase from the 2018 budget with most of the increases due to personnel costs. A transfer of \$58,280 from the library's savings was budgeted to balance the spending.

Mr. Sampogna said that the recent Simon & Garfunkel Coffeehouse with Kent & Re was well attended. Upcoming library events include: Book Bingo, Lego Party, Board Games for Adults, Be A Hero Crafts, and An Armchair Trip to Iceland.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna**

**A. CONNECT**

Mr. Sampogna attended CONNECT's fundraiser event in Sharpsburg. Over 80 people attended including Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. CONNECT's new Executive Director is Lydia Morin. CONNECT will be sponsoring a Walkable Neighborhoods workshop for municipalities on Friday in Green Tree. On January 23, CONNECT will hold a workshop on flooding, landslides, and mudslides.

- B.** Mr. Sampogna said Council members had received information on the Alcosan sewer transfer. There will be a meeting on January 31 that Mr. Sampogna will attend. Discussion continued regarding some sewer areas in Green Tree that may be transferred to Alcosan.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Mr. Molinaro**

In Mr. Molinaro's absence there was no report this evening.

**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 the meeting.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

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Mark Sampogna, President

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W. David Montz, Manager

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