

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 1, 2019**

Call to Order / Silence for Meditation / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, July 1, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sampogna stated that Council had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Mr. Sampogna asked those present to think about the words "Freedom" and "Independence" that will come up frequently with the 4th of July. Mr. Sampogna said that both independence and freedom are gifts, but they are gifts that are meant to be shared. These gifts come with a responsibility and our freedom should never impede or diminish another person's freedom. If it does, it is no longer freedom.

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
Peter Molinaro, Jr., Borough Solicitor
Colin Cleary, Chief of Police
Deborah N. Gawryla, Stenographer

Absent:

David Rea

PUBLIC HEARING

A. CU-01-19

Conditional Use Public Hearing regarding the installation of antennas at Foster Plaza, Building #8, 730 Holiday Drive.

Mr. Montz said this conditional use application was submitted by GTE Telecom, Inc. regarding the installation of proposed wireless antennas and associated equipment on the roof of Foster Plaza, Building #8. There are already antennas on top of this building from other wireless providers and this would be an additional one. Planning Commission has reviewed the application and recommended Council's approval. The antennas and installation meet the zoning requirements. This item is scheduled for Council's vote later in the meeting.

Mr. Sampogna opened the Public Hearing and asked if there was anyone who wished to speak regarding the proposed antenna installation. Mr. Lorenzini asked if the proposed antenna was similar to the antennas already installed on the roof. Mr. Montz said they were. Mr. Lorenzini asked if the company applying for the antenna was a Foster Plaza tenant. Mr. Montz said he was not sure. Mr. Molinaro said that under borough ordinance the antenna applicant did not have to be a tenant or renting space in Green Tree. Instead they would be renting space on the roof of Foster Plaza, Building #8, to install the antenna.

Mr. Montz said that the Public Hearing was advertised according to law. There being no additional comments regarding this application, the Public Hearing was closed.

B. Amendment to the Sign Ordinance for Billboards, Section 420-196.

Mr. Montz said Council has received a proposed amendment to the billboard regulations. Although Council has been working on a comprehensive revised zoning ordinance, he felt that Council needed to consider this amendment sooner than when the comprehensive zoning ordinance would be adopted. This amendment was recommended several months ago. The main change in the billboard ordinance revises the distance from of the Parkway right-of-way.

Mr. Sampogna opened the Public Hearing on the billboard ordinance amendment. There was no one present who wished to be heard.

Mr. Montz stated that this public hearing was advertised according to law. There being no additional comments regarding this ordinance amendment, the Public Hearing was closed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

June 3, 2019

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to approve the June 3, 2019 Council minutes as presented.

Motion carried, with Mr. Novak abstaining because he had not attended this meeting.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Tammy Feeney, 55 Rhodes Avenue

Ms. Feeney expressed concern over the condition of Reed Alley. She said the entire alley is filled with potholes. This was brought to the borough's attention several years ago and the residents were told that Reed Alley was on a list to be repaved. It has been patched in the past, but it is now filled with potholes again. A neighbor recently tried to push her stroller down the alley and it got stuck in the potholes. She said the potholes are doing damage to cars that drive down the alley. She said several of her neighbors have called or emailed the borough about this issue. Mr. Montz said that the borough would look at the condition of the alley.

Michael Johns, 222 Silver Oak Drive

Mr. Johns said that a representative from MSA had presented information to Council regarding the Savvy Citizen app. Mr. Johns asked what the status was regarding Council adopting the app. Mr. Johns said he works for MSA, but he does not receive any financial benefit from Green Tree adopting the Savvy Citizen app. He said he uses the app all the time with Crafton, Dormont, Castle Shannon, and Bethel Park, but would like to add Green Tree to the list of clients.

Mr. Sampogna replied that no decision has been made at this time, but it is still being discussed. Green Tree currently has a website, Facebook and Twitter accounts, a weekly email service called Greetings from Green Tree, and the CodeRED alert system. The borough has a number of methods to communicate with its residents and there are ongoing discussions whether the borough should add another method of reaching residents and increase the administrative burdens of the employees who maintain these other methods. Mr. Sampogna said that the money for the purchase of a phone app for Green Tree has not been budgeted this year.

Mr. Johns asked who was spearheading the review of a Green Tree phone app. Mr. Sampogna replied that Mr. Rea, who was not present, was spearheading this issue. Mr. Novak said that the Savvy Citizen app had been introduced at a COG meeting as well. Mr. Johns asked if Council was aware of the benefits of the app. Mr. Tintori said it was still being considered. Mr. Johns said the biggest advantage of the app is that messages are brought to the user when the information is current. The other forms of communication that were mentioned are passive. For example,

Dormont can send out relevant and current information about emergency road repairs, water main breaks, etc. He felt that the other modes of communication are too slow and Savvy Citizen is the most advanced way of communication with residents. Many of the other boroughs in the area have adopted it and he would like to see Green Tree do the same. Mr. Panza asked if Mr. Johns was referring to the "push" notifications that are available through the app. Mr. Johns said it was.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck

A. Mayor Schenck reported that he had attended the senior banquet at Keystone Oaks High School. The mayors from all three communities attended this annual event and awards were given to the seniors from each community with the most community service hours earned.

Mayor Schenck stated that he had attended the American Legion's Flag Day event on June 14th, and performed a wedding ceremony at the Municipal Center Park. He also attended the reopening of First Commonwealth Bank. Mayor Schenck said he had also held Mayor's Office Hours two Saturdays ago.

B. Mayor Schenck thanked Officer Robert Monaco, who recently retired, for his 25 years of service with Green Tree. Officer Michael Kelly, the borough's part-time officer, recently accepted a full-time job with the County. Full-time applications for the open police officer position are available until July 10th, followed by physical agility testing, a written test, background checks, and an oral exam by the Civil Service Commission. It is anticipated that Council will receive a list of the top three candidates from the Civil Service Commission. The borough will be seeking both a part-time and a full-time officer.

REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. 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 June 2019 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$64,634.30, Payroll Account totaling \$261,496.14, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$2,131.47.

Mr. Lorenzini asked about the payment to eLoop and why the amount differed from last year's amount. Mr. Montz replied that it was payment for the Electronics Recycling Event in April and he would check on the difference between the two years and inform Mr. Lorenzini.

Mr. Lorenzini asked about the payment to the Green Tree Athletic Association (GAA). Mr. Montz said it is a donation every year towards the annual soccer and baseball events.

Mr. Lorenzini said there were a number of firefighters who had taken advantage of the Act 172 Tax Relief and he asked if all the firefighters had had an opportunity to apply. Mr. Lindsey said that members must meet a minimum participation level to qualify, plus it is only available to residents and non-resident members cannot apply.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the July 2019 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$227,176.33, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$245.86, Capital Projects totaling \$9,950.00, and Farmers Market totaling \$259.50.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Ordinance #1813 - Setting the annual rate of pay for certain administrative employees.

Mr. Tintori said that this ordinance would amend Ordinance #1804.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to place Ordinance #1813 on first and final reading by title only.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Molinaro read Ordinance #1813 by title only.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to pass Ordinance #1813 on first and final reading by title only.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1813 and that it be advertised according to law.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 4. Mr. Tintori said he had attended the reopening of First Commonwealth Bank and was glad they were back in the community. He hoped the bank might be able to bid on some of the borough's financial needs.

B. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza

- 1. Mr. Panza said the Octoberfest Committee would be meeting tomorrow night, July 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. He hoped that additional residents might attend who are interested in volunteering for this annual community event.
- 2. Mr. Panza said he had received an email from a person concerned about Pit Bulls not being permitted in the borough's dog park. He said he would have the Recreation Committee discuss this issue.
- 3. Mr. Panza said he had received complaints about the increase in the non-resident pool rates. He had compared Green Tree's non-resident rates with Mt. Lebanon's rates. Mr. Sampogna said there is no family rate for non-resident pool passes and all non-resident pool passes must be purchased individually. Mr. Novak felt that the rates should be reviewed again next year. Mr. Panza said the Recreation Committee would discuss this

issue as well. Mr. Sampogna noted that the pool rates would not be changed until next year.

C. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Lorenzini

1. Appointment of Zoning Hearing Board Member

Motion:

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to reappoint Ms. Katrina Harmel to the Zoning Hearing Board for a two-year term, expiring December 31, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to appoint Mr. Ken Fritz and reappoint Mr. Robert McWilliams to the Planning Commission to four-year terms, expiring December 31, 2022.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Ordinance #1814

Amending the sign ordinance for billboards by repealing in its entirety, Section 420-196 of Article XXIII of Chapter 420 and adopting in its place a new Section 420-196.

Motion:

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to place Ordinance #1814 on first and final reading by title only.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Molinaro read Ordinance #1814 by title only.

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to pass Ordinance #1814 on first and final reading by title only.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1814 and that it be advertised according to law.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. **CU-01-19**

Applicant, GPD Telecom, Inc., representing AT&T Mobile, requesting approval from Council regarding the installation of a proposed wireless telecommunication system of antennas and associated equipment on the roof of Foster Plaza Building #8, 730 Holiday Drive.

Motion:

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the application CU-01-19, applicant, GPD Telecom, Inc., representing AT&T Mobile, for the installation of a proposed wireless telecommunication system of antennas and associated equipment on the roof of Foster Plaza Building #8, 730 Holiday Drive.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. Mr. Lorenzini stated that Planning Commission had met twice in June to review and discuss PI Hospitality and Bost Development, who were seeking a subdivision for 401 Holiday Drive and approving a site plan for changes to the property.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey

1. **Ordinance #1815**

Adopting, approving, and implementing the terms of the collective bargaining agreement with the Green Tree Police Department.

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to place Ordinance #1815 on first and final reading by title only.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Molinaro read Ordinance #1815 by title only.

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to pass Ordinance #1815 on first and final reading by title only.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1815 and that it be advertised according to law.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Ordinance #1816**

Authorize the proper officials to execute a mutual aid agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Mr. Molinaro said this ordinance came about based upon a recent case handed down by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court that challenged the authority of a police department to cooperate with another municipality when using its police powers outside the jurisdictional limits of the base police department. The mutual aid agreement in this case was void because it had not been supported by an ordinance under the Inter-municipal Cooperative Act. Even though the VA office is within the jurisdiction of the Green Tree Police Department, it would be prudent to adopt an ordinance. Mr. Sampogna said that VA has an office within Parkway Center and they have their own law enforcement personnel and that has prompted the need for this cooperative agreement.

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to place Ordinance #1816 on first and final reading by title only.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Molinaro read Ordinance #1816 by title only.

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to pass Ordinance #1816 on first and final reading by title only.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1816 and that it be advertised according to law.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. Mr. Lindsey welcomed First Commonwealth Bank into the community again. He stated that representatives from First Commonwealth had stopped by the fire station last year, shortly after the fire, to make a \$500 donation to the fire company.

E. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Mr. Novak

1. Resolution #1258

Agreement for street sweeping maintenance between the Borough and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Novak said the agreement is for three years and states that the streets will be swept two times per year.

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adopt Resolution #1258.

Mr. Molinaro said this resolution does not have a title, but is a resolution that authorizes the proper borough officials to execute the attached street sweeping agreement. When asked, Mr. Sampogna said the resolution authorizes the borough to street sweep the state roads within the borough for compensation. This has been done in the past, but the agreement expires every three years.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

When asked, Mr. Montz said the borough rents a street sweeping machine to perform this service twice a year.

2. Extension of contract for street and sewer maintenance with Casper Colosimo & Son, Inc.

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to extend the contract for street and sewer maintenance with Casper Colosimo & Son, Inc. for one year.

Mr. Montz stated that there is a 1.8% increase of the unit price established in the original agreement, which is keeping with the Consumer Price Index. When asked, Mr. Montz said the contract can be extended up to six years with one-year renewals.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Authorize the approval of bids for the Greentree Road Sidewalk Replacement Project for the area between Pocono Drive and Orchard Drive.

Mr. Novak said the borough had received bids for sidewalk replacement along Greentree Road between Pocono and Orchard. The low bid was from Frank Zottola Construction, Inc. for \$340,700. Mr. Novak noted that the borough will only be responsible for 30% of the cost with the remainder covered by a grant.

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve the bid by Frank Zottola Construction, Inc., for the Greentree Road Sidewalk Replacement Project for the area between Pocono Drive and Orchard Drive at a cost of \$340,700.00.

Mr. Sampogna noted that the cost of this project had come in under the anticipated budgeted amount. Discussion continued regarding the sidewalk project.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Montz said this project is Phase 1 of the grant with the rest of the grant going towards the installation of new sidewalks along Mansfield Avenue from Holiday Drive to Trumbull Drive. The borough is in the process of designing and getting PennDOT approval. It is anticipated to be completed later this year with construction beginning sometime next year.

4. Conflict waiver for attorneys representing ALCOSAN.

Mr. Molinaro said that the conflict arose because the firm of Babst Calland represents ALCOSAN. Babst Calland also provides labor legal services to Green Tree. One attorney in the firm represents ALCOSAN and another attorney in the same firm provides labor law services to Green Tree. The negotiations with Babst Calland, relative to the transfer of the intermunicipal trunk lines, would be handled by Mr. Molinaro and Mr. Montz for Green Tree with Babst Calland representing ALCOSAN. The conflict appears in paper and Mr. Molinaro advised that it would be appropriate for Green Tree to waive the conflict.

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to authorize the proper officers to sign a conflict waiver with Babst Calland, the legal firm representing ALCOSAN.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Mr. Novak said the Streets Committee would be meeting next week to discuss the Elmhurst flooding issue.
6. Mr. Novak reported that the borough's new curbside recycling cans have been delivered. Half of Green Tree streets will start curbside recycling on July 10th, and the other half of Green Tree will have its curbside recycling collected on July 17th. Waste Management has mailed information to residents regarding the schedule and what items are acceptable for curbside recycling.

Mr. Lorenzini asked if residents would be able to purchase a second recycling can. Mr. Sampogna replied that residents are free to purchase a second can from a hardware store and mark it for recycling. Mr. Lindsey said there have been a few additional Green Tree recycling cans available that could be sold at cost to residents. Mr. Montz stated that he would like to wait until the curbside recycling has been underway for a while to make certain that all residents have received recycling cans. Once the initial program is underway and the borough is certain that all residential households have received cans, then the possibility of selling any extra recycling cans could be discussed. Mr. Sampogna stated that all recycling cans have a serial number and each can is registered to the house where the can was delivered. When asked, Mr. Montz said the large recycling bins at the Public Works parking lot would be phased out by the end of July. Mr. Sampogna said bins for glass recycling and the Rotary's aluminum can collection would remain at that location.

F. PUBLIC PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT - Mr. Rea

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

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's guest speaker was Ms. Jessica Mooney, Manager of Special Projects in the County Executive's office. Ms. Mooney spoke about the 2020 census. An accurate census helps determine municipal funding and helps with the public transportation infrastructure. It is difficult to get an accurate count of the homeless and transients, but all people living in a household should be counted.

Mr. Novak said the COG is in the process of finishing the collection of quantities for the reclamite in COG communities. That information will be submitted to a contractor who will then begin setting up a schedule.

C. Library - Mr. Sampogna

Mr. Sampogna said two Friends of the Library members attended the most recent Library Board meeting to discuss the future of the Friends' Annual Used Book Sale. The Friends of the Library are facing a shortage of volunteers and a meeting was held this evening between the Library Board and the Friends to discuss the issue.

Mr. Sampogna attended the library's Touch-A-Truck event on June 15th. It was well attended and very successful.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna

- A.** Mr. Sampogna said he attended the American Legion's Flag Day Ceremony at the fire hall and thanked the firefighters for providing a meal. It was a great ceremony and event.
- B.** Mr. Sampogna stated he had attended the CONNECT meeting on June 20th at the new Forest Hills Municipal Building where there were three presentations: Women for a Healthy Environment regarding Allegheny County's Lead Safe Program, the County Department of Economic Development representatives who spoke about land use planning, and the City of Pittsburgh Code Enforcement representatives who discussed blight prevention, property demolition and land slides.
- C.** Mr. Sampogna said the Three Rivers Wet Weather meeting was held in Green Tree in June. There was a presentation by Gateway Engineers on a storm water separation project completed in Whitehall Borough and a discussion about municipal storm water fee legislation that is currently before the state legislature.
- D.** Mr. Sampogna said he had participated in the ribbon cutting for the opening of the rebuilt First Commonwealth Bank on June 10th. He also distributed the tax rebate checks at the Volunteer Fire Company meeting on June 11th. He attended a webinar by the Pennsylvania State Boroughs Association regarding an overview of electric vehicles and their use in municipal fleets. He said Council should consider the possibility of purchasing an electric vehicle for the police because all the driving is done within the borough and the borough could get money for the installation of a charging station.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Mr. Molinaro

Mr. Molinaro had nothing to report at this time.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Montz

- A.** Mr. Montz said the borough has settled the Foster Plaza tax appeals for the bulk of the buildings. The Borough Solicitor, along with the School District Solicitor, fought diligently to keep the assessment where it should be. The appeals were for 2017, 2018, and 2019. The borough will be refunding approximately \$150,000 a year for those three years. Mr. Montz continued to explain the details of the tax appeal settlement.
- B.** Mr. Montz said that Green Tree Rotary selects a Citizen of the Year each year. This year's Citizen of the Year was Mr. Robert McWilliams of the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company who celebrated his 50th year with the fire company. The Rotary has donated \$1,000 in Mr. McWilliams' name to a Rotary foundation that helps eliminate polio and bring fresh water to third world countries. The audience applauded.

- C.** Mr. Panza said he had received an email from Global Links asking if Council members would be able to volunteer an evening of their time to come to their facility and help pack boxes sometime in the fall.

Mr. Panza said Council had discussed the possibility of scheduling a future meeting at City Vista. He said a date should be selected and an official email sent to City Vista requesting such a meeting. Mr. Molinaro said that a City Vista meeting would have to be re-advertised. Mr. Sampogna said he would look at a calendar and contact City Vista about holding a Council meeting there.

- D.** Mr. Montz stated that as part of the earlier discussion regarding non-residents using Wilson Pool, he had received data that just yesterday there were 101 non-residents that came through the pool's gate. He said that most of the complaints about the fee increase have come from non-resident families seeking family pool passes.

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

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