

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 7, 2022**

Call to Order / Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sycamore Room of the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Edward Schenck, Mayor
Arthur Tintori, President
Shannon Barron
Rino Lindsey
Ron Panza
David Rea
Craig Romanovich
James Turocy

Also Present:

Judy Miller, Borough Manager
Kate Diersen, Esq., Borough Solicitor
Colin Cleary, Chief of Police
Kim Beck, Stenographer

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

February 7, 2022

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Romanovich, to approve the February 7, 2022 minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Carol Paul - 95 E Manilla Ave

Ms. Paul read an email she had recently sent to the Borough:

“Due to the pandemic, we all realize there are many changes to just about every part of our lives and realize there’s been a lot of changes to the Borough and Wilson Pool. I did appreciate the pool was open during the past two years, although it closed at 7pm daily. I’m asking Council and Administration to please consider expanding the pool hours to close at 8pm instead of the current 7pm. I feel the additional hour from 7pm to 8pm will allow young families to utilize the pool, as most families are two working parents. For example, working people who finish work have dinner at 6:15 or 6:30, and they may not go to the pool because it closes at 7pm. If the pool would close at 8pm, they may go because it’s a longer time. As for adults using the pool it’s similar, as we work all day, and the extra hour would allow us to use the pool more frequently. So please consider this request. Thank you.”

Ms. Paul asked what Council would do with her request. Mr. Tintori stated that when the Recreation Committee met to discuss pool hours and pricing, they would take her suggestion into consideration.

Jesse Robinson-Evans – 24 Leon Rd

Mr. Robinson-Evans asked if Council would consider re-zoning any stretch of Greentree Road to allow for multi-family housing. With the bus route going through Greentree Road, having the option for more housing could possibly help alleviate the housing crisis. He said that if Green Tree Borough allowed for three-story buildings along Greentree Road, some investors might be interested in developing buildings that have commercial space on the first floor with residential space above it. Mayor Schenck noted that Green Tree currently has two apartment complexes, City Vista Apartments and Terrain Apartments. Mr. Robinson-Evans stated that when he looked at the zoning map, it appeared that the only multi-family districts were out of the way of public transit.

Mr. Turocy suggested that Mr. Robinson-Evans attend a Planning Commission meeting to give them some input for the Comprehensive Plan that is currently being drafted. He informed Mr. Robinson-Evans that the

Planning Commission meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month and would be interested in hearing his thoughts.

Mr. Panza asked if Mr. Turocy was aware of the height restrictions for buildings along Greentree Road, specifically the property at 987 Greentree Road that used to be 7-11. Mr. Turocy explained that he did not know the details on that specific location and would need to refer to the Zoning Use Table.

Aldo R. Colautti – 143 Sheldon Ave

Mr. Colautti stated that he had some concerns he would like to voice regarding the major house fire that occurred on Sheldon Avenue on February 13. His first concern was whether any fire fighters were injured while fighting the fire that morning.

Mr. Colautti stated that his second concern was regarding the fire hydrant at the corner of Sheldon Avenue and Ramey Avenue, which appeared to be damaged or not functioning properly after the fire. He said that part of the fire hydrant was not reassembled properly. When he asked about it at the administrative office on February 16, he was told that there was an issue with the fire hydrant and it was reported to Pennsylvania American Water Company, who is responsible for maintaining the fire hydrants. Mr. Colautti was concerned that the fire hydrant would not function properly in the event of another fire. He said he contacted Pennsylvania American Water Company on February 22 to follow up as a customer, and the fire hydrant was reassembled around March 3.

Mr. Colautti said that his third concern was that he had been hearing reports that some areas were having issues with inadequate water pressure in their fire hydrants and wanted to know if that was a factor during this recent house fire.

Mayor Schenck asked Mr. Dan Short, who was present, if he was aware of any injuries occurring during the fire. Mr. Short stated that there was a slight injury where someone slipped and fell, but that they did not go to the hospital.

Mr. Lindsey clarified that the only issue with the fire hydrant was a cap that was not able to be put back on, and that the cap being off did not affect the operation of the fire hydrant. He stated that if there ever was an issue with a fire hydrant malfunctioning, it would be reported to the dispatcher immediately, so incoming fire companies would know there was an issue with the hydrant. Mr. Lindsey also said that Green Tree has excellent water pressure in their fire hydrants, so there would not be an issue with water pressure unless a fire hydrant was malfunctioning.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS REPORTS

A. Finance and General Policy – Mr. Turocy

1. **Motion:**

Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to ratify the actions of the Borough Manager in paying the February 2022 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$77,358.03; Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$4,159.50; Payroll Accounting totaling \$199,362.22; and Education Service Agency totaling \$3,719.84.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Motion:**

Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the March 2022 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$500,292,08*; Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$7,635.75; Capital Projects totaling \$150.00; and Bond Fund totaling \$18,653.73.

****Included ALCOSAN invoice \$360,506.10.***

Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. **Motion:**
Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to designate the Official Publication to be the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 4. **Motion:**
Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to designate the Official Borough Auditor to be Hosack, Specht, Muetzel, & Wood and authorize the Proper Officers to Sign Agreement for Services.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. **Motion:**
Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to designate Craig Romanovich as the Char West COG Representative and James Turocy as Alternate Representative.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 6. **Ordinance #1863**
Setting Salary and benefits for the Borough Manager

Motion:
Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to pass Ordinance #1863, setting salary and benefits for the Borough Manager.

When asked by a resident what the Borough Manager’s salary would be, Mr. Lindsey responded that a right-to-know request would need to be filed with the Borough to obtain that information.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Turocy	Yes
Ms. Barron	Yes
Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Panza	Yes
Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Romanovich	Yes
Mr. Tintori	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

- 7. **Ordinance #1864**
Setting Salary and benefits for Colin Cleary as Chief of Police

Motion:
Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Romanovich, to pass Ordinance #1864, setting salary and benefits of Colin Cleary as Chief of Police.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Turocy	Yes
Ms. Barron	Yes
Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Panza	Yes
Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Romanovich	Yes
Mr. Tintori	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

8. **Ordinance #1865**
Setting Salary and hourly wages for the full time Borough employees

Motion:

Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barron, to pass Ordinance #1865, setting Salary and hourly wages for the full time and full-time seasonal Borough employees.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Turocy	Yes
Ms. Barron	Yes
Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Panza	Yes
Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Romanovich	Yes
Mr. Tintori	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Ordinance #1866**
Setting hourly wages for the part time and part time seasonal Borough employees

Motion:

Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Romanovich, to pass Ordinance #1866, setting hourly wages for the part time and part time seasonal Borough employees.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Turocy	Yes
Ms. Barron	Yes
Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Panza	Yes
Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Romanovich	Yes
Mr. Tintori	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

10. **Ordinance #1867**
Setting hourly wages for the Special School Police

Motion:

Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to pass Ordinance #1867, setting hourly wages for the Special School Police.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Turocy	Yes
Ms. Barron	Yes
Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Panza	Yes
Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Romanovich	Yes
Mr. Tintori	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

11. **Motion:**

Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, to authorize the Borough Manager to execute a contract with Revize for the purpose of re-development of the Green Tree Borough website, in accordance with the Borough Manager’s correspondence dated February 23, 2022.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. **Motion:**

Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Romanovich, to amend the March 7, 2022 Council Agenda by adding Resolution #1304 which will authorize the Borough Manager to file an application for the Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to be used for the Green Tree Borough Pollution Reduction Plan Improvements Project.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. **Resolution #1304**

Authorizing the Application for a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant

Motion:

Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Romanovich, to approve Resolution #1304, authorizing the Borough Manager to file an application for a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to be used for the Green Tree Borough Pollution Reduction Plan Improvements Project.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Turocy	Yes
Ms. Barron	Yes
Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Panza	Yes
Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Romanovich	Yes
Mr. Tintori	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Planning and Zoning – Mr. Rea

Mr. Rea stated that on February 22 the Planning and Zoning Committee, along with Ms. Cheryl Bakin, chair of the Planning Commission, and Mr. John Becker, chair of the Zoning Hearing Board, interviewed several candidates for one open seat each on the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board. Ms. Bakin and Mr. Becker were invited to participate in the interview process so they could explain the functions of their boards, ask each candidate questions, and provide feedback and evaluation of the candidates’ experience and qualifications. Mr. Rea noted that both Ms. Bakin and Mr. Becker seemed to appreciate the opportunity to participate, and the Planning and Zoning Committee appreciated having them in attendance. He said that all of the candidates that were interviewed have a passion to serve and get involved with Green Tree Borough.

1. **Motion:**

Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Panza, to appoint Ms. Chelsea Moran to the Zoning Hearing Board for a 3-year term to expire on December 31, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Mr. Rea stated that the Planning and Zoning Committee did not reach a consensus regarding the Planning Commission appointment. He said that after the meeting on February 22 he had spoken with Ms. Bakin, and they were in agreement that Mr. Nathan Pазsint was the most qualified candidate and had the most experience in Planning and Zoning. Mr. Pазsint is a commercial real estate broker and Mr. Rea and Ms. Bakin agreed that he would add the most value to the Planning Commission.

Motion:

Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to appoint Mr. Nathan Pазsint to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mr. Tintori noted that Council was looking to the Planning and Zoning Committee for their recommendation and asked if the rest of the committee was in agreement regarding this appointment. Mr. Panza stated that the committee had originally come to a consensus regarding a different candidate, but that conversations happened that did not involve the entire committee, and the appointment had changed. Since there was already a vote on the floor, Mr. Panza suggested that they make another recommendation if this vote did not pass.

Ms. Barron stated that board appointments had been causing a lot of stress and strife for Council the past few months, and she was hoping they would be able to move beyond these issues with tonight's vote. She said that as a council, they had an opportunity to be more transparent in engaging with the community by advertising board openings to the community and informing them on how they can apply for the various boards. There are many residents who would like to volunteer with Green Tree but do not understand the process. Ms. Barron said that Council had an opportunity to have clear guidance, to have an invitation that is open to all, and to improve the process for our community to avoid confusion or lack of information.

Mr. Rea stated that he did not believe that anyone would argue that the process hadn't been transparent. He said that he believed there were more volunteers applying for this round of board appointments than there had been in the past. Mr. Rea stated that it was his obligation as the committee chair to put forth the most qualified candidate. He explained that Mr. Pазsint was a commercial real estate broker who was well versed in commercial real estate and the real estate market, which would be beneficial for the Planning Commission and the borough. He said that the chair of the Planning Commission, Ms. Bakin, agreed that Mr. Pазsint was the most qualified candidate.

Mayor Schenck noted that the borough needed to advertise open board positions to the best of their ability and that the process could possibly be improved. He said that with so many qualified residents stepping forward to volunteer, he did not see an issue with the Planning and Zoning Committee not coming to a consensus before voting. Mr. Tintori noted that the Borough was in the process of updating their website, which would help improve the communication between the Borough and its residents.

Motion carried 4-2-1. Mr. Panza and Mr. Turocy voted "nay." Mr. Romanovich abstained.

C. Public Safety/Public Safety Equipment – Mr. Lindsey

1. Mr. Lindsey stated that he had recently been made aware of an opening on the Medical Rescue Team South Authority (MRTSA) board. The Public Safety/Public Safety Equipment Committee communicated via email and came to an agreement that Mr. Matthew McKinsey was the most qualified candidate out of the applications that were received. Mr. Lindsey thanked Mr. George Yamalis for the time he spent on the MRTSA board and his commitment to serving Green Tree Borough.

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Romanovich, to appoint Mr. Matthew McKinsey to the MRTSA Board for a 5-year term to expire on December 31, 2026.

Ms. Barron stated that she believed the Borough could do a better job of knowing when terms are going to expire and should be more transparent in letting residents know when there are open positions for these boards and committees. She noted that not all residents are aware of when or how they can apply for various boards and committees in the Borough.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**A. Finance and General Policy – Mr. Turocy**

Mr. Turocy had nothing to report at this time.

B. Infrastructure – Mr. Romanovich

1. Mr. Romanovich stated that the Infrastructure Committee had met with Mr. Jason Stanton from Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc. earlier this evening to discuss various infrastructure concerns within the Borough.
2. Mr. Romanovich reported that the sewer repair at the Whiskey Run location was completed on March 4.
3. Mr. Romanovich stated that the Borough had budgeted \$700,000 for street repairs, which would be starting soon. Ms. Miller clarified that \$300,000 of that \$700,000 was being carried over from the 2021 budget.

C. Planning and Zoning – Mr. Rea

1. Mr. Rea reported that he and Ms. Barron had met with several website vendors regarding the new website development. He stated that he was looking forward to the process of bringing the borough website up to date.

Mr. Rea stated that as the Borough worked on developing its new website, Council needed to consider Green Tree's identity and brand. With the number of experts in Green Tree interested in volunteering with the Borough, Mr. Rea suggested that Council consider creating an advisory board of residents to help build the new website. Ms. Barron noted that she would be interested in working with Mr. Rea on creating a committee of residents to provide input of the wants and needs of the community regarding the development of the new website.

Ms. Miller offered to speak with representatives from other local communities who have recently gone through the process of updating their website to get information about their processes. Council continued discussing the development of the website and how they could get members of the community involved in the process.

D. Public Facilities and Equipment – Ms. Barron

1. Ms. Barron stated that she would be meeting with Ms. Miller later this week to discuss pool renovations and other public facility concerns and would be having a Public Facilities and Equipment committee meeting later in the month.
2. Ms. Barron reported that the Green Tree Library was officially "fine free" as of January 18, 2022, which has been a considerable success.

E. Public Safety/Public Safety Equipment – Mr. Lindsey

1. Mr. Lindsey thanked the mutual aid fire departments and communities that assisted the Green Tree Fire Company with the fire on Sheldon Ave. He also commended the Green Tree Fire Company for limiting the fire, so it didn't spread to neighboring homes.

F. Recreation Programming and Community Welfare – Mr. Panza

1. Mr. Panza noted that the Recreation Programming and Community Welfare committee would be meeting soon to discuss Wilson Park Pool hours and pricing. He said that the committee would take Ms. Paul's suggestion to extend the pool hours into consideration when they had their meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT- Mayor Schenck

- A. Mayor Schenck reported that the Fireman's Ball was last month, and it was a very nice event.
- B. Mayor Schenck stated that the Borough had recently purchased two new police vehicles. He said that one would be in operation in about two weeks, with another in operation in April. Mayor Schenck noted that these would be replacing two vehicles that had nearly 100,000 miles each. Mr. Rino asked if one of the vehicles Mayor Schenck was referring to was purchased with last year's budget. He stated that he believed that there was one vehicle purchased last year, with another two vehicles being purchased this year. Chief Cleary clarified that there was a third vehicle that had not been purchased yet.
- C. Mayor Schenck said that he and Chief Cleary had met with representatives from the county, along with somebody in charge of Human Services at Safe Haven. He stated that he hoped communication was improving between the Police Department, the Borough, and the Safe Haven Facility. Mayor Schenck noted that there were 26 calls for service in February to Safe Haven. He said that the representative from the county that they had met with informed them that the county was not intending on renewing a contract for Safe Haven. Mayor Schenck said that it appeared that the facility might be closing in the next month.
- D. Four Green Tree Police officers participated in the Polar Plunge on February 26. Mayor Schenck congratulated Officers Bacci, Diamond, Gavlik, and Chief Cleary for participating in the Polar Plunge and raising nearly \$4,000 for Special Olympics.
- E. Mayor Schenck reminded the residents that he and Chief Cleary would be hosting Office Hours on Saturday, March 19, 9am-11:30am. He encouraged the residents to come chat with them.
- F. Mayor Schenck stated that Mr. Lindsey had a Public Safety Committee meeting recently, and it was very productive. Mayor Schenck, Chief Cleary, Mr. Lindsey, Ms., Barron, and Mr. Turocy were in attendance.
- G. Mayor Schenck thanked the Green Tree Fire Company for the wonderful job they did containing the house fire on Sheldon Avenue on February 13. The Fire Company was able to keep the fire contained so the two adjoining houses were not affected.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Mr. Tintori

- A. Mr. Tintori reported that he had spoken to the county manager regarding the Safe Haven facility. He was informed by the county manager that the agreement would be ending on March 30, but due to the weather, it might be extended into April. Mr. Tintori noted that there has been effective communication between the Borough, Safe Haven, and the county recently, and hoped that the communication would continue.

- B. Mr. Tintori stated that the spring newsletter would be mailed out very soon and encouraged the residents to read it because it contains a lot of valuable information about the borough. He said that as the borough develops and further enhances the website, the newsletter would be a nice tie in to get more information out to the public.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Ms. Miller

- A. Ms. Miller stated that the development of the new website would probably take two to four months, depending on how much content from the current website they decided to use. She stated that the goal for the website is to make it easy to navigate and to provide as much information to residents as possible.
- B. Ms., Miller said she would be meeting with the Recreation Coordinator later in the week to discuss the Summer Recreation program, which would be coming back to pre-pandemic levels. She stated that she hoped the community was looking forward to getting the children back into a full set of summer activities in the borough.
- C. Ms. Miller stated that the preliminary design for the Trumbull Drive bridge should be ready for Council consideration within the next month.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Motion carried unanimously.



Arthur Tintori, President



Judy Miller, Borough Manager