

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 3, 2017**

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

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Tintori stated that Council had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel matters.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Edward Schenck, Mayor  
Arthur Tintori, Vice President of Council  
Rino Lindsey  
David Lorenzini  
John Novak  
Ron Panza  
David Rea

**Also Present:**

W. David Montz, Borough Manager  
Peter Molinaro, Jr., Borough Solicitor  
Colin Cleary, Chief of Police  
Deborah Gawryla, Stenographer

**Absent:**

Mark Sampogna

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**March 6, 2017**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the March 6, 2017 Council meeting minutes as presented.**

Mr. Lorenzini asked if last month's discussion regarding the possible banning of smoking products in borough parks would include electronic cigarettes. He said the discussion at the previous meeting seemed to indicate that electronic cigarettes were not going to be included in the ordinance. Mr. Montz said that had been the discussion at the March 6th meeting. However, when the ordinance was drafted, he had included the prohibition of electronic cigarettes. He had recently attended a health conference and learned that e-cigarettes could be as dangerous as regular cigarettes. The second-hand vapors from e-cigarettes can cause popcorn lung and he felt they were just as detrimental as regular tobacco products. Mr. Montz said he had added it to the ordinance that was before Council this evening and Council can decide whether they wish to include e-cigarettes or remove them.

**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 said he had held Mayor's Office Hours on Saturday, March 18th, but only Chief Cleary and Mr. Novak had attended. However, he will continue to hold Mayor's Office Hours to give residents the opportunity to bring up any future issues they might want to address with him.

- B. Mayor Schenck said that he had attended the open house for a new piano and reading facility at 1074 Greentree Road. Two instructors in the Pittsburgh Public Schools system will be offering music lessons and assistance with remedial reading.
- C. Mayor Schenck stated that he had attended the Keystone Oaks High School musical, "Footloose." He noted that the high school has a full-time safety officer.
- D. Mr. Lorenzini said that the Mayor had given Aracri's a special plaque honoring 50 years in Green Tree Borough. He asked if the Mayor would consider giving a similar award to the Andy Rodgers Insurance Agency for having their business in the borough for 60 years. Mayor Schenck asked Mr. Lorenzini to email him the details.
- E. Mayor Schenck said he would be attending the Aiken PFO's Bingo event on April 28.

**REPORT OF GREEN TREE BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

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

Mr. Novak had nothing to report at this time.

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

**1. Ordinance #1772**

**Prohibiting smoking in designated recreational areas except within the paved parking area.**

Mr. Rea said this ordinance would prohibit smoking in all borough parks to protect the welfare of our children and residents. Smoking of all types, including electronic cigarettes, cigarettes, cigars, snuff or chewing tobacco (smokeless tobacco), would be prohibited in all parks and playgrounds, except for Sodini Parklet and the Green Tree Municipal Center Park. Smoking would be permitted in the parking lots of the parks, but that would not include the road at the entrance to the swimming pool.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to place Ordinance #1772 on first and final reading by title only.**

Mr. Lindsey asked if there would be designated smoking areas in the parking lots or if it would be permitted in anywhere in the paved parking areas. Mr. Molinaro clarified that anywhere within the parking area where it is paved smoking will be permitted. Mr. Montz anticipated that there would be a few smoking containers in the parking lots. Additionally, he noted that Public Works routinely clears parking lots with leaf blowers and sweeps the debris, such as leaves and cigarette butts. Mr. Rea said there would be signage posted throughout the parks. Mr. Panza asked if this would be in effect during Octoberfest. Mr. Rea replied that smoking would be limited to the parking areas during Octoberfest.

Mr. Lorenzini asked if electronic cigarettes should be permitted. Mr. Montz replied that a recent conference he had attended had indicated that e-cigarettes could be as dangerous as regular cigarettes. Mayor Schenck said that County Council had recently decided that electronic cigarettes were harmful. Mr. Montz felt that e-cigarettes and the secondhand smoke are just as annoying as the smoke from regular cigarettes. Mr. Lindsey said that part of the reason for this ordinance was to remove these dangers from the line of sight of children and not just the health concerns. Discussion continued regarding smoking issues.

Mr. Montz said that, pending the passage of this ordinance, new smoking signage would be installed in the parks within a few weeks. Mr. Lindsey asked what the fine would be for those not adhering to the smoking ordinance. Mr. Molinaro replied that in the absence of a specific fine being stated, the borough has an overall fine set forth in the code. He said the fine was up to \$600 per day. Mr. Lorenzini asked if the fine would be included on signs. Mr. Montz said that the borough does not set the specific amount of the fine, but it is set by the magistrate. The magistrate can make the fine up to \$600 at his discretion. Mr. Panza asked if the amount of the fine was required to be posted on a sign to be valid. Mr. Molinaro replied that a sign must be posted that it is prohibited activity, and it should state that a fine up to a certain amount can be assessed. Mr. Panza asked if the police or the code enforcement officer would enforce this ordinance. Mr. Montz said the police would enforce this ordinance. Discussion continued regarding the details of some of the wording of the ordinance.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Molinaro read Ordinance #1772 by title only.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, the pass Ordinance #1772 on first and final reading by title only.**

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Mr. Rea</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Panza</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Novak</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Lindsey</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Lorenzini</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Tintori</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1722 and that it be advertised according to law.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. General Report**

- (a) Mr. Montz reported that Public Works has been working on the batting cages. They are being revamped with a covering on the pipes to prevent the balls from coming back. The nets are also being restrung. This work should be completed by the end of the week.
- (b) Mr. Montz said that LED lighting has been installed at the swimming pool on the tower lights. They increase the amount of lighting substantially, so the number of night lights will probably be cut back and that will save on energy costs.
- (c) Mr. Montz said that majority of the engineering has been completed on the retaining wall outside of the pool. The borough will be going out to bid on this project in next

several months for work to begin after the pool closes for the season. When asked, Mr. Montz replied that the wall is safe for the remainder of the pool season.

- (d) When asked, Mr. Montz said he would be ordering the sound barrier equipment for the basketball court at Hale Park.

**C. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza**

**1. General Report**

- (a) Mr. Panza stated that the Recreation Committee of Council would be holding a meeting after this meeting to discuss the sound barrier.
- (b) Mr. Panza asked if the railroad bridge had ever been checked for safety. Mr. Montz said that to the best of his knowledge he did not think the bridge had been checked recently. He noted that the railroad bridge is in a neighboring township and not in Green Tree Borough. Mr. Molinaro said that anyone can file a request information via the Freedom of Information Act about the inspection of a bridge. Mr. Montz said that, of behalf of Council, he would send a letter to PennDOT, the PUC, and the state representative to see what information can be obtained about the bridge.
- (c) Mr. Panza said an individual had contacted him about the flashing crosswalk signals on Greentree Road running for too long. He said that there are bus stops at these crosswalks, and sometimes after a person has crossed the crosswalk, they wait at the bus stop. Later vehicles approach the intersection and see the flashing lights while seeing someone standing at the intersection/crosswalk, so the vehicles stop and wait for the individual to cross the street even though he has already crossed. Mr. Panza said that the person had told him that the flashing lights continue for 90 seconds. Mr. Montz said that he would look into this issue to see how long the lights flash at the intersections.

Mayor Schenck said that he has found that the lights continue to flash well after an individual has finished crossing the road. Mr. Tintori asked the Chief if vehicles are required to stop on the road until the lights stop flashing or if they are permitted to continue after the pedestrian has crossed. Chief Cleary replied that if there is no one in the crosswalk vehicles are permitted to continue.

**D. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey**

- 1. Mr. Lindsey said there appears to be a rash of false fire alarms. He said he would provide statistics on the number of false alarms at next month's meeting and might be proposing to increase the fine. Mr. Montz said he would try to get the statistics on false alarms.

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

- 1. Mr. Lorenzini suggested that Council meet for a proposed zoning ordinance workshop on Monday, May 22 at 7:30 p.m. to review the definitions. After a discussion, Council agreed to this date and time. Mr. Lorenzini asked that Council members review the definitions prior to this meeting.
- 2. Mr. Lorenzini reported that the Zoning Hearing Board would be meeting on April 13 regarding a pool variance.

**F. FINANCE - Mr. Tintori**

Mr. Tintori asked Mr. Rea to handle the presentation of the Finance report this evening.

**1. Motion:**

**Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to ratify the actions of the Borough Manager in paying the March 2017 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$90,753.16, Capital Projects Fund totaling \$7,982.50, Payroll Account totaling \$192,995.03, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$5,045.13.**

Mr. Lorenzini asked about the Sheriff's Sale Certificates and LST Commission payments. Mr. Montz replied that Sheriff's Sale Certificates are certifications that are required whenever there is a Sheriff's Sale. There are delinquent real estate tax collections, sewage bills, and other liens that they file for the borough. Mr. Montz said the LST Commission is the Local Service Tax Commission that collects the annual \$52 tax paid by individuals working in the borough.

Mr. Rea asked if Hollow Oak Land Trust's deposit had been paid, and if a project timeline had been established. Mr. Montz replied that a project timeline has not yet been established.

Mr. Lorenzini asked about the payment to Tucker Arensburg. Mr. Montz replied that they are Green Tree's Civil Service attorneys.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Motion:**

**Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the April 2017 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$124,170.56, Capital Projects totaling \$10,840.00, and Public Works Equipment Fund totaling \$34,160.00.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Ordinance #1773**

**Amending the Administrative Code to establish an Assistant Borough Manager position.**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to place Ordinance #1773 on first and final reading by title only.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Molinaro read Ordinance #1773 by title only.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to pass Ordinance #1733 on first and final reading by title only.**

**Roll Call Vote**

Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Lorenzini	Yes
Mr. Novak	Yes
Mr. Panza	Yes

Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Tintori	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:**

Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1773 and that it be advertised according to law.

Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Ordinance #1774**

**Establishing the salary and benefits of Assistant Borough Manager.**

**Motion:**

Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to place Ordinance #1774 on first and final reading by title only.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Molinaro read Ordinance #1774 by title only.

**Motion:**

Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to pass Ordinance #1774 on first and final reading by title only.

**Roll Call Vote**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:**

Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1774 and that it be advertised according to law.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Montz said that the Assistant Borough Manager position has been offered and accepted by Mr. Harry Faulk. Mr. Faulk will start on April 28, 2017. He is currently the manager in Heidelberg.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. MRTSA - Mr. Montz**

Mr. Montz had nothing to report on MRTSA at this time.

**B. Char West COG - Mr. Novak**

Mr. Novak reported that the guest speaker at the most recent COG meeting was Sheriff Mullen of Allegheny County. Sheriff Mullen reviewed what his department does, and mentioned that

there are now more deaths from overdoses than there are for murder, car accidents, and suicides combined. He has transported 2,900 prisoners and served over 9,500 warrants per year. Sheriff Mullen said that there has been a drop in home foreclosures from 4,700 to 2,300.

Mr. Novak said that Ms. Kimberly Slater Wood of ALCOSAN also attended the COG meeting and spoke about the Clean Water Assistance Fund.

**C. Library - Mr. Sampogna**

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

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

**A.** Mr. Tintori report that he and Mr. Montz had attended last week's Allegheny County League of Municipalities (ALOM) event where Green Tree, along with 50 other communities in Allegheny County, were honored as 2017 Banner Communities.

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

Mr. Molinaro had nothing to report at this time.

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

**A.** Mr. Montz said Green Tree's recycling bins have been seeing increased activity. Paper and cardboard are now co-mingled into one bin. The borough is monitoring the pick-up schedule for recyclables, with pick-ups currently on Mondays and Fridays. The bins will be moved from their current location to the rear of the Public Works parking lot before the pool opens at the end of May.

**B.** Mr. Montz said that he, Mr. Sampogna, Chief Cleary, and the Public Works Director attended the annual PELRAS Conference for training on labor relationships.

**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