

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

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

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sampogna stated that Council had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters related to real estate.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Edward Schenck, Mayor  
Mark Sampogna, President of Council  
Rino Lindsey  
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

**Absent:**

David Lorenzini

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**January 2, 2018**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to approve the January 2, 2018 Council minutes with the following correction:**

p. 9 Change Mayor Schenck's comment for "his desire for another *lieutenant*" to "*sergeant*."

p. 9 Change Mayor Schenck's comment stating "...he could work on the perceptions between the Police Department and Council," to "...he could work on *improving the* perceptions between the Police Department and Council."

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**HEARING OF THE CITIZENS**

There was no one present who wished to be heard.

**MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck**

**A.** Mayor Schenck stated that he, along with many of the Council members, Police Chief, and volunteer firefighters would be attending the upcoming Fireman's Banquet on February 17. Mayor Schenck said he would be installing the fire company's newly elected officers.

**B.** Mayor Schenck said he had held Mayor's Office Hours several weeks ago, but no one had attended. The weather was snowy. Mayor Schenck said he intended to continue holding Mayor's Office Hours.

- C. The new Verizon store on Greentree Road has opened. Mayor Schenck said he has been to the store and they received a Key to the Borough. He hopes to give a Key to the Borough to the new Burger King on Noblestown Road soon.

**REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

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

- 1. Mr. Novak said a comparison had been done regarding salt usage between last year's mild winter and so far this winter. During the 2016-17 winter there were 195 regular hours and 306.05 overtime hours used for snow removal with 675 tons of salt used. During the current 2017-18 winter season, there have been 200 regular hours and 365 overtime hours used for snow removal with 1,010 tons of salt used.
- 2. The Streets Committee of Council will be looking at the roads in Green Tree that are being considered for repaving in 2018.

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

- 1. Mr. Rea said the borough is continuing negotiations with the school district regarding the possible purchase of the property behind Aiken School.
- 2. Mr. Rea said the borough had received preliminary quotes on trenching around the Nature Center oak trees that are affected by oak wilt and for the removal of the oaks for either barter or sale.

**C. 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 2018 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$56,366.49, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$166.75, Payroll Account totaling \$217,849.24, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$2,686.96.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the February 2018 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$117,175.10, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$358.60, and Capital Projects totaling \$49,500.00.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Local Government Academy**

Mr. Tintori said that Local Government Academy (LGA) provides training for elected officials. All members of Green Tree Borough Council have received training through the LGA at the Newly Elected Officials Course. Mr. Tintori said he has served on LGA's board for a number of years and is currently the Chairman of the Board. There are 73 people in the current Newly Elected Officials class. He said that LGA is a good resource to local government and Green Tree has been a strong supporter of LGA over the years. Mr. Sampogna stated that he had found the Newly Elected Officials Course beneficial when he took it years ago.

**D. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza****1. Appointments to the Library Board****Motion:**

**Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to reappoint Ms. Allyson Wilson, Ms. Susan Wuenstel, and Mr. Randall McFarland to the Green Tree Library Board for two-year terms, expiring January 31, 2020.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

2. Mr. Panza reported that the next Oktoberfest meeting would be held on Monday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. Council and others are welcome to attend.
3. Mr. Panza asked if the tickets for the annual Green Tree Pirates trip had been purchased. Mr. Montz replied that the tickets have been purchased. Mr. Panza said that the borough might want to reconsider whether to continue this event. He suggested that the borough might want to sponsor a trip to see the Washington Wild Things instead.

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

Mr. Novak provided the Planning & Zoning report in Mr. Lorenzini's absence.

**1. SD-02-17**

**Applicant, Pennsylvania American Water, requesting Council approval for the consolidation of several lots with different zoning designations that they own into one split-zoned lot at 500 Noblestown Road.**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to approve SD-02-17, applicant, Pennsylvania American Water, for the consolidation of several lots with different zoning designations into one split-zoned lot at 500 Noblestown Road.**

Mr. Montz said the property is the site of the former Family Toy Warehouse and Walgreen's offices. Pennsylvania American Water will be using this property as their meter shop and various work and meter crews will work out of the facility. All the PAWC vehicles will be parked inside the building. The subdivision plan before Council is for the consolidation of a number of individual lots that Walgreen's had purchased. PAWC wants to consolidate all of these lots into one lot. Some of the lots along Hanover are zoned differently than the rest of the property and Planning Commission had asked for the Solicitor's opinion regarding the consolidation of lots in different zoning districts. The Solicitor provided the opinion that it was legal to have one large parcel that would exist in different zoning districts.

Mr. Montz said that part of the property is located in Scott Township and PAWC will be erecting a shed in that area for outside storage, but the shed will not be visible to the residents of Rook. When PAWC occupies the building they will not use the entrance onto Hawthorne. That entrance would only be used in the event of an emergency and the fire department will be provided with access to those gates.

When asked, Mr. Montz said that there were only two different districts comprising the consolidation plan. He said that nothing physical would be changing on the property, but PAWC merely wanted to consolidate several smaller lots into one lot.

Mayor Schenck suggested that this area might be considered for redrawing of the zoning district as part of the revised zoning ordinance. Mr. Montz said that would be a consideration, but some of the lots that are zoned Local Business have residential properties abutting them and it would be important to protect that use. Mr. Tintori noted that Planning Commission had recommended the approval of this subdivision. Discussion continued regarding the consolidation of one lot in two different zoning districts.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

- 2. Mr. Novak asked Council to consider dates for the continuing review of the proposed zoning ordinance. After a discussion, Council decided to meet on Monday, February 19 and Monday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. to continue this review.
- 3. Mr. Novak reported that the Zoning Hearing Board had been scheduled to meet on January 11 regarding property at 2775 Noblestown Road, but the applicant withdrew the request prior to the meeting.
- 4. Mr. Sampogna noted that the Green Tree Planning Commission had submitted its 2017 Annual Report reviewing actions they had taken throughout the year.

**F. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey**

**1. Ordinance #1782**

**Repealing Ordinance #1699 and the Civil Service rules and regulations adopted therein, restating, amending, and adopting in their entirety the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission.**

Mr. Lindsey said that the Civil Service Commission, and its attorney, had made some recommendations for changes to the existing Civil Service Rules and Regulations. These revisions had been reviewed at a recent Public Safety meeting and the Public Safety Committee is in agreement that the changes should be adopted. They address rules and regulations regarding the hiring of new police officers.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to place Ordinance #1782 on first and final reading by title only.**

Mayor Schenck stated that the attorney assisting the Civil Service Commission with these changes was Mr. Fred Wolfe.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Molinaro read Ordinance #1782 by title only.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by the Mr. Tintori, to pass Ordinance #1782 on first and final reading by title only.**

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Mr. Lindsey</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Panza</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Tintori</b>	<b>Yes</b>

Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Novak	Yes
Mr. Sampogna	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:**

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1782 and that it be advertised according to law.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Mr. Lindsey said that Chief Cleary and Mayor Schenck had requested the creation of an eligibility list for full-time police officers in the event that new officers are needed.

**Motion:**

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to request that the Civil Service Commission start the process in creating an eligibility list for police officer candidates.

Mayor Schenck said that the eligibility list would be good for one year from its establishment, unless otherwise extended after one year by the Civil Service Commission.

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 Ms. Maureen Quinn, Manager of the Housing & Human Services Division of Allegheny County Economic Development, had spoken at the most recent COG meeting. She said that there is lead in many of the homes in Allegheny County built before 1978. She presented information on the Allegheny County Lead-Safe Homes Program that provides free home repairs to those who qualify. Lead can hurt children and pregnant women if they are exposed to it, create behavioral problems, learning disabilities, cause hyperactivity, and lower IQs.

Mr. Novak said that COG salt prices increased by 45¢ per ton to \$69.74 per ton.

The COG reported on several grants with a February 28th deadline that are currently available for sewer and water repairs and improvements.

**C. Library - Mr. Sampogna**

Mr. Sampogna said that the Library Board had met on January 16 and adopted its budget for the 2018 fiscal year in the amount of \$240,250. The Board elected new officers: President - Randall McFarland, Vice President - Chris Zakrzewski, Secretary - Susan Wuenstel, and Treasurer - Ed Giles.

Some upcoming library events include the sale of Books & Bites Bags for Valentine's Day, a Frick presentation on Victorian Courtship Traditions, and an author's visit with Dorit Sasson.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna****A. PA Municipal League**

Mr. Sampogna said he and the Borough Manager had attended the Pennsylvania Municipal League's Capital Conference on January 23 in Harrisburg. There were presentations on the bi-partisan municipal pension reform plan, and a report on communities in crisis. He detailed how the community rankings were determined and said that Green Tree ranked in the middle, meaning that the borough is maintaining its status quo with minimal tax base increases and slight reductions in non-core municipal services. Green Tree's ranking has remained unchanged from 1970 to the present. Only a few Allegheny County municipalities have improved their rankings from 1990 to the present. Mr. Sampogna said that he would be glad to provide a copy of the communities in crisis report to anyone who is interested. Mr. Sampogna said the conference also provided a presentation on handling blighted and abandoned properties.

**B.** Mr. Sampogna said that he and Mr. Tintori had discussed some pending pieces of legislation with State Senator Wayne Fontana, and the borough had sent a letter to Senator Fontana opposing one of those pieces of pending legislation.

**C. CONNECT**

Mr. Sampogna said that CONNECT and the Allegheny County Health Department are creating a new position for the Overdose Community Response Coordinator. Mayor Schenck asked Mr. Sampogna to provide the contact information for this individual to the police department.

Another utilities meet-up will be held between local utilities and local municipal representatives on March 22 at the offices of Pennsylvania One Call. Mr. Sampogna said that anyone who wished to be added to CONNECT's electronic newsletter list should contact him.

**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 borough had utilized the emergency roadway on lower Glencoe after a tree had fallen along Glencoe and blocked access to several homes. The emergency roadway allowed local residents in the area access to their homes until the tree could be cleared.

**B.** Mr. Montz said he had provided Council with several newspaper articles regarding information on interchanges and proposed Parkway work. He suggested that the borough should reach out to the new PennDOT District Director.

**C.** Mr. Montz suggested that Council consider sending State Senator Fontana a letter opposing a proposal in the State Legislature that would make it mandatory for business privilege tax to be collected by the county tax collection agency. The proposal would move both local service tax (LST) and business privilege tax (BPT) collection. Mr. Montz did not see a need to oppose the move for LST, but collection of BPT should remain the same. Elected officials for the municipalities with BPT should be able to determine whom they want as their BPT collection agency. Mr. Montz said that the borough has done well with its in-house BPT collection.

Mr. Tintori agreed that the borough should be allowed to choose its own BPT collection system. Mayor Schenck asked how many other Allegheny County municipalities have a business privilege tax. Mr. Montz replied that there are only a few hundred municipalities across the entire state that have BPT. After a discussion, Council agreed that they should send a letter to Senator Fontana opposing the proposal to make it mandatory for business privilege tax to be collected by the county tax collection agency.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Panza, to write a letter to state legislators to oppose the proposal in the State Legislature that would make it mandatory for business privilege tax to be collect by the county tax collection agency.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**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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