

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 3, 2021**

Call to Order / Silence for Meditation / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. via a Zoom Virtual Public Meeting due to state and federal quarantine restrictions from the coronavirus. The link to view the meeting and the agenda were publicized via the Green Tree website, Facebook, Twitter, and the weekly email from Green Tree Borough. He noted that citizens wishing to speak during the Hearing of the Citizens portion of the meeting should use the "Raise Hand" feature on the Zoom program. Individuals will be called upon in the order they indicated they wanted to speak. The meeting was being recorded for transcription purposes.

Mr. Sampogna asked those in attendance to remember the veterans who did not come home after defending the United States. He said that Memorial Day is not Veterans Day and should not be considered a celebration. It is to honor and remember those who gave their lives for our country so that we can enjoy the freedom that we often take for granted.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Judy Miller, Borough Manager
Kate Diersen, Esq., Borough Solicitor
Deborah N. Gawryla, Stenographer

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

April 5, 2021

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve the April 5, 2021 minutes with the following correction:

Correct the spelling of the president of the Green Tree Garden Club. The correct spelling of the name is "Maurer."

Motion carried unanimously.

April 12, 2021

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the April 12, 2021 minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Christine Short, 251 Parkedge Road

Mrs. Short said that on behalf of the Green Tree Woman's Civic Club she wanted to thank Borough Manager Judy Miller for allowing the club to hold a fundraiser, which was a big success. She thanked the Public Works Department who helped the Woman's Club set up and tear down.

Shannon Barron, 8 Pocono Drive

Mrs. Barron said that with COVID numbers in decline she hoped the pool would be opened to residents and caregivers. She realized that there would be restrictions on the occupancy of the pool as well as other regulations, but providing an option for a caregiver to a family's pool passes for an additional fee would allow the caregivers to take the Green Tree children to the pool during the day. She said that many other communities and events have this option for pool passes. Mr. Sampogna said that Mrs. Barron's comments would be addressed later in the meeting.

Buss Ellis, 1305 Greentree Road

Mr. Ellis said he lives at the corner of Greentree Road and McMonagle. He said there is a lot of racing along the street. He asked if the borough could set up speed traps in on Greentree Road, especially at night.

Mr. Ellis said that the road is also littered with lots of cigarette butts and he felt that tickets should be given out for littering. The state has a \$300 fine. He also recently found a syringe along the road. He said that this part of the road is residential and he hoped that these issues could be addressed.

Mr. Ellis said he and his wife often have difficulty pulling out of their driveway with the number of cars making a turn from Greentree Road onto McMonagle. The Mayor had indicated that he would inform the Police Department about these issues. The police had patrolled the area several times since then, but it is aggravating that these issues continue.

Don Folkmire, 1006 Avacoll

Mr. Folkmire said he had approached Council a number of years ago with a petition to restrict turns onto Avacoll from Carnahan. The restrictions have been successful. However, with the pandemic subsiding and businesses opening up the traffic has increased. A lot of drivers are not following the turn restrictions that are posted and it would be helpful to have an additional police presence in the area.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck

- A.** Mayor Schenck said he would discuss with Chief Cleary the complaints about the traffic situations mentioned. He said the Green Tree Police could monitor Greentree Road, but there are only two homes in Green Tree on McMonagle and that road would be more difficult to monitor by Green Tree Police. The cars turning from Greentree Road onto McMonagle have the right of way when they are turning at the arrow and there is not much they can do about the difficulty of pulling out of a driveway.
- B.** Mayor Schenck said that in honor of Memorial Day, he had recently learned that the first Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was sent over from France after World War I on a ship. The casket had to be kept topside on the ship and the ship ran into a number of terrible storms along the way and almost did not make it.
- C.** Mayor Schenck stated that May 15th was National Police Officer Memorial Day, but due to COVID regulations it will be held in October.

- D. The Mayor said that Chief Cleary would be holding Coffee With A Cop at the Municipal Center Park Gazebo on June 5th from 10:00 a.m. until noon. He invited residents to attend and talk with Chief Cleary.
- E. The National Drug Take Back Day on May 24th was a success with Green Tree officers collecting 192 pounds of unwanted and expired medications for safe and secure disposal.
- F. Mayor Schenck said the borough would be holding a Shredding and Medication Take Back event on Saturday, May 15th at Green Tree Park from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. co-sponsored with State Senator Wayne Fontana and State Representative Dan Deasy.
- G. Mayor Schenck said that Real ID cards that were to be required by October 2021 will not be required until March 2023. The deadline has been extended.
- H. Mayor Schenck stated that all adults 18 and older are now eligible to receive COVID vaccines. He hoped that most adults would choose to get the vaccine.
- I. Mayor Schenck thanked Borough Engineer Lou Casadei for carefully evaluating bids for the Trumbull Drive Bridge project and the Wilson Pool project. Council will be voting on these projects later.
- J. Wilson Park Pool will be opening on May 29th. Council will address the issue of pool fees later in the meeting.
- K. Mayor Schenck pointed out that Council would be approving payment of \$62,000 to MRTSA for 2021 for ambulance service. MRTSA provides very good ambulance service for a cost that the borough would be unable to provide by itself.
- L. Mayor Schenck said that Council has been discussing the possibility of live-streaming Council meetings once in-person meetings are resumed. Live-streaming the meetings would help provide transparency and accessibility.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna

- A. Mr. Sampogna said he attended the ALCOSAN Advisory Committee meeting online. Ms. Jan Oliver from ALCOSAN gave an excellent presentation on the many recent difficult and expensive repair projects to the ALCOSAN system. ALCOSAN is in the middle of a two-year cleaning and inspection contract for the lower 20,000 feet of the Chartiers interceptor. They have also completed lining approximately seven miles of the Saw Mill Run interceptor and one mile of the Monongahela River interceptor. ALCOSAN will soon be beginning the lining of the 42-inch Saw Mill Run pipe that runs between Bausman Street and the West End. Dates for the various tunnel extension projects were presented. The Ohio River Tunnel work will commence in 2025 and run through 2029. The Allegheny River Tunnel work will commence in 2028 and run through 2034. The Monongahela River Tunnel work will commence in 2030 and run through 2036.
- B. Mr. Sampogna will be attending the Pennsylvania Municipal Leagues Capital Conference online. Updated information on pending Senate Bill 252 and House Bill 955 was provided today. They are identical bills in the House and Senate that would provide seven different options for government advertising. Hearings will tentatively be held in May. Although there

appears to be some momentum behind these bills, there is continued pushback from the print media. Mr. Sampogna stated that the borough's budget for legal advertising in 2021, which requires the ad be printed in a newspaper of general circulation, is \$12,000, when municipalities can often reach more people through the internet and other forms of printed advertising.

Mr. Sampogna said that Senate Bill 312 is a proposed change to the Right-To-Know Law, allowing agencies to charge actual costs for right-to-know requests from commercial requestors, who turn around and sell this information for their personal gain.

Senate Bill 552 would allow changes to the Right-To-Know Law to allow agencies to address "vexatious requestors," who request information repeatedly in an effort to irritate local municipalities. Senate Bill 554 would revise requirements for public notice of meeting agendas. Mr. Sampogna said that these three bills were voted out of committee and could be going to the Senate floor during this term.

Mr. Sampogna said that two pieces of legislation that would preempt local government authority are House Bill 664, dealing with businesses owned by minors, and Senate Bill 275 dealing with energy choice.

Mr. Sampogna said a presentation by House Transportation Chairman Tim Hennessey discussed House Bill 606, allowing local police departments to use radar. Pennsylvania is the only state in the union that does not allow local police to use radar. This bill is in its third consideration and should come out of the Appropriations Committee to the House floor soon.

House Bill 988 was discussed that would repeal or revise the fireworks law that was passed several years ago, giving more authority to local governments and local municipalities to regulate fireworks in their borders.

Mr. Sampogna said that Mr. Dan Cohen and Mr. Mike Roberts from the Cohen Law Group spoke about small cellular wireless facilities and the compromise language that has been reached with the wireless carriers.

Mr. Sampogna stated that Governor Wolf would address the next session, followed by updates on the American Rescue Plan, the American Jobs Plan, Act 1757 and 1759, and a presentation by PennDOT on transportation funding and long-range planning.

- B.** Mr. Sampogna said that American Legion Post #823 would be holding a Memorial Day Ceremony on May 31st at 9:30 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial on Poplar Street.
- C.** There will be a Rain Barrel Workshop on June 2nd at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom with the Pennsylvania Resources Council. The workshop costs \$80, but each registered participant will receive a 55-gallon rain barrel as part of the program.

REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Mr. Novak

1. Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to authorize the Borough Manager to execute a contract with Gannet Fleming, Inc., in the amount of \$233,296

for engineering services required for the reconstruction of Trumbull Drive Bridge in accordance with the Borough Engineer's correspondence dated April 30, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Mr. Novak said the Streets & Public Health Committee of Council would be meeting this month to discuss and review the Climate Action Plan. Mr. Sampogna said he had a contact through CONNECT who could help Mr. Novak and the Streets Committee with any questions they might have regarding the Climate Action Plan.

B. PUBLIC PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT - Mr. Rea

1. Mr. Rea said that the renovation of the pool has been discussed over the past several years. Improvements are needed for the pool's gutters, walls, and the infrastructure. The Public Property Committee met last week and listened to proposals from two architects regarding the project.

Motion:

Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to authorize the Borough Manager to execute a contract with Aquatic Facility Design, Inc. in the amount of \$61,900 for Aquatic Architectural Services for the renovation of the Wilson Park Pool facility in accordance with the Borough Engineer's correspondence dated April 29, 2021.

Mr. Rea stated that the work on the pool is scheduled to begin in the next several weeks with core sampling from the base of the pool to determine the integrity of the base of the pool, which will help to determine future work and design. Mayor Schenck stated that the core sampling would not impact the May 29th opening of the pool.

Mr. Panza said that the pool project might be spread out over the next year and a half. Pool materials and supplies are currently facing extreme inflationary pricing and temporary shortages, which might even be higher by fall. He asked if the Trumbull Drive Bridge project's materials might be experiencing the same inflationary pricing problems and supplies. Mr. Sampogna said that currently the Trumbull Drive Bridge would not be undertaking actual construction for another year or two. Ms. Miller said the bridgework could begin as early as the fall of 2022 with bid specifications completed by January or February of next year.

Mr. Rea noted that both architects commented on how well the pool has been maintained since it opened in 1965, which is a testament to Public Works and its commitment to routinely keeping the pool in the best operating shape.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Mr. Rea said that the Borough Manager is reviewing the costs of providing live streaming of Council meetings when Council returns to in-person meetings. He said Council should begin considering what parameters needed to be establish to allow in-person meetings once again. Mr. Sampogna said it depends upon COVID numbers and CDC requirements to determine when in-person meetings could resume. Discussion took place regarding possible requirements needed to resume in-person Council meetings and felt that the July Council meeting could be considered a target date to resume in-person meetings.

- 3. Mr. Rea said that Ms. Miller is looking into bids for drainage improvements for the Hemlock II field as well as other improvements for the fields and facilities.
- 4. Mr. Rea congratulated the Woman's Civic Club for their Yay for May event. He said it might have been the first borough event to take place since the pandemic began a year ago.
- 5. Mr. Sampogna said the temporary fencing around the soccer field has been removed and he asked what is happening. Mr. Rea said it has been removed and the Public Works Director has suggested installing a permanent fence around the soccer field. Mr. Sampogna said that fencing for the soccer field has been in the budget for several years and he felt Council should consider having the Borough Manager solicit bids or design for the fence. Mr. Tintori said the fence was needed to preserve the field from returning to its previous condition. Mr. Rea said he would like to wait on moving forward with the fence since there are still some easement issues that need to be addressed with the property. Mr. Sampogna said that it would be possible to solicit bids for the fence work at this time. Mr. Rea asked if fence bids were needed. Ms. Miller recommended the bids for the fence be solicited in order to get a good price. Since the fencing was already in the budget, staff has been securing proposals and pricing as well as some different fence styles. Mr. Sampogna said if this work was already underway, a motion for fencing bids would not be needed.

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 May 2021 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$47,708.53, Payroll Account totaling \$206,876.84, and the Educational Service Agency totaling \$3,847.51.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the June 2021 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$492,421.91, and Capital Projects Fund totaling \$37,845.48. Mr. Tintori noted that this amount included the ALCOSAN invoice for \$324,920.38.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Ordinance #1844

Setting hourly wages for certain Borough positions

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to establish hourly wages of certain Borough employment positions, effective January 1, 2021, and continuing for subsequent years unless otherwise changed by Borough Council.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Tintori	Yes
Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Novak	Yes
Mr. Rea	Yes

Mr. Panza	Yes
Mr. Lorenzini	Yes
Mr. Sampogna	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Authorize Borough Manager to lien the 2020 unpaid real estate taxes

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to authorize the Borough Manager to lien the 2020 unpaid real estate taxes.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza

1. Resolution #1280

Establish fees for Wilson Park Swimming Pool passes.

Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion to establish fees for Wilson Park Swimming Pool passes.

Mr. Panza said the fees would address Mrs. Barron's concern about visitors purchasing guest passes. Two guest passes per day could be purchased and they could enter the pool with a resident. The only non-residents at the pool would be those individuals with passes purchased by a resident.

Mr. Rea said that the borough was going to return to the 2019 pool rates. The resolution before Council indicates that a non-resident would have to purchase a pool pass every day he or she wished to come to the pool with a resident and does not consider the situation of a babysitter or nanny who might bring the kids to the pool on a regular basis over the summer. Mr. Panza felt it would keep the pool from reaching full capacity. Mr. Tintori said that the pool must still follow occupancy and social distancing restrictions, which would limit the number of people that could be in the pool area at one time. Discussion continued regarding the details of the pool pass pricing.

Mr. Rea asked that this resolution be tabled. Mr. Sampogna said that there would be occupancy restrictions on pools this summer and if a resident is unable to enter that pool because it has reached full capacity with some non-residents in attendance there will be problems. Mr. Panza asked if the Solicitor could review what the current CDC policy is regarding swimming pools and if it differs from the state mandates. Mr. Rea said that County establishes the pool regulations. Mr. Panza asked for the County's regulations regarding pools at this time. Ms. Diersen said she believed that pools could be at 75% occupancy, but she would need to verify that that was the correct information. Ms. Diersen said she would also check the state guidelines as well as the CDC guidelines. Mr. Panza said that perhaps consideration should be given to pool patrons who are vaccinated; much like it is being done at baseball and hockey games.

Ms. Miller said she had discussed this issue to several committee members and felt that the resolution before Council was a great place to start. Families do want to occasionally bring a guest and she felt that offering guest passes helped. If things change, the resolution can be revised accordingly next month. Mr. Sampogna said the wording for the non-resident guest should be revised, or it should be removed entirely so that the borough can begin

selling pool passes to residents. Mr. Rea felt that the entire pricing system for the pool should be revised. Discussion continued regarding the pool pricing.

Mayor Schenck suggested that the committee revise the pool pricing and Council could meet again in two weeks to resolve the guest pass/caregiver pass issue. Mr. Rea said that the borough needs to be clarification on pool occupancy limits and consider the pricing for non-resident caregiver pool passes. Mr. Panza asked if the pool had ever reached its capacity last year when only residents were permitted. He suggested that the Recreation Committee meet sometime this week and come up with revised pricing to be approved by next Monday.

Amended Motion:

Mr. Panza amended his previous motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, to adopt Resolution #1280 establishing the fees for the Wilson Park Swimming Pool passes for the 2021 season, removing the Non-Resident Guest category from the resolution, until the next meeting of Council when an amended resolution for pool pricing can be presented.

Mr. Tintori said that an amended resolution regarding pool pricing for non-residents and caregivers could be presented at another meeting for passage, but the current resolution would establish pricing for residents so that pool passes could begin to be sold.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Panza	No
Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Lorenzini	Abstain
Mr. Novak	Yes
Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Tintori	Yes
Mr. Sampogna	Yes

Motion carries, 4 Ayes, 1 Nay, and 1 Abstention.

Mr. Panza asked when the members of the Recreation Committee could meet this week. After a discussion, it was decided that the committee meet on Friday at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Tintori asked Mr. Panza to email a notice to Council to remind them about the meeting.

E. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Lorenzini

Mr. Lorenzini had nothing to report at this time.

F. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey

1. Mr. Lindsey said that all residents should have received a mailer from the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company with their annual solicitation. He asked residents to consider making a donation.
2. Mr. Lindsey reported that MRTSA hired a new Chief last week and will be starting in the near future. MRTSA will be returning to a station in the borough soon. Ms. Miller said that the station is almost complete for MRTSA personnel to return.

3. Mr. Lindsey said it appears that the public safety budgets are in line for the year-to-date. A Public Safety Committee meeting will be held next week.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. Char West COG - Mr. Novak

Mr. Novak reported that there was a report on the Allegheny County Free Web, which is collaborative initiative to connect people with greenspace in Allegheny County. The site maps out trails, waterways, and flood zones with more than 21 non-profit and conservation organizations involved.

Also discussed at the Char West COG meeting was spring commodities through SHACOG with bids submitted by May 21st.

B. Library - Mr. Sampogna

Mr. Sampogna said there are two new part-time library employees. The library's new website was launched on April 7th. He asked others to look at the website and provide feedback.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Ms. Diersen

- A. Ms. Diersen said she was able to confirm that pools are permitted to operate at 75% capacity according to the State Department of Health guidelines with additional pool operations falling under CDC guidelines. She said she would forward this information to the Borough Manager who can distribute it.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Ms. Miller

- A. Ms. Miller said that the Shredding Event was being held on May 15th. It is requested that all coming to the Shredding Event wear masks, remain in your vehicle, and place the items to be shredded in the trunk or back of vehicle where volunteers will remove them.
- B. Ms. Miller said the fence has been removed from the Aiken Soccer Field. It was noted that a resident was using the field for golf practice. The borough is asking residents to be advised that the soccer field is not open for general use. The use of the field is by permit only.
- C. Ms. Miller asked residents to keep their lawns mowed and keep their yards trimmed.
- D. Ms. Miller is seeking additional summer Public Works employees and asked anyone who might be interested to apply. Mr. Sampogna stated that the borough usually hires five seasonal Public Works employees, but has only received one application this year so far. Applicants should be 18 years of age or older.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Sampogna, President

Judy Miller, Borough Manager

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