

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 2, 2018**

Call to Order / Silence for Meditation / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, April 2, 2018 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
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

Absent:

Rino Lindsey

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

March 5, 2018

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the March 5, 2018 Council minutes as presented.

Motion carried, with Mr. Sampogna abstaining because he had not attended the meeting.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Cheryl Bakin, 884 Greentree Road

Mrs. Bakin said that ZingBasket on South Bee Street has been advertising the sale of beer with signs along the side of the road and on the traffic islands in the area. She did not believe that these signs were permitted under borough ordinance since they have been posted for several weeks and they are advertising product and not the location of the vendor. Mrs. Bakin felt that signs were creating a road hazard and a traffic hazard. She asked Council to look into this issue.

Jane Terlion, 14 Elmhurst Road

Ms. Terlion said she was interested in getting involved in the borough. Part of the process in doing so is completing and the borough's Volunteer Bank application. She had submitted a form, but never heard back from the borough. She felt it would have been nice to hear if the form had been received, whether there are any openings on various committees, if there is any interest in the applicant, etc. She felt there should be some process to get back to the volunteer applicant. She said there should be some regular updates on vacancies on boards.

Ms. Terlion said that she recently spoke to a Library Board member and learned there was an opening on the Library Board. When she asked why it was not yet filled, she was told that the board had been busy with other issues and hadn't had time to fill it yet. She said this should have been addressed sooner if there were a number of issues that needed to be addressed.

With a full board there would be more people to handle these issues. Ms. Terlion suggested that vacancies on various boards and commission should be posted on the borough's website so residents would be aware of them.

Ms. Terlion said that the borough's website has the names and photos of the Council members and the committees that they chair, but she felt that additional information about what each of these committees do in the borough should also be added. It would be helpful to provide this information so residents could contact the correct Council members regarding individual issues. Mr. Sampogna replied that the committees chaired by Council members are strictly Council committees and there are no resident volunteers on these committees. Ms. Terlion said additional information would be helpful.

When asked, Ms. Terlion said that it would be helpful on both the borough's and the library's websites to provide detailed information regarding what each Council or library committee's responsibilities entail. Information regarding committees and commissions that require resident volunteers should be provided along with information on how to apply for these groups. A flow chart would be helpful. Discussion continued regarding the details and responsibilities of the committees.

Mr. Montz said that Council is the legislative body. The borough is staff-oriented, so if an issue comes into the administrative office it is then disseminated to Council if it needs Council's attention or action. Otherwise, day-to-day issues are forwarded to the appropriate department person to handle. Council tends to work on larger "global" issues for the borough and not individual issues. Discussion continued regarding the general flow of work in the borough.

Mr. Sampogna said that the borough would be providing a program this summer regarding local government. It will include a 25-minute video, followed by a question-and-answer period. If there is enough interest, the borough might provide it several times as needed.

Ms. Terlion said that Mt. Lebanon has a Citizens' Advisory Board and a citizens' education activity to give residents insight into how their municipality is run.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck

A. Proclamation:

Declaring April 15-21, 2018 National Volunteer Week

Mayor Schenck presented the following proclamation:

"Whereas, a volunteer is a person who offers themselves for a service or undertaking willingly and without pay; and

Whereas, many of our community members have a great sense of community pride devoting many hours of their personal time supporting our fire department, commissions, boards, civic groups, and recreational activities; and

Whereas, several non-profit, volunteer organizations exist in our community depending solely upon the willingness of our community to assist in their endeavors; and

Whereas, the countless volunteer hours provided to our community continue to defer costs as well as provide many activities and events throughout the year.

WITNESSETH

That by virtue of the power vested in me, I, Edward A. Schenck, Mayor of the Borough of Green Tree, do hereby formally designate April 15-21, 2018 as National Volunteer Week in the Borough of Green Tree and express my gratitude of all Green Tree residents to our many volunteers."

Mayor Schenck acknowledged several borough volunteers that were present at tonight's Council meeting, including Theresa Lydon (school board), Chris Short (Octoberfest and Recreation), Cheryl Bakin (Planning Commission), and Luanne Jones (Recreation, Green Tree Woman's Civic Club).

- B. Mayor Schenck said that the borough has advertised for applicants for a full-time police officer position. The Civil Service Commission will review the applicants with initial testing on April 24 and select three final applicants to be reviewed by Council. The borough is also in the process of accepting applications for part-time police officers. There have been several applicants, but there is only one opening for a part-time officer at this time. The part-time officer would be used to fill-in as needed, helping with traffic details, etc.

REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE - Mr. Tintori

1. Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to ratify the actions of the Borough Manager in paying the March 2018 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$509,909.20, Payroll Account totaling \$199,574.87, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$4,986.32.

Mr. Lorenzini asked about the following expenses:

- (a) Payment of \$51.39 to Lexipol. Mr. Montz said this is the only payment required to Lexipol for 2018 and it was budgeted for 2018. When asked, Mr. Montz said that the borough made a payment to Lexipol in 2016 for several months of 2016 and 2017.
- (b) Payment of \$5,425 to FIT Optimized Solutions. Mr. Montz said it was for maintenance on the heating and air conditioning in the Municipal Center.
- (c) Payment of \$4,735 to Mt. Lebanon for the first half of 2018. Mr. Montz replied that the borough contracts with the South Hills Animal Control Services. Mt. Lebanon does the billing and payment collection for Animal Control, which provides its services to a number of South Hills communities. It is a cooperative service for a number of communities.
- (d) Payment of \$1200 for a Watercolors Workshop Class for Fred Webb. Mr. Montz said this is part of an ongoing watercolor painting recreation program. Fees are paid to attend the class that offset the cost.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve payment of the April 2018 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$120,124.34, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$149.63, and Capital Projects totaling \$2,089.70.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza

1. Mr. Panza reminded residents that tickets are available for the Pirates vs. the Arizona Diamondbacks for Green Tree night on June 23. Tickets are \$23 for residents.
2. Mr. Panza stated that the next Oktoberfest meeting is Monday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center. He encouraged residents to get involved in this community event and they are welcome to attend this meeting.

C. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Lorenzini

1. Mr. Lorenzini reported that the Zoning Hearing Board had met on March 15 to review four applications. Pennsylvania American Water had applied for a variance for a fence around their property in Rook. After much discussion between PAWC and the Rook residents it was decided that the fence would be a tan color along with other specifications. The Zoning Hearing Board approved this variance.

Another variance was applied for at 8 Trailvue Drive for a 25-foot backyard setback instead of the required 30 feet. It was approved because there is a large drop-off at the back of their property.

Residents at 36 Terrace Drive applied for a variance for a side yard setback for the installation of a pool. The required side setback is 15 feet, but a setback of 7-1/2 feet was approved.

McDonald's on Poplar Street applied for a variance for the increase in a wall sign from 40 square feet to 51 square feet. It was approved. Mr. Lorenzini noted that McDonald's stores nationwide are changing their exterior images. McDonald's was also approved for three identification signs.

2. Mr. Lorenzini said the Zoning Hearing Board would be meeting on April 12 to review a variance application for the installation of solar panels on the front of the roof at 167 Reed Drive.
3. Mr. Lorenzini said a retail beer distributor is preparing to open on Greentree Road next to Einstein Bagels. Discussion continued regarding this new business.
4. Mr. Lorenzini said Council would continue the review of the proposed zoning ordinance on Monday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey

Mr. Rea presented the Public Safety report to Council in the absence of Mr. Lindsey.

1. Appointment of alternative member to the Civil Service Commission**Motion:**

Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Panza, to appoint Mr. James Whitaker as the alternate member of the Civil Service Commission to a six-year term.

Mayor Schenck stated that the new Civil Service rules require three members for a quorum and all three members must be in attendance to conduct business. The appointment of an alternate member will allow the Civil Service Commission to conduct business in the event of a regular member's absence. This is a state statute change.

Motion carried unanimously.

E. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Mr. Novak

1. Mr. Novak reported that the Streets Committee of Council would be meeting immediately following this meeting to discuss recycling.
2. Mr. Montz said the Poplar Street storm sewer project should be starting within the next few weeks.

F. PUBLIC PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT - Mr. Rea

1. Mr. Rea stated that progress is being made with the school district regarding the property behind Aiken School. He hoped to have additional information by the next regular Council meeting.
2. Mr. Rea said that Nature Center improvements would be starting soon.
3. Mr. Montz said that work on the roofs of the pool and Public Works building should begin in about a week or two.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. MRTSA - Mr. Montz

1. Mr. Montz stated that there have been several MRTSA committee meetings concerning the potential increase to municipalities to fund the organization. The goal is to present a plan to the MRTSA Board at the April 25 meeting.
2. Mr. Montz said that three new ambulances have been ordered for MRTSA. Only new chassis are being purchased and the existing back boxes of the ambulances will be moved to the new chassis.
3. Mr. Montz said that MRTSA reported that calls requiring the use of Narcan have gone down. However, Narcan is generally left with those people who have made such calls, so MRTSA is unaware of whether those dosages of Narcan are ever used. Additionally, Narcan can be purchased at local drug stores and this could be contributing to the reduction in MRTSA's Narcan calls.

B. Char West COG - Mr. Novak

1. Mr. Novak said the speaker at the most recent COG meeting was Derrick Morris from Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh, founded in 1986. It is a non-profit for people seeking homes. Families seeking their services are required to volunteer 350 hours where they are taught home maintenance skills, training and finance. There have been 95 families that have entered the program since 1986.
2. The Char West COG's annual dinner will be held on April 19 at Rockefeller's.

C. Library - Mr. Sampogna

1. Mr. Sampogna stated that the Library Board met on March 20 to discuss budget topics and options for cost controls, including alternatives for bookkeeping arrangements, staff utilization study, and partnerships. Library revenues have been stagnant for several years.

2. Library program attendance has been strong, but collection and circulation is down except for electronic media circulation, which has increased.
3. Upcoming library events include an author's visit by Paula Reed Ward on Thursday, April 5, a seed planting station for children, a book swap held by the Friends of the Library, and an Intro to Archeology program for children taught by a park ranger.
4. Mr. Sampogna said that April 8-14 is National Library Week and the Friends of the Library will be providing complimentary refreshments to patrons from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Monday and Friday. Additionally, library volunteers will be honored with a Celebration of Friends event on the evening of April 14.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna

- A. Mr. Sampogna stated that he, Mr. Montz, Mr. Lindsey, and Chief Cleary had attended the PELRAS (Public Employer Labor Relations Advisory Service) conference in State College on March 14-16. Information on best practices for collective bargaining issues and police body camera usage were just two of the topics that were discussed at the conference.
- B. Mr. Sampogna said that he and the Borough Engineer attended a CONNECT Utilities meeting at PA One Call in West Mifflin on March 22. New web-based software, called Coordinate PA, was unveiled, which will help coordinate street openings and local paving programs.
- C. Mr. Sampogna had attended a STEAM night at Keystone Oaks Middle School, which featured exhibits by the school's robotics teams, Odyssey of the Mind teams, art students, as well as representation by companies like Google and Amazon.
- D. Mr. Sampogna said that Green Tree is once again an Allegheny County Banner Community for 2018. Fifty-five municipalities in the county were recognized at the luncheon for their commitment to professional development, prudent fiscal management, transparency, accountability, and pro-active communication to engage community stakeholders.
- E. Mr. Sampogna said the annual Shredding Event, sponsored by State Representative Dan Deasy and State Senator Wayne Fontana, would be held this Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Green Tree Park.
- F. Mr. Sampogna said the borough is sponsoring an Electronics Recycling Event on Saturday, April 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Public Works parking lot on Poplar Street. The Electronics Recycling Event is for Green Tree residents only.
- G. Mr. Sampogna reminded residents of other upcoming recreation events in the borough:
 - (1) The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium's Zoomobile will be at the Carlisle Social Hall on April 11 at 4:00 p.m.
 - (2) Grow Pittsburgh is sponsoring a Backyard Gardening Basics Workshop on April 21.
 - (3) A Snapology program, "The Science of Superheroes," will be held on April 26 at the Municipal Center at 6:30 p.m.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Mr. Molinaro

Mr. Molinaro had nothing to report at this time.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Montz

Mr. Montz had nothing to report at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Sampogna, President

W. David Montz, Manager

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