

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2019**

Call to Order / Silence for Meditation / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Tintori reported that Council had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to interview police candidates and discuss personnel matters.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

W. David Montz, Borough Manager
Colin Cleary, Chief of Police
Cheryl Bakin, Green Tree Planning Commission
Ed O'Donnell, Green Tree Planning Commission
Deborah Gawryla, Stenographer

Absent:

Mark Sampogna

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

There was no one present who wished to be heard.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck

- A. Mayor Schenck said that he would be attending the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company's annual banquet this weekend.

REPORT OF GREEN TREE BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey

1. **Authorize hiring of one (1) probationary police officer subject to successful completion of medical and psychological examinations.**

Mr. Lindsey said that Council had interviewed candidates for the open police patrol position earlier this evening.

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, to hire Mr. Kevin Diamond as a probationary police patrolman, contingent upon the passage of medical and psychological exams.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Schenck thanked Chief Cleary for the thorough background investigations he had done on the candidates that had been interviewed this evening.

F. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Lorenzini

1. **Continuing review of proposed revised Zoning Ordinance update.**

Mr. Lorenzini said that Council has spent a number of years working on the proposed zoning ordinance. He noted that there were two members of the Planning Commission who

had also worked on this document for a number a years prior to Council's review. Mr. Lorenzini said that the ordinance is now just about ready to be considered complete. There are a few details, such as typos and numbering, which must be completed. He hoped it could be finalized in the next week. The zoning map also needs to be revised. The Borough Solicitor has reviewed the proposed zoning ordinance for legal items.

Mr. Lorenzini asked Mr. Montz about the recent need for an addition to the section permitting chickens. Mr. Montz said that while chickens are permitted in the ordinance based upon property size and distance from property lines, there was nothing in the ordinance regulating the structure where chickens would be housed. This will be added to the ordinance.

Mr. Lorenzini said that Mr. Sampogna had asked that Council consider permitting electronic signs in the borough for churches, schools, and municipal properties. Mr. Lorenzini said that Council had reviewed this issue previously and had decided against allowing electronic signage throughout the borough. Mr. Lorenzini felt that all properties in a district should be allowed to have an electronic sign or none of them, and at this time he felt they should not be permitted. He did not see a need for electronic signs since it had been decided against previously. He said he felt that Council members should discuss it though since Mr. Sampogna had raised the issue again and to also see if any other Council member had changed his mind about electronic signs. Mr. Lorenzini said that many of the locations, such as the Municipal Center, library, and some churches in the borough abut residential areas and such signs would be shining LED lights across the street from residential homes.

Mr. Lorenzini felt that if electronic signs were permitted, then all properties in a district should be permitted to have electronic signs and not just non-profits. Mr. Lindsey agreed that electronic signs should be permitted for all properties in a district, not just some. Mr. Rea said that businesses with electronic signs would be selling something, whereas churches, schools, and municipal properties would be advertising community events. Mr. Rea said that some view electronic signs as a nuisance. Mr. Lindsey said that although he would like to see an electronic sign advertising borough events in front of the Municipal Center, it would shine into residential homes no matter where it was placed. Discussion continued regarding the locations of various churches, schools, and municipal properties and how electronic signs would impact neighboring properties.

Mr. Lorenzini said that the zoning ordinance has been under review for years by both Planning Commission and Council and the general consensus by both groups has been that the borough should not allow electronic signs. He did not want to see the passage of the revised zoning ordinance stalled for an item that was previously reviewed and has not been requested by the citizens. Mr. Rea said there have been several requests by some of the churches and schools in the borough, and the borough has been interested in having an electronic sign, too. Mr. Lindsey asked if there was some other form of electronic signage besides LED lighting that could be utilized. Discussion continued regarding whether electronic signs could be helpful or a nuisance.

Mr. Lindsey felt that the LED electronic signs were bright and would like to see one in person before deciding. Mr. Rea agreed. Mr. Panza asked if the electronic billboard along the Parkway would be considered an electronic sign. Mr. Montz felt the decision whether to permit electronic signs in the borough should not hold up the progress of the entire revised zoning ordinance. It could be added later if Council decided to permit electronic signs.

Mr. Montz said that other communities that permit electronic signs have reported that they are a constant enforcement problem regarding sign brightness, speed of message changes, scrolling, etc. He added that often when one property installs an electronic sign, surrounding businesses or non-profits also want one. He questioned whether Council would want to see electronic signs up and down Greentree Road. He said that Council must consider all the possible consequences of permitting electronic signs and how they can be regulated. He felt that the points brought up this evening regarding the illumination of lights into residential properties, enforcement issues, etc., were important things to consider.

Mr. Montz said that if electronic signs were permitted for only churches, schools, and municipal properties, the borough would probably find that the business community would demand the ability to have electronic signs as well. Mr. Lindsey said that the discussion regarding electronic signs could take an entire meeting unto itself. Mr. Panza asked if Scott Township has had problems with the addition of electronic signs. He suggested that Planning Commission should review and recommend the idea of electronic signs and this could be a zoning item for a later time. Mr. Lindsey agreed that the possibility of electronic signs could be discussed later, but he did not want to see it holding up the passage of the revised zoning ordinance. After additional discussion, Council decided not to hold up the progress of the proposed zoning ordinance for an electronic sign discussion, which could be discussed at a later time if desired.

Mr. Tintori asked if parking pads had been addressed in the proposed zoning ordinance. Mr. Montz and Mr. Lorenzini replied that it had been addressed in the proposed zoning ordinance.

Mr. Montz said the proposed zoning ordinance should be finalized this week. The final changes and the entire document will be given to Council for review. Pending Council's approval, the zoning ordinance will then be sent to Allegheny County for review and recommendation. Public review and a Public Hearing on the proposed ordinance are also required.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Sampogna, President

W. David Montz, Manager