

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 4, 2019**

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

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, February 4, 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  
Peter Molinaro, Jr., Borough Solicitor  
Colin Cleary, Chief of Police  
Deborah N. Gawryla, Stenographer

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**January 7, 2019**

**Motion:**

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve the January 7, 2019 Council minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

**January 28, 2019**

**Motion:**

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey to approve the January 28, 2019 Council minutes as presented.

Motion carried, with Mr. Sampogna abstaining since he had not attended this meeting.

**HEARING OF THE CITIZENS**

There was no one present who wished to be heard.

**MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck**

**A. General Report**

1. Mayor Schenck said he had attended the recent Green Tree Firemen's Banquet and had sworn in the new 2019 officers. The new location of the banquet was a nice facility.
2. Mayor Schenck held Mayor's Office Hours in January and several citizens attended. A resident brought up the idea of a borough app that would alert citizens of what is going on in their municipality. Several nearby communities are using this app. He passed the idea onto Mr. Rea. Mr. Rea said he would be talking to the company tomorrow.

3. Mayor Schenck reported that at Council's January 28, 2019 meeting, Council voted to hire another police officer, contingent upon passage of several tests that need to be completed.
4. Mayor Schenck asked Council to consider the possibility of having a Junior Councilperson. Discussion took place regarding what should be required of a Junior Councilperson. Mr. Panza said that the Recreation & Community Affairs Committee of Council would look at Junior Councilperson requirements over the next several months and report back to Council.

**REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

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

Mr. Rea had nothing to report at this time.

**B. 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 January 2019 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$50,035.32, Public Works Department Equipment Fund totaling \$81,068.40, Payroll Account totaling \$218,806.61, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$2,822.59.

Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Motion:**

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the February 2019 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$107,464.73, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$752.30, Capital Projects totaling \$54,780.65, and Public Works Equipment Fund totaling \$53,724.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Mr. Panza anticipated a Sound Barrier Committee meeting would be held in the next six months when the local head of PennDOT would be able to attend.
2. Mr. Panza said the Fall Fest Committee met on January 20 and elected Mrs. Shannon Barron as the new committee president. The committee is starting plans for the 2019 event with fireworks being held on Saturday evening instead of Sunday. Sunday's hours will be shortened with Sunday being a community-oriented day.

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

Mr. Lorenzini had nothing to report at this time.

**E. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey**

**1. Motion:**

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, that Officer Eric Diehl be issued a one day suspension for engaging in conduct unbecoming an officer, the date to be determined by the Chief and the Mayor.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Mr. Lindsey said that Mr. Bob McWilliams was recognized at the Firemen's Banquet for his 50 years of service to the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company. He thanked Mr. McWilliams for his service and stated that 50 years is a long time for ongoing volunteer service to the community and his award was well deserved.

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

1. **Authorize the proper officers to sign cost/share agreement with PennDOT for ADA ramps located at Poplar Street and Mansfield Avenue.**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to authorize the proper officers to sign the cost/share agreement with PennDOT for four ADA ramps located at Poplar Street and Mansfield Avenue.**

Mr. Sampogna asked if PennDOT would be replacing the island at that intersection. Mr. Montz replied that the island would be replaced, but it is not part of the ramp project. The island will be smaller than before to help with tractor-trailers making right-hand turns from Mansfield onto Poplar. PennDOT would not remove the island entirely.

**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 that COG salt prices are \$70.47/ton, which is a slight decrease. COG officers are President Sam Nucci, Vice President Todd Miller, Treasurer Kelly Hall, and Secretary John Novak. The COG discussed a web-based municipal app called Savvy Citizen to alert residents to issues going on in their community. Those using the app would receive alerts and it is a good tool for connecting with residents. A number of other communities are using this app.

**C. Library - Mr. Sampogna**

Mr. Sampogna said the Library Board met on January 15th. The library has had an increase in the use of wi-fi minutes and sessions and a decrease in library computer usage in both minutes and sessions. More library visitors are bringing their own devices into the library.

Some February library events include:

- Heinz History Center presentation entitled "Why Pittsburgh? A Story of Innovation."
- Books & Bites Bags are being sold at the library for Valentine's Day for \$5 each.
- Author visit on January 20.
- Paw Patrol Storytime on January 18.
- Heart Health presentation by Life Pittsburgh on January 22.

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

**A. CONNECT**

Mr. Sampogna attended a CONNECT workshop on Walkable Communities. The presentation showed a number of good and bad examples of development to encourage community and small business integration in a walkable community. Five groups participated in an exercise to redesign two blocks of the Greentree Road business area.

- B.** Mr. Sampogna attended the Allegheny League of Municipalities (ALOM) legislative reception. He and several others spoke to State Senator Wayne Fontana about changing the current outdated laws regarding municipal legal advertising in newspapers. Senator Fontana said he would be amenable to supporting such legislation. Mr. Lorenzini asked if a request for this legislation had been sent to State Representative Dan Deasy. Mr. Sampogna replied that a request had been sent to Representative Deasy, but he had not received a response.
- C.** Mr. Sampogna attended a CONNECT meeting in Edgewood where City Councilman Corey O'Connor explained the proposed gun violence reduction legislation. Also, Mr. Dan Swazey, Director of the Community Paramedic Program, provided statistics regarding the number of referrals the program had received over the past year along with the funds that had been saved as a result of the program.

Mr. Sampogna said the Community Paramedic Program started a post-overdose response team that has been working in the City of Pittsburgh. Coverage is expected to be expanded to all of Allegheny County later in 2019. The post-overdose response team comes in after an emergency overdose response to talk to the individual about various treatments and alternatives that are available. Mayor Schenck asked how the post-overdose response team obtains the information on the overdose victims. Mr. Sampogna replied that the ambulance response team that initially attends to the overdose individual notifies the post-overdose response team.

- D.** Mr. Sampogna and Mr. Gregg Earley attended an Allegheny County Emergency Services/ Pennsylvania Emergency Management Administration workshop on flood and landslide mitigation. Discussions included recent weather, geology, flooding, and types of landslides and mudslides, as well as various grants and loan programs available for mitigation projects.
- E.** Mr. Sampogna and Mr. Montz attended a meeting on the transfer of multi-municipal sewer lines from the municipalities to Alcosan. The meeting presented information on the requirements and stipulations associated with these transfers.
- F.** Mr. Sampogna encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Valentine's Dance on February 9, sponsored by the RCA Board.
- G.** Mr. Sampogna said the Post-Gazette had published a recent article regarding Green Tree's GROW grant project on Poplar Street.
- H.** Mr. Sampogna stated he had done an analysis of residential home sales from 2014 through 2018, using information from the County's real estate website. The average residential home sale price in Green Tree has risen 22.7%. The average sale price in 2014 was \$146,660 and in 2018 it was \$179,957. The number of residential home sales each year has remained very stable with a low of 76 sales and a high of 81 sales.

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

Mr. Molinaro had nothing to report at this time.

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

- A.** Mr. Montz reported that the vendor that provides the borough's sanitary sewage billing will be going out of business in July. He has been working on finding another vendor for the borough

and the Finance Director will be meeting with the company to make the transition as seamless as possible.

- B.** Mr. Montz said the traffic signals from Potomac to McKinney Lane along Greentree Road are being updated as part of the SINC-UP Program. The borough received a grant from the Southwest Planning Commission for this update. Mr. Montz detailed the updates in the new traffic signal system.
- C.** Mr. Montz said he would be scheduling a meeting with the Finance Committee of Council to review the year-end finance report.
- D.** There will be a police arbitration meeting on their contract on Monday, February 11.
- E.** The borough is in the process of submitting an application for another GROW grant for Alcosan. Alcosan is currently looking at projects regarding the lining of sewer lines and the borough has identified some areas where sewer lining is needed.
- F.** Mr. Montz said the borough is currently offering a separate glass-recycling bin along with the other recycling bins at the Public Works parking area. The glass-recycling bin is available on an experimental basis with a company in Glenshaw.
- G.** Mr. Montz said that the borough has done extensive videoing, cleaning, and some repair work on the sewer line to be transferred to Alcosan. All the repairs, except one, have been completed and that one should be completed within the next month. The necessary easement agreements have been collected for Alcosan. When everything is completed, the information will be forwarded to the Solicitor for his review, after which the documents will be forwarded to Alcosan for its review. Mr. Montz hoped the borough might be one of the first communities to complete the sewer transfer agreement.
- H.** Mr. Montz said the borough has been using a lot of salt with the recent snowstorms. Salt deliveries have been lagging, which had been anticipated, and the borough does not expect to have any salt shortages.

**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