

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 6, 2017**

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

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, February 6, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sampogna said that Council had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss police department personnel matters and a legal matter regarding some property.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Edward 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  
Colin Cleary, Chief of Police  
Deborah Gawryla, Stenographer

**Approval of the Minutes**

**January 9, 2017**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the January 8, 2017 Council meeting minutes with the following correction:**

p. 1 - Mayor's Report - Correct the first sentence by adding some omitted words to read, "Mayor Schenck said he had attended *a meeting that* the Chief of Police held with the officers."

**Motion carried, 6-0-1, with Mr. Rea abstaining because he had not attended this meeting.**

**January 30, 2017**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the January 30, 2017 Council meeting minutes as presented.**

**Motion carried, 5-0-2, with Mr. Sampogna and Mr. Tintori abstaining because they 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.** Mayor Schenck said that he had attended the annual Green Tree Firemen's Banquet on Saturday, February 4th. A number of Council members had also attended. He swore in the new GTVFC officers for 2017.

**B.** Mayor Schenck reported that the dek hockey rink renovations were almost completed.

**REPORT OF GREEN TREE BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

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

**1. SD-01-17**

**Applicant, Matthew Serakowski, requesting approval from Council for a minor subdivision of the Serakowski Plan of Lots for the reconfiguration of lots at 1298 and 1320 Glencoe Avenue.**

Mr. Lorenzini stated that Planning Commission had reviewed the subdivision plan and had unanimously recommended approval to Council.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Panza, to approve SD-01-17, applicant, Matthew Serakowski, for a minor subdivision of the Serakowski Plan of Lots for the reconfiguration of lots at 1298 and 1320 Glencoe Avenue.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board (3-year term to December 31, 2019)**

Mr. Lorenzini said that Mr. Jeffrey Sterling has been a member of the Zoning Hearing Board for the past 15 years, but was stepping down at this time. Mr. Lorenzini thanked Mr. Sterling for his years of service.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to appoint Mr. Florian Rajakovich to the Zoning Hearing Board for a three-year term, expiring December 31, 2019.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. General Report**

(a) Mr. Lorenzini said that Planning Commission voted to re-elect the same officers for 2017. They are Ms. Rebecca Chembars, Chair; Mrs. Cheryl Bakin, Vice Chair; and Mr. Ed O'Donnell, Secretary.

(b) Mr. Lorenzini reported that the Zoning Hearing Board would be meeting on March 7th at 7:00 p.m. to review a variance application by the Hampton Inn for signage.

(c) Mr. Lorenzini said that Council would be meeting on Monday, February 20th to continue the review of the proposed zoning ordinance.

**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 2017 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$58,041.38, Payroll Account totaling \$197,497.24, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$3,356.57.**

Mr. Lorenzini asked about a fee to Comcast for Hale Park. Mr. Montz said it provides the video feed for the cameras in the park. It is a private service.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Motion:**

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the February 2017 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$401,558.88.

Motion carried unanimously.

**C. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Mr. Novak****1. Authorize Borough Manager to purchase F-150 Ford Pick-Up Truck at cost of \$34,160 under the Costars Contract Number 025-032.****Motion:**

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, to authorize the Borough Manager to purchase a Ford F-150 pick-up truck at a cost of \$34,160 under the Costars Contract #025-032.

Mr. Sampogna said the truck would be for Public Works use. When asked, Mr. Montz said that Code Enforcement would use the old truck from Public Works. The truck currently used by Code Enforcement would go to auction. Mr. Montz confirmed that the purchase of this truck had been budgeted.

Motion carried unanimously.

**2. GROW Grant**

Mr. Novak reported that that borough's GROW (Green Revitalization of Our Waterways) grant had been approved. Mr. Montz said the grant would cover 85% of the projected cost of \$504,448. It is hoped that this project could begin in late summer of 2017 and would take place on Poplar Street between Kearns Avenue and Noblestown Road. When completed the project should remove approximately 23 million gallons of storm water out of the sanitary sewer system. Mr. Montz said that Council would have to approve the formal agreement from ALCOSAN for the GROW grant at next month's meeting. Discussion continued regarding the details of this project.

**D. PUBLIC PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT - Mr. Rea****1. Dek Hockey Rink Renovations**

Mr. Rea said the new dek hockey rink will be level and should be completed within the next few weeks.

2. Mr. Rea said the borough is contracting with the Hollow Oak Land Trust, an organization based out of Moon Township, to help with general improvements at the Nature Center. They will act as an advising body to the borough, and Council is seeking volunteers to help with the trail improvements at the Nature Center.

3. Mr. Rea said the borough does not have an update from the Keystone Oaks School Board regarding the purchase of the property behind Aiken School.

4. Signage for the Municipal Center is on order.

5. Mr. Montz said that work on a proposed wall for the Greentree Cemetery is planned for the spring.

6. Mr. Rea said that the internet infrastructure will be increased in the Municipal Center to allow a wider ability to get online. There will be both private and guest wi-fi access.
7. Mr. Rea said that the wall between the pool and the concession stand would be improved. Mr. Montz said the wall would be designed and tested and it will go out for contract bid soon. However, the work will not begin until after Labor Day when the pool has closed for the season. Some general maintenance around the pool will be done before it opens on Memorial Day weekend.
8. Mayor Schenck asked Mr. Rea if the Public Safety Committee would review the possibility of a sidewalk extension along Mansfield from Holiday Drive to Andersen. Mr. Montz said that the overall cost benefit would have to be considered for this project. Mr. Sampogna suggested that the Airport Corridor Transportation Association might be asked to run last-mile connectivity between some of the bus stops and the business areas of the borough. This has been done in Moon Township, Robinson, and some other areas. Mr. Sampogna said he would talk to them about this possibility. Discussion continued regarding this issue.

#### **E. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza**

##### **1. Appointment(s) to the Library Board (2-year term to January 2019)**

###### **Motion:**

**Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to appoint Mr. Mark Sampogna, Ms. Chris Zakrzewski, and Ms. Allyson Wilson for two-year terms expiring January 2019.**

When asked, Mr. Sampogna said that his serving on the Library Board provides a liaison between Council and the library. Before Mr. Sampogna began serving on the Board, Council had very little interface with the library.

Mr. Sampogna said that there was another opening on the Library Board and he hoped there would be a recommendation to fill this vacancy by the next meeting.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

##### **2. Appointment to the Recreation & Community Affairs Board (3-year term)**

###### **Motion:**

**Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to appoint Ms. Luanne Jones to the Recreation & Community Affairs Board for a three-year term.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Lindsey noted that the Ms. Christine Short's term on the RCA Board would be expiring in 30 days according to the information provided to Council. Ms. Short, who was in the audience, felt that her term on the board was not due to expire and it might be a typo in the memo. Mr. Lindsey asked that this be checked at the administrative office. If the 3/1/17 expiration date of her term was correct, he asked that her reappointment be placed on March's agenda. Mr. Panza noted that there were still two openings on the RCA Board.

##### **3. Recreation Board Meeting**

Mr. Panza requested that the Council's Recreation Committee meet on Monday, April 3rd after the regularly scheduled Council meeting. He wished to discuss whether the Parkway had been expanded or not with its recent improvements. He hoped that the committee

would be able to obtain some documents from PennDOT between now and then regarding this issue. Discussion continued regarding the letters that were sent out to various officials and representatives.

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

1. Mr. Lindsey stated that the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company mourned the death of long-time fireman and chief, Mr. Bill Schwartzmiller on January 26th. He thanked Mr. Schwartzmiller and his family for the many commitments they made to the community over the years he served.

2. **Authorize Borough Manager to purchase police vehicle Watch Guard Camera System at a cost of \$33,342 under Costars Contract.**

Mr. Lindsey said there have been some problems with the current cameras in the police cars and the police department wanted to switch to a different company.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, to authorize the Borough Manager to purchase Watch Guard Camera System for the police vehicles at a cost of \$33,342 under the Costars contract.**

When asked, Mr. Lindsey said it would not be hard to install the new cameras in the police vehicles to replace the current ones. The current cameras in the vehicles were installed 2014. The purchase price includes installation of the cameras.

Mayor Schenck said he saw an administrative fee of \$1500 for the Costars contract for the purchase of the pick-up truck earlier this evening. He asked if that fee covered this purchase as well. Mr. Montz replied that it depends upon how the contract is written since they are all individual contracts. Ford had the \$1500 administrative fee listed, but Watch Guard does not have that.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

3. Mr. Lindsey said that in the Executive Session prior to this meeting, Council had discussed some disciplinary actions in an investigation brought forth by Chief Cleary. Based on the facts presented at the meeting, Mr. Lindsey made the following motion:

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, to suspend Officer Charles Kern for one day without pay, based upon the recommendation of Chief Colin Cleary.**

**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. Denise Mays, from the Pittsburgh Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) spoke about a program called My Work Initiative where those with behavioral problems

or disabilities would be offered work in a business or municipality to help give them learning experience and more acceptance in a community. OVR pays for the person's wages. He said he had given Mr. Montz the information on this program. Discussion continued regarding this program.

**C. Library - Mr. Sampogna**

Mr. Sampogna said the library is evaluating a self-checkout system. Several libraries in the area already have this system. A demo system is temporarily available in the library to review. If purchased, the library would use some of the grant money and other monies received at the end of 2016 to purchase the system.

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

- A. Mr. Sampogna thanked the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company for their banquet on Saturday.
- B. Mr. Sampogna reported that CONNECT held a planning meeting on January 18th in Carnegie to organize CONNECT's agenda for 2017. The top four items were infrastructure, public relations, sustainability of the organization, and public engagement.

CONNECT also met for an Executive Committee meeting in Ross Township where they heard an update from the Port Authority and found out that the library might be able to sell bus passes (Connect Card). The Port Authority plans to go to a totally cashless system and riders will need to have a card to ride Port Authority transportation.

- C. Mr. Sampogna said he had received an email from the Auditor General's office regarding the borough liquid fuel tax fund audit, and had found no problems with the fund. He said he would forward the email to Council members.
- D. Mr. Sampogna said he would be attending an ALCOSAN meeting on Wednesday to announce the GROW grant recipients.
- E. Mr. Sampogna said he had sent a letter on Council's behalf to all of the borough's elected officials, state and federal, regarding PennDOT's Fast Lane grant application.

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

Mr. Molinaro had nothing to report at this time.

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

- A. Mr. Montz said the office has been doing an earned income tax (EIT) audit to determine why the borough was not receiving taxes from certain pieces of property. The borough used its mapping system to determine which properties the borough was not receiving EIT from and sent out letters to those properties. Out of 716 letters that were sent, the borough learned that retired residents lived in 354 of the properties. Whenever those properties sell, the borough will better be able to follow up with tax collection. Mr. Montz said that EIT collection for apartment residents is more difficult because of the higher turnover. Often the borough has found that some people are paying their earned income tax, but it is going to the wrong municipality because employers do not understand the law. Mr. Montz said he has met with the tax collector and worked out a plan. This not only helps the borough collect taxes it is owed, but helps Jordan Tax Service with their collection process. Mr. Montz said there are also problems in identifying residents with home occupations.

Mr. Rea asked if the school district has been helping out with this tax identification process. Mr. Montz said that they have not, but he will be notifying them to pay half of the postage spent in mailing out these letters. Discussion continued regarding the EIT collection.

- B.** Mr. Montz said that Public Works did an outstanding job installing the new dek hockey court. They worked on several different designs and ended up helping the manufacturer on a few details and modifications. Their work reduced the installation price by approximately \$9,000.
- C.** Mr. Lindsey asked for clarification about the \$1500 administrative fee for the purchase of the new Public Works truck. After a review, it was determined that Ford paid the \$1500 administrative fee to the state, and it was not included in the borough's cost of purchasing the truck.

**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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