

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 10, 2017**

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

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, July 10, 2017 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 regarding the Police Department and legal matters.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Edward Schenck, Mayor  
Mark Sampogna, President of Council  
Rino Lindsey  
David Lorenzini  
John Novak  
Ron Panza

**Also Present:**

W. David Montz, Borough Manager  
Colin Cleary, Chief of Police  
Janice Adamski, Stenographer

**Absent:**

David Rea  
Arthur Tintori

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**June 5, 2017**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the June 5, 2017 as presented.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**June 26, 2017**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the June 26, 2017 minutes.**

Mr. Lorenzini said he had a list of adjustments that needed to be made to the meeting minutes. He said there were a number of words that need to be deleted, some numbering corrections, and incorrect page numbers. Mr. Sampogna felt that these items needed to be read into the minutes. Mr. Lorenzini read off a list of items to be included in the June 26, 2017 minutes regarding revisions to the proposed zoning ordinance. Mr. Lindsey suggested that these minutes be tabled until a later date to allow Council to review these changes in the context of the proposed zoning ordinance and verify if these changes were acceptable to other Council members.

**Mr. Panza withdrew his motion to approve the June 26, 2017 minutes.**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to table the minutes from the June 26, 2017 meeting until Council could review the corrections presented by Mr. Lorenzini.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**HEARING OF THE CITIZENS**

**Kris Pusateri, 13 Terrace Drive**

Ms. Pusateri asked if the borough had an ordinance requiring commercial businesses to maintain their properties. Mr. Sampogna said that "keeping a property maintained" is a general statement, but there are ordinances addressing specific types of maintenance. Ms. Pusateri asked if there were other items besides tree and tall grass issues that could be enforced regarding maintenance of residential properties. Mr. Sampogna replied that there are other items that can be enforced for residential properties.

Mr. Pusateri said that she and some other residents on Terrace Drive have expressed concerns about a property on their street that needs to be maintained. She felt it has brought down the property values on the entire street. She said this property has a driveway that needs to be mowed. Some of the weeds on the property are waist-high. She said that neighbors have seen rodents and snakes, and some people have said that the house looks abandoned. She asked if the borough could enforce some of the ordinances regarding these kinds of conditions. When asked, Ms. Pusateri said she lived next door to the property she was talking about. She presented Council with photographs she had taken of the property.

Mr. Montz said that he would look into the details of the property and contact Ms. Pusateri with possible recommendations.

**Cathy Duda, 19 Terrace Drive**

Ms. Duda said she lived on the other side of the property being discussed. She has lived on Terrace Drive since 1971. The previous property owner had never landscaped or improved the appearance of the property, but he had kept the driveway clear and mowed. However, it appears that nothing has been done with the property since his death and the property is in worse shape. Ms. Duda said rats have been spotted near the property.

Mr. Montz said that the condition of this property had not been brought to the attention of the borough before this. If it is as bad as reported, the borough will look into it and it will be addressed. Mr. Montz said this type of issue should be brought to his attention in the future to make certain it is addressed.

**Danielle Kozarian, 43 Rhodes Avenue**

Ms. Kozarian said that there have been vehicles drag racing along Rhodes, often traveling at speeds of 50-60 mph. She gave examples of incidents where residents have almost been hit by these vehicles. She asked if speed humps could be installed along Rhodes near Wilson Park. Mr. Sampogna said that Council would consider it if Ms. Kozarian could present a petition signed by 100% of the residents along Rhodes. Mr. Sampogna said that a traffic study would be done to verify the speeds of vehicles traveling along Rhodes, but he could not necessarily guarantee that a speed hump would be installed.

Ms. Kozarian said there was also a driver who travels on Rhodes who routinely blows his car's horn, startling the residents. When asked, Ms. Kozarian said that it tends to occur around 5:00 p.m. each evening. Mr. Sampogna said that a traffic study would be done to review the speed of vehicles along Rhodes, along with some other items.

**MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck**

- A. Mayor Schenck reported that a new camera system has been installed in four of the police cars. There have been no problems with the system to date. Mr. Lorenzini asked if this was the payment for Watchguard Video listed in this month's invoices. Mr. Sampogna said it was, and that this payment would be up for approval later at this meeting.
- B. Mayor Schenck said that the borough would be hiring a part-time police officer. The new part-time officer still needs to be qualified with the Green Tree Police Department's weapons.

**REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES****A. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey****1. Discussion on Avacoll Traffic Complaint and result of Traffic Study**

Mr. Montz said he had sent Council an email summarizing the meeting with Avacoll residents. The traffic study that was done showed a significant amount of cut-through traffic, and a number of vehicles exceed the posted 25 mph speed limit. Currently right turns from Carnahan onto Avacoll are prohibited from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Mr. Montz recommended that this time be increased from 6:00 to 9:00 a.m., and a no right turn from Carnahan onto Avacoll from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. be added.

Mr. Montz said that the traffic study found that vehicles were also turning from Greentree Road onto Pocono to Avacoll during the evening rush hours. Mr. Montz recommended that there be no left turn from Avacoll onto Carnahan from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Montz said that if these recommendations do not help the situation the borough would consider installing a speed hump. Additional review of the timing of the traffic lights at the Carnahan/Greentree Road intersection would be done to see if that would also help reduce the congestion.

Mr. Montz said that if Council agreed with these changes an ordinance would be prepared for the August Council meeting. A sign could be posted in these areas indicating the changes that would go into effect following the August Council meeting. Mr. Montz said he would like to have these changes made before school begins. Discussion continued regarding the details of these potential changes.

Mr. Lindsey stated that the Public Safety Committee had met and reviewed these changes in detail before discussing it with the Avacoll residents. Mayor Schenck asked how many Avacoll residents attended the meeting. Mr. Montz said about ten families had attended the meeting.

2. Mr. Lindsey stated that the new part-time police office would be starting soon. He has successfully passed both the physical and drug and alcohol testing. This will provide a little bit of additional coverage for the police department.

**B. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Lorenzini****1. General Report**

- (a) Mr. Lorenzini said that Council had previously planned on scheduling another zoning ordinance review meeting on July 24th. However, due to some conflicts, the meeting has been moved to July 31st at 7:30 p.m.
- (b) Mr. Lorenzini said the Zoning Hearing Board met in June to review a variance request for 5 Potomac Avenue. The Zoning Hearing Board approved the variance.

**C. FINANCE - Mr. Tintori**

In Mr. Tintori's absence, Mr. Lindsey presented the Finance report.

**1. Motion:**

**Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to ratify the actions of the Borough Manager in paying the June 2017 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$283,694.20, Payroll Account totaling \$270,905.55, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$2,338.13.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Motion:**

**Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve payment of the July 2017 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$297,216.62, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$431.62, and Capital Projects Fund totaling \$29,906.50.**

Mr. Lorenzini asked about the invoice on the sheet from S&S Processing for "Infield Mix" and "Infield Conditioner" for almost \$7,400. Mr. Sampogna replied that they were materials for baseball infields.

Mr. Montz said that the payment for Watchguard Video was the final payment for the police car system.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Resolution #1242**

**Opposing the elimination of the community development block grant (CDBG) program from the Federal Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget.**

Mr. Lindsey noted that the agenda provided different resolution numbers for the two upcoming resolutions, but the both resolutions were numbered #1242 in Council's packets. He said that the second resolution before Council tonight should be numbered #1243.

Mr. Montz said that the COG (Council of Governments) had sent the borough an email asking for consideration regarding this proposed resolution. Each year the federal government has funded community development block grants. Unfortunately, Green Tree does not qualify for a number of these types of grants, but it has used some in the past for things such as ADA sidewalk ramps, ADA picnic tables, ADA access doors, etc.

Mr. Sampogna said he had edited the sample resolution sent to the borough by the COG and added the phrases "...on our own behalf and on behalf of the Char West Council of Governments..." to make it clear that it was not just Green Tree that would be helped by these grants, but to clarify that they help with the living situation of the area.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to adopt Resolution #1242 on first and final reading by title only.**

Mr. Montz read Resolution #1242 by title only.

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Mr. Lindsey</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Panza</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Novak</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Lorenzini</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Sampogna</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Panza noted that much of the COG's work is putting out these types of grants.

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

**1. Resolution #1243**

**Authorizing submission of grant application through the Multimodal Transportation Fund from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for sidewalk installation and rehabilitation.**

Mr. Novak said that the borough hoped to obtain a grant for sidewalk installation and rehabilitation primarily around Mansfield Avenue.

Mr. Montz said that the resolution needed to have an exact dollar amount inserted. The cost is based upon what sidewalks the borough would like to have done. The borough can apply for up to \$3 million in this grant and would be required to pay 30% of the cost. Sidewalks under consideration are along Mansfield Avenue from Holiday Drive to the DoubleTree, which would cost approximately \$156,000. The borough would be responsible for about \$47,000 of that cost. If the borough chose to extend the sidewalk along Mansfield down to Trumbull Drive, it would cost an additional \$144,000 with the borough responsible for \$44,000 of this amount. Together this would commit the borough to about \$91,000 of a \$300,000 project.

Mr. Montz said there had also been discussion about rehabilitating some sidewalks along Greentree Road. If Council wanted to consider fixing the sidewalk on Greentree Road from Pocono to Carnahan, it would cost about \$310,000, with the borough being responsible for about \$90,000 of that cost. Sidewalk along Greentree Road from Carnahan to Orchard would cost approximately \$330,000, with the borough being responsible for about \$100,000. Mr. Montz said that if Council wanted to apply for the grant for all four of these areas, the borough would apply for a grant of approximately \$940,000. The borough's responsibility would be about \$282,000, if the total grant was received.

Mr. Novak asked if these grants are offered each year. Mr. Montz was not sure. He said that the awarding of these grants would probably not be announced until early 2018. If the grants were received, construction might not begin until 2019. Mr. Lindsey suggested establishing a sidewalk fund for this project in anticipation of obtaining this grant. Discussion continued regarding the details and the paperwork involved. The grant deadline is July 31st.

Mr. Lorenzini suggested adding the area along Greentree Road from Warriors to South Bee. Mr. Montz said he did not have an estimate for the cost of that work and that must be included in the grant, but suggested that the grant include general Greentree Road sidewalk rehabilitation. Discussion continued whether this area could be included in the grant application. It was decided to estimate the amount of sidewalk work at \$1 million.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lorenzini, to adopt Resolution #1243 by title only.**

Mr. Montz read Resolution #1243 by title only.

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Mr. Lindsey</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Lorenzini</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Novak</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Panza</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Sampogna</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Motion carried unanimously.**

- 2. Mr. Montz reported that there is a Go Green Grant that he will be working on and it will appear on the August meeting agenda.

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

- 1. Mr. Sampogna said there are several types of stones near the outside entrance to the Municipal Center. The smoother-faced stone will be used for the wall at the pool that will be rehabbed this fall when the pool closes. The rougher-faced stone will be used for the wall at the cemetery.
- 2. When asked, Mr. Montz said he is seeking to find someone to repair the gazebo in the Municipal Center Park. He said he would have more information on this item by next week.

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

- 1. Mr. Panza said the Recreation Committee of Council would be meeting after tonight's Council meeting to discuss whether the Parkway, during its recent renovation, had been expanded in size. If the Parkway work increased the size of the Parkway then the borough may be able to mandate that PennDOT install a sound barrier according to federal regulations.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. MRTSA - Mr. Montz**

Mr. Montz had nothing to report at this time.

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

Mr. Novak had nothing to report at this time.

**C. Library - Mr. Sampogna**

Mr. Sampogna said the Library Board met on June 20th and discussed some recently cancelled events and why they had been cancelled. The library has started an ESL (English As A Second Language) class for six weeks. Upcoming library events include Bubble Day with the Carnegie Science Center, Tail-Waggin' Reads, a magic show, and a slime workshop. The last day to pick up packets for the Summer Reading Challenge is July 22nd.

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

**A. CONNECT**

Mr. Sampogna said that CONNECT had met on June 15th and the various municipalities in attendance shared questions and answers.

B. Mr. Sampogna said he attended a meeting at the County Executive's Office along with the Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh, other CONNECT representatives, and the Dean of Public & International Affairs at Pitt. They discussed the future of CONNECT and hoped to retain its association with the University of Pittsburgh.

C. Mr. Lorenzini asked about the possibility of tying the library in with the Green Tree Historical Society. Mr. Sampogna said there has been some discussion about this possibility.

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

In the absence of Mr. Molinaro there was no report this evening.

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

A. Mr. Montz said the library has a new Assistant Librarian named Emily Bryan-Reeder. Ms. Bryan-Reeder started on July 5th and comes from the Wilksburg Library system. She has a Master's degree in Library Science and was Wilksburg's children's librarian.

B. Mr. Montz reported that a new full-time Public Works employee has been hired named Rob Patek. Mr. Patek is a resident of the borough.

**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