

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

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

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, February 1, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**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**

**January 4, 2016**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve the January 4, 2016 minutes as presented.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**January 11, 2016**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the January 11, 2016 minutes, with the following addition:**

p. 1 - Add to the opening statement in the Public Hearing regarding the amendments to Chapter 420 - §420-176 and §420-177, Communication Towers and Antennas: "This proposed ordinance was sent to the Green Tree Planning Commission, who reviewed it at their December 16, 2015 meeting and provided a review letter to Council on the proposed ordinance on December 23, 2015, as well as being sent to County Planning for review, as required under the MPC."

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**HEARING OF THE CITIZENS**

**Don Pritchard, Elmhurst Road**

Mr. Pritchard said that sight access to Greentree Road from several streets near his home are blocked by large pine trees, yews, and other shrubs, making it difficult to see approaching traffic. He said there are shrubs blocking the sight access at the intersection of Poplar and Rhodes, too. He said it is dangerous and would like something to be done about it. He suggested that the Chief of Police take a tour of Green Tree to identify those streets where shrubs need to be cut back because of traffic safety issues. Mr. Pritchard said that Greenridge is one of the worst. Mr. Sampogna said that the owner of that property has been notified about this issue.

Mr. Pritchard said he has heard about a number of break-ins to vehicles parked in driveways. He asked when the Reverse 911 system was last used in Green Tree. He felt that this would be a good system to get this type of information out to the residents. He said he had not received any notifications like these in several years. Mr. Montz was not sure when the last message had been sent out via the Reverse 911 system, but he would check and let Mr. Pritchard and Council know. Discussion continued regarding the details of the operation of the Reverse 911 system.

**MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck**

**A.** Mayor Schenck stated that Chief Cleary would be providing a report this evening.

Chief Cleary reported that during the 3:00 to 11:00 shift on Friday a call had come in for a man who had collapsed at the Hop House and was not breathing. One of his friends started CPR. Officers Giger and Monaco responded immediately and started first aid. The officers had an AED device in their vehicle; shocked the victim twice, and he started breathing on his own by the time the MRTSA ambulance arrived. MRTSA shocked the gentleman once more and he ended up being able to talk before he was put in the ambulance. Chief Cleary said that if the two citizens who had assisted with this gentleman's resuscitation wish to have their names made public, they, along with the two officers, would receive commendations at the next meeting. Chief Cleary wanted to make the public aware of this incident and express his gratitude for everyone's efforts. The audience applauded. Mayor Schenck thanked Officer Monaco, who was at the meeting, for a job well done.

**B.** Mayor Schenck said the Green Tree Fire Company's Banquet would be held on February 13. He will be attending the banquet to swear in the fire officials.

**C.** Mayor Schenck stated that he had held Mayor's Office Hours several weeks ago. Chief Cleary had also attended. Approximately 7-10 residents come to these open office hours on average. Many of the complaints are regarding the condition of neighboring properties. The borough cannot address complaints on private property unless it is a dangerous or unsafe condition. He encouraged residents to maintain their properties as much as possible.

Mayor Schenck mentioned that a resident had asked about the possibility of extending the sidewalk along Mansfield Avenue as a number of people take public transportation to get to their jobs on Mansfield and Trumbull Drive.

**D. Proclamation - Declaring March as Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company Month**

Mayor Schenck said this proclamation would be presented to the fire company at their upcoming banquet:

"Whereas the men and women exhibit courage and bravery every day in the course of their duties of the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company and have served the Borough of Green Tree since 1927 with utmost devotion putting their lives on the line to protect the residents and businesses of our community;

Whereas, the members of the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company perform hazardous work and devote their time and skills to protecting the property and personal safety of others have not only responded to fires, but also to a variety of other incidents including, but not limited to, car accidents, weather events, and hazardous spills;

Whereas, Green Tree Borough depends upon the efforts of the firefighters of the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company to assure the public safety of our community; and

Whereas, on behalf of the citizens of Green Tree, I appreciatively recognize and acknowledge the contributions and countless hours these men and women dedicate to our community and express our

thanks to them and their families for the sacrifices they have made, and will continue to make on our behalf.

## WITNESSETH

That by virtue of the power vested in me, I, Edward A. Schenck, Mayor of the Borough of Green Tree, declare the month of March 2016 as Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company Month in the Borough of Green Tree, and on behalf of all of our residents, express appreciation and gratitude to all past and present members of the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company for their dedication and service."

Mayor Schenck thanked all the firefighters of the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company including Councilman Rino Lindsey who has served on the fire company for 25 years.

**REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES****A. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza**

1. Mr. Panza said there are many spring recreation programs to look forward to, including Happy Feet, Insanity Fitness, CIZE Live, Painting with a Twist, Boys' Club, Zoomobile, bus to the Keystone Oaks musical, Line Dancing, Pickleball, and the ongoing Snowman Contest.
2. Mr. Panza said he had spoken with the head of water quality at Pennsylvania American Water who had told him that they make certain that there are no toxic chemicals in the water and described some of their ongoing testing. He wanted to make residents aware of the quality of the local water with the recent headlines regarding lead in Flint, Michigan's water system.

**B. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Lorenzini****1. CU-01-15**

**Applicant, ExteNet Systems, Inc. requesting conditional use approval from Council regarding the installation of telecommunication antennas on the top of a utility pole at 1100 Oriole Drive.**

Mr. Montz recommended that Council deny this application because a new utility pole for the installation of the antennas had been installed at a different address than the one on the application. When asked, Mr. Montz said they are working on removing the pole that had been installed at the wrong location.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Panza, to deny the conditional use application for CU-01-15, applicant ExteNet Systems, Inc., for the installation of telecommunication antennas on the top of a utility pole at 1100 Oriole Drive because the pole is located at a different address than what is on the application.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Appointments to Planning Commission**

Mr. Lorenzini said that four Planning Commission members' terms have expired. All four have indicated that they would like to continue serving on the Planning Commission and would like to be reappointed. Discussion continued as to whether all four appointments should be made in one motion or in individual motions.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to reappoint Mr. Thomas Bean, Dr. Paul Kirsch, Mr. Robert McWilliams, and Mr. James Turocy to the Green Tree Planning Commission for four-year terms.**

Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Appointments to Zoning Hearing Board**

Mr. Lorenzini said that two Zoning Hearing Board members' terms have expired. Both of these members have indicated that they would like to continue to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board.

**Motion:**

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to reappoint Ms. Katrina Harmel and Ms. Alexis Pierce to the Zoning Hearing Board for three-year terms.

Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Ordinance #1749**

**Amendments to Chapter 420 §420-176 and §420-177, Communication Towers and Antennas.**

**Motion:**

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to place Ordinance #1749 on first and final reading by title only.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Molinaro read Ordinance #1749 by title only.

**Motion:**

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to pass Ordinance #1749 on first and final reading by title only.

**Roll Call Vote**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:**

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1749 and that it be advertised according to law.

**5. Resolution #1227**

**Approving the designation of roads for the placement of wireless communications facilities.**

Mr. Montz said this resolution contains the recommendation of streets within the borough that would be permitted to install wireless communication antennas to go in conjunction with Ordinance #1749 that was just passed. Discussion continued regarding how the selection of these streets had been made.

**Motion:**

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to adopt Resolution #1227 on first and final reading by title only.

Mr. Molinaro read Resolution #1227 by title only.

**Roll Call Vote**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Set Public Hearing Date - CU-01-16**

**Applicant, ExteNet Systems, Inc., requesting conditional use approval from Council regarding the installation of telecommunication antennas on the top of a utility pole at 1037 Greentree Road.**

Mr. Montz suggested that this Public Hearing be held on March 7, 2016 prior to the regular Council meeting.

**Motion:**

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to set the Public Hearing date of CU-01-16, for applicant, ExteNet Systems, Inc., regarding consideration for conditional use approval for the installation of telecommunication antennas on the top of a utility pole at 1037 Greentree Road, for March 7, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

**1. Municipal Center Boiler**

Mr. Montz said additional research had been done regarding different types of boilers for the Municipal Center. He proceeded to detail the types of boilers that could be used in the building and the efficiency of various types of boilers. He said the bidding process would be a two-bid system with a specification type of bid instead of a specific type of boiler. Discussion continued regarding the types of boilers and the location of the boiler in the building.

2. Mr. Montz said that a report on the swimming pool would soon be available for the Public Property Committee to review. Overall, the pool is in good condition for a 50-year old pool, but it can be modernized.

3. Mr. Rea said that discussions regarding the purchase of the school property behind Aiken are still underway. Mr. Montz said he would provide a breakdown of the improvements that the borough has made to this property, which is currently leased from the school district. Mr. Lorenzini asked how long the borough has been leasing and maintaining the property. Mr. Sampogna said the property has been leased for about eight years. Mr. Montz added that the borough had been maintaining the property for a

few years prior to the start of the lease. Discussion of some of the improvements continued.

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

1. Mr. Lindsey thanked Mayor Schenck for his proclamation declaring March as Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company month.
2. Mr. Lindsey said that there have been interviews and an offer out to fill the police secretary position.
3. Mr. Lindsey said that the Civil Service Commission has posted the eligibility list for police officers. The Civil Service Commission and the Chief of Police will be moving forward with interviews shortly. Discussion continued regarding the selection system. Mayor Schenck said that the Civil Service Commission met earlier this evening to select officers and he recently swore in Mr. Green and Mr. Dronney to the Commission.

**E. 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 2015 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$87,628.49, Payroll Account totaling \$190,271.46, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$4,131.16.**

**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 \$103,318.53 and Capital Projects totaling \$3,375.77.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

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

1. Mr. Novak said that the Public Works Department had done a good job keeping the roads clear during the recent snowstorm that brought five inches of snow. Mr. Montz said that all the snowplows had averaged over 200 miles each during the course of the storm in keeping the roads clear. Mr. Tintori noted that the brine machine had been used prior to the onset of the snowstorm. Mr. Montz said the brine machine keeps the snow from bonding to the road at the beginning of a storm, which allows for better traction.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. MRTSA - Mr. Montz**

Mr. Montz said there is a new state legislative bill that allows ambulance services to opt into direct billing from insurance companies. However, MRTSA and many other ambulance services will not be able to participate in this program because it limits the amount of money that can be obtained from a transport service.

Mr. Montz said that MRTSA still cannot bill for certain services that do not require transport from a location to a hospital. Many ambulance services have gone out of business because they cannot meet the financial requirements. Discussion continued regarding some of the

details of MRTSA's financial structure. Mr. Montz said he would provide Council with MRTSA's subscriber rate.

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

Mr. Novak reported that Mr. Daniel Alwine, Project Development Specialist, from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) was the keynote speaker at the last COG meeting. SPC covers a ten county area of approximately 7,000 square miles. SPC does municipal profiling, transportation, traffic studies, traffic light synchronization, air quality studies, and data collection to help make better planning decisions. SPC also provides free local technical assistance programs such as transportation improvement programs. Discussion continued regarding SPC services.

Mr. Novak said that salt prices through the COG are now \$68.39 per ton. The COG also discussed microsurfacing bids that could be made collectively for roads in several different communities in order to obtain better pricing.

**LIBRARY - Mr. Sampogna**

1. Mr. Sampogna said that appointments/reappointments of library board members would be placed on the March agenda.
2. Mr. Sampogna said that every ACLA library in the county recently received a \$3,000 grant from the Buncher Foundation.
3. The Library Board approved a balanced budget of \$195,292.00 for 2016. New Library Board officers are Kathleen Trehy - President, Laura Gething - Vice President, Randy McFarland - Treasurer, and Chris Zakrzewski - Secretary. Mr. Sampogna said that the library also has an Advisory Board and invited interested persons to get in touch with him.
4. Mr. Sampogna reported that the library recently hired a new desk clerk, Ms. Jolene Ziegler.
5. Mr. Sampogna said that the library would be providing a number of computer training classes including Excel Basics, and Freegal & Zinio instruction.

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

**1. CONNECT**

Mr. Sampogna said that CONNECT held a working, health policy group kick-off meeting. Two members of the Allegheny County Health Department attended this meeting to talk about Live Well Allegheny. Mr. Sampogna said that Council would have a resolution at the next meeting to make Green Tree a Live Well Allegheny Community. Green Tree has met the requirements to become a Live Well Allegheny Community with its walking tracks, exercise classes, and recreational facilities. He hoped that the borough could hold a health and human services event in Green Tree in the near future. He outlined some of the items that had been presented at CONNECT's regular meeting in Munhall. The next CONNECT meeting would be held on February 18 in Dormont, and the CONNECT Congress would be held on April 21 at the Circuit Center.

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

1. Mr. Molinaro reported that, with the assistance of the Borough Manager, approximately \$50 million in assessments going back as far 2013 have been resolved. With the conclusion of these appeals, most of the commercial appeals have been resolved, and have fallen within the estimated guidelines predicted by the Borough Manager.

**MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Montz**

1. Mr. Montz said the borough owns nine AEDs with most of the borough employees trained in their use. The borough will be offering training classes in CPR and the use of AEDs to train or recertify its employees. He invited Council to attend these sessions as well. The classes will also be open to the public. He said it is a good skill for everyone to learn and hoped that people would take advantage of these classes that are being offered in Green Tree.
2. Mr. Montz said he would need to have a meeting to inform Council about the details of the sewer situation. The most recent consent decree will be mainly a study process. He outlined the way the testing on the watersheds will need to be done. The end result is to find ways to remove stormwater infiltration from the sanitary sewer lines.

Mr. Panza asked if the borough had already done this type of work on the sewer system during the past ten years. Mr. Montz replied that the borough has worked on repairing or replacing defects in the sewer system, but has not addressed the water infiltration problem. Mr. Panza said that the dye testing of the borough had helped remove rainwater infiltration. Mr. Montz said that had been one type of infiltration, but issues such as broken pipes in the laterals, etc., had not been addressed. Discussion continued regarding the various sewer issues that have been done and were being considered.

3. Mr. Montz said he would look into the borough's Reverse 911 usage. He asked residents to be more vigilant with the recent rash of vehicle break-ins and reminded residents to lock their cars, even in their driveways.

**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