

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

Call to Order / Silence for Meditation / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Edward Schenck, Mayor
Mark Sampogna, President
Rino Lindsey
David Lorenzini
John Novak
Ron Panza
Arthur Tintori

Also Present:

W. David Montz, Borough Manager
Colin Cleary, Chief of Police
Deborah N. Gawryla, Stenographer

Absent:

David Rea

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

February 4, 2019

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the February 4, 2019 Council minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Walt Heckla, 154 Sheldon Avenue

Mr. Heckla complimented the excellent service he had received from MRTSA and the borough's emergency services during an emergency he experienced a while ago. They also provided outstanding service to a neighbor requiring emergency services recently. He thanked all the emergency personnel for their help and service and said they are the greatest.

Colleen Tortorella, 184 Sheldon Avenue

Mrs. Tortorella thanked the borough for keeping the roads clear during snowy weather.

Mrs. Tortorella said she wished to make a public apology to Public Works Director, Mr. Kary Rahner. She said that she had a recent delivery that came in large boxes, which her husband quickly put in the cardboard recycling dumpster without collapsing. Mr. Rahner called their home and told her husband that he needed to collapse the boxes when recycling them. Ms. Tortorella said they would collapse their cardboard boxes in the future.

Mrs. Tortorella said that although the Hemlock fields have always been in good shape for baseball, Aiken II, which is used by the older baseball teams, is not in good shape. There are no dugouts, the concession stand is far away, and it is embarrassing when visiting teams come to play at Aiken II. Mrs. Tortorella asked why there wasn't a decent field for the high school team to play on. Mr. Sampogna said that the high school team has permission to play on the Point Park baseball field.

Mr. Montz said that the problem with field usage might lie with the coaches. The coaches are supposed to work out the schedule together. Many of the coaches do not like to use the Point Park baseball field even when it is available because there is a lot of required maintenance for that field after the game and they do not want to do maintenance after the game. If there is the threat of rain, the Point Park field must be covered. Mr. Montz said he or the Public Works Director would be glad to discuss this with the baseball coaches, but the field scheduling is usually done between the coaches.

Mr. Panza said that his assumption had always been that the high school team could play on the Point Park field when available. The field is a state-of-the-art field. Mrs. Tortorella said she would mention these issues to the new coaches. Mr. Sampogna suggested that the coaches meet with Mr. Montz to discuss field scheduling, usage, and maintenance requirements.

Mrs. Tortorella asked if the pitcher's mound on Aiken II could be improved and if there were any plans to install dugouts at Aiken II. Mr. Sampogna said Aiken II improvements have not been discussed since that field is still the school district's property. However, if the borough acquires the property in the future, upgrades and investments are a possibility.

GUEST SPEAKER - Sam Nucci, President, Char-West Council of Governments

Mr. Nucci said he has been president of Ingram Borough Council for 24 years and has recently become President of the Char-West COG. Although there have been some problems with the COG, the COG is working on making changes. There is a financial benefit for communities involved in the COG. However, some of the benefits cannot be quantified, such as the networking and information sharing with other municipalities. Every COG meeting is a roundtable where delegates talk about what is occurring in their communities.

Mr. Nucci said the COG is considering creating a database of ordinances and contracts that can be shared between member communities. The Char-West COG is also considering merging with the Quaker Valley COG. This may or may not happen, but it is something to be considered in the future. Mr. Nucci said the COG is open to suggestions for improvement to make it more valuable for the member communities.

Mr. Nucci said that some communities are considering leaving the COG. He asked for patience with the COG to make improvements and turn things around. Discussion continued regarding various ways to participate and make the COG better.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck

A. General Report

1. Mayor Schenck said it was nice to hear positive comments about the emergency services, including the police department, fire company, ambulance provider, and public works.
2. Mayor Schenck said he had sworn in the Green Tree Police Department's newest officer, Mr. Kevin Diamond. Today was his first day on the job.
3. Mayor Schenck congratulated Mr. Nathan Cleary, the Police Chief's son, along with two others from Keystone Oaks High School, for qualifying for the state swim meet next week. In doing so, Nathan Cleary broke the school record for the 100-meter breaststroke.
4. Mayor Schenck said that in an effort to be more involved with the police department, he would be in the Mayor's Office in the Police Department on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Any police officer or Council member who wishes to stop by to discuss issues is welcome. He hoped to study up on contracts and other police matters.

REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Mr. Novak

1. Ordinance #1801

Creating a recycling program for residential and commercial properties.

Mr. Novak said the borough had received a grant towards the purchase of home recycling containers. He said two different sizes of home recycling cans were on display at tonight's meeting for consideration. It is hoped that curbside recycling can begin in 2019 after some of the details, such as recycling can size, can be decided.

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to place Ordinance #1801 on first and final reading by title only.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Montz read Ordinance #1801 by title only.

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to pass Ordinance #1801 on first and final reading by title only.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1801 and that it be advertised according to law.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Mr. Novak said that he and Mr. Montz had inspected some of the roads that had been reported by Roadbotics to be in need of repaving. Council will be looking at the amount of paving that can be provided while keeping within the budget. Other types of sealants and maintenance are also being considered.

B. PUBLIC PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT - Mr. Rea

In Mr. Rea's absence, there was no report this evening.

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 February 2019 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$82,656.36, Payroll Account totaling \$200,514.07, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$3,566.36.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the March 2019 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$516,702.76, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$255,828.77, and Capital Projects Fund totaling \$32,350.43.

When asked, Mr. Montz confirmed that Sanitary Sewer Maintenance amount was to pay for the Poplar Street project.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Authorize the proper officers to sign the contract for the software provider for sanitary sewer collection fees.

Mr. Tintori stated that the borough contracts with a company that provides sanitary sewer billing for the borough. This company will no longer be providing this billing. The Finance Director has researched other companies that would be able to provide sewage billing for the borough and she has found a company called Diversified Technology that provides additional billing features with the cost being less than the current provider.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to authorize the proper officers to sign the contract with Diversified Technology, the software provider for the sanitary sewer collection.

Mr. Montz said the new billing system would be almost identical to the current system. He detailed the step-by-step process of the billing. Green Tree's sewage billing collection rate is approximately 99%. There are very few delinquent accounts, but this billing system will allow those with past due accounts to make smaller payments over time instead of only allowing the entire payment. The borough will be able to email duplicate bills to residents upon request. The new service will save the borough about \$200 a month, or \$2400 a year. Discussion continued regarding the new billing service.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza

1. Mr. Panza said he had contacted the water company after hearing about a number of residents who had received robocalls about the water company adding chlorine over the next few days to the water system. Some of the calls had been cut off in the middle of the message and he wanted to let residents know about the additional chlorine they might smell in the water over the next few days.
2. Mr. Panza said the next meeting of the Fall Fest Committee would be on March 11th. New members are welcome.

E. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Lorenzini**1. Authorize the retention of a solicitor for the Zoning Hearing Board**

Mr. Lorenzini said that Mr. Feczko, the solicitor for Green Tree's Zoning Hearing Board for years, has decided to retire. He thanked Mr. Feczko for his service. The Zoning Hearing Board agreed with the selection of Ms. Kate Diersen of Goehring, Rutter & Boehm Law.

Motion:

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to authorize the retention of Goehring, Rutter & Boehm to provide legal representation as the Green Tree Zoning Hearing Board's Solicitor.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Mr. Lorenzini stated that construction of the First Commonwealth Bank has started and they hope to reopen in the spring.
3. No Planning Commission or Zoning Hearing Board meetings are scheduled for March.

F. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey

1. New Police Officer

Mr. Lindsey reported that Green Tree's newest police officer, Mr. Kevin Diamond, was sworn in today and started his probationary period.

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 the COG met with Ms. Susan Hockenberry, Director of the Quaker Valley COG, and Mr. John Sebastian, to share ideas. A committee will be formed to study what services the two COGs provide. The guest speaker was Michelle Miller from the Homeless Cat Management Team.

C. Library - Mr. Sampogna

Mr. Sampogna said the Library Board discussed the new format of the library's financial reports since the library's accounting functions have been taken over by the borough. Also discussed were potential line items for budget cuts and savings in 2020. The library feels there is some room for savings in some line items, but salaries and benefits are fixed and minimum collection expenditures are mandated by the state, so there are only a few areas that can be reduced.

The library is offering English As A Second Language classes through the summer in cooperation with the Pittsburgh Literacy Council and Literacy Pittsburgh. A kickoff meeting for those who would like to get involved will be held on Wednesday, March 6 at 2:00 p.m.

Some March library events include:

- Emoji Bingo for Kids
- "A Star Is Born" movie marathon featuring all three versions of the movie on March 22nd.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna

A. CONNECT

Mr. Sampogna attended a CONNECT meeting in West Homestead. The guest speaker was Phil Wong of Duquesne Light who spoke about the LED streetlight program. CONNECT also discussed drafts of resolutions for the upcoming 10th Annual Legislative Session and Reception on April 18th.

- B.** Mr. Sampogna said he attended the Three Rivers Wet Weather meeting. Mr. Tim Prevost of ALCOSAN gave a presentation on what was previously called the Regional Storm Water Plan, now called Controlling the Source Plan. They discussed the issues that occur with

disconnecting downspouts and the need to educate residents regarding alternatives for handling storm water runoff, including developing guidelines for the installation of dry wells, etc.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Mr. Molinaro

In Mr. Molinaro's absence, there was no report this evening.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Montz

- A. Mr. Montz said the borough has met its minimum requirements for rock salt purchases this year. The borough has enough rock salt stockpiled that it will not need to go above the minimum order. The borough placed its state rock salt order for the 2019-2020 winter today and is keeping it the same as this year's order.

- B. Mr. Montz said Council took the first step in implementing the curbside recycling program. Within the next week, request for bids will be going out to contractors. It is anticipated that the curbside recycling program will begin in July with a recycling collection every other week. The contract is written with the same recyclable requirements. No bags or glass will be accepted. He asked those present to look at the two sizes of recycling containers on display and make a decision regarding which size to purchase for Green Tree residents, so a formal recommendation can be made by the next meeting. Containers will be delivered to each home and monitored via an identification number imprinted on the can itself. The borough has received a grant that will cover a portion of the purchase of these containers. Collection will be every other Wednesday, the same day as regular garbage collection. Discussion continued regarding the details of the curbside recycling program and containers.

Mr. Montz noted that most residents are complying with the new recycling requirements that went into effect on January 1st. The new glass recycling is also working well.

- C. Mr. Tintori said he is on the board of the Local Government Academy. LGA has just hired a new Executive Director, Ms. Joy Ruff. Local Government Academy provides education and training to newly elected officials on school boards, boroughs, and townships. LGA is ready to address the new group of newly elected officials in 2019. Mr. Sampogna asked that Mr. Tintori forward any new information about the LGA to Council members.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Sampogna, President

W. David Montz, Manager