

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 2, 2021**

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

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, August 2, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sycamore Room of the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. Mr. Sampogna stated that the meeting was being recorded. Mr. Sampogna said that Council had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting regarding land usage. He noted that the Council meeting is now also being livestreamed, but it is not a two-way live stream. Those wishing to address Council during the Hearing of the Citizens must be in attendance in Council Chambers.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

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  
Colin Cleary, Chief of Police  
Deborah N. Gawryla, Stenographer

**Absent:**

Mayor Edward Schenck

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**July 12, 2021**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lorenzini, to approve the July 12, 2021 Council meeting as presented.**

**Motion carried, 4-0-3, with abstentions by Mr. Lindsey, Mr. Rea, and Mr. Tintori since they had not attended this meeting.**

**HEARING OF THE CITIZENS**

**Robert McWilliams, 109 E. Manilla Ave.**

Mr. McWilliams stated that the handicapped curbcut ramp at Mansfield and Greentree Road is in disrepair. The bricks in that area are broken with holes in the ramp. Ms. Miller said that the Borough Engineer is aware of the issue and is working on having it repaired soon. Mr. McWilliams said there is also a spot of disrepair near the firehouse apron as well.

**COMMUNITY PRIDE PRESENTATION**

**Resolution #1284 - Honoring Donald R. Gaupp for his 25 years of service as a Green Tree Borough Volunteer Fire Fighter.**

Mr. Lindsey said he had asked the Borough Manager to place this resolution on the agenda. When a Green Tree Volunteer Fire Fighter achieves 25 years of service he or she becomes a life member of the department and is honored at the Firemen's Banquet. There was no banquet this year because of the pandemic, but Mr. Lindsey wanted to make sure that Mr. Gaupp was honored for his 25 years of service.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, to adopt Resolution #1284, recognizing Donald R. Gaupp for his 25 years of service as a Green Tree Borough Volunteer Fire Fighter.**

Mr. Lindsey read Resolution #1284 as follows:

"Whereas, as of 2020, Donald R. Gaupp, has served 25 years as a Green Tree Borough Volunteer Fire Fighter, and

Whereas, in June 1995 Don joined the Department and has moved up in the ranks during his 26 years of service, and

Whereas, Don served as Lieutenant from 2007 to 2013, and

Whereas, Don served as Assistant Chief from 2014 to 2015; and

Whereas, Don served as Fire Chief from 2016 to present, and

Whereas, for 26 years Don has sought education and training opportunities for himself and those he leads to benefit his individual knowledge and effectively teach those he has led and served the citizens of the Borough of Green Tree, and

Whereas, the Borough of Green Tree Council wishes to express our sincere appreciation to Donald R. Gaupp for his loyalty to the Green Tree Borough Volunteer Fire Department and to the citizens of Green Tree Borough.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that Green Tree Borough Council and Mayor commemorate and congratulate Donald R. Gaupp for the dedicated and devoted services he has performed in our community."

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Mr. Lindsey</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Rea</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. Tintori</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Sampogna</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Motion carried unanimously.**

The audience applauded.

**MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck**

In the Mayor's absence, there was no report this evening.

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

- A.** Mr. Sampogna thanked the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company for the excellent food and hospitality at their annual picnic this past Saturday.
- B.** Mr. Sampogna attended the ALCOSAN Advisory Committee meeting where Ms. Karen Fantoni, Director of Finance and Administration, provided an overview on how ALCOSAN rates are determined. The full ALCOSAN Board will be presented with a proposal on multi-year rate increases. In 2021, the average ALCOSAN customer pays approximately \$42 for ALCOSAN services and ALCOSAN's debt service is currently 36% of their budget.

Due to budget constraints, the GROW Grant program will be discontinued after 2022. Mr. Sampogna suggested that ALCOSAN seek other avenues of funding in order to keep the GROW Grant program operational.

- C. Mr. Sampogna attended a CONNECT Executive Committee meeting where Dean Carissa Slotterback, Dean of Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, spoke about the importance of CONNECT with regard to the work at her school. She expressed support for continuing the partnership between CONNECT and the university. Pitt's Associate Vice Chancellor discussed how Pitt's community-based research can assist CONNECT in various areas. Mr. Sampogna outlined some programs CONNECT and Pitt are working on together.
- D. CONNECT's meeting of Infrastructure and Utilities Working Group have a draft regional climate action plan, which presents a number of opportunities for action by CONNECT member communities. The top four goals of the plan are:
  - 1) Reduce energy use in local governments and communities by 30% by 2030.
  - 2) Replace current energy resources with renewables.
  - 3) Bolster resilience through land, water, and materials management.
  - 4) Motivate cleaner modes of transportation by residents and fleets.

Mr. Sampogna said he would be working with borough administration to determine what steps Green Tree has taken since 2018 towards achieving these goals.

- E. Mr. Sampogna said he attended PennDOT's presentation for elected officials regarding the future modifications to the Parkway West/Banksville Road interchange. There are approximately 100,000 vehicles that travel this section of the Parkway each day and the crash rates have exceeded the statewide average for similar types of roads. Preliminary design includes adding a lane at I-376 inbound just past the Parkway Center on-ramp that would be used for all traffic heading towards Route 51. About halfway down to the tunnels it will feed a flyover bridge that will cross over Banksville Road and connect to Route 51. This will eliminate the weaving of traffic at the bottom of the hill.

Mr. Sampogna reported that a fourth lane would be added outbound between the current West End on-ramp and the Parkway Center Drive exit. The final designs for these projects are expected to be awarded this year with construction contracts awarded in 2023 or 2024. It is anticipated that the project would be completed in 2025 or 2026.

Mr. Sampogna said that PennDOT has posted portions of the presentation online and a link to this presentation will be available on the borough's website shortly.

**REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

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

- 1. **Resolution #1285 - Recognizing the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company as a Civic and Service Association as defined in the Pennsylvania Local Option Small Games of Chance Act.**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adopt Resolution #1285 by title only.**

**Roll Call Vote**

**Mr. Panza                      Yes**

**Mr. Novak                      Yes**

Mr. Tintori	Yes
Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Lorenzini	Yes
Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Sampogna	Yes

**Motion carried unanimously.**

2. Mr. Panza said that there would be an Octoberfest in 2022. There is still one outstanding, rolled-over contract with a band from 2020 to 2021. Ms. Miller said she would contact the band to see if the contract could be rolled over again until 2022 Octoberfest. If not, they would most likely have them play as a stand-alone Concert in the Park in September.

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

**1. Contract Award - Wireless Facilities Management Services**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to authorize the Borough Manager to retain the services of the Cohen Law Group for the purpose of developing an ordinance to amend the Borough's wireless facilities ordinance in accordance with state and federal regulations.**

Mr. Lorenzini said that with ongoing changes and advances in wireless communications, it was recommended that borough ordinances be updated. The Cohen Law Group specializes in these issues and the borough used them in developing the previous wireless ordinance in 2015. Mr. Sampogna said the changes primarily deal with small cell facilities. Discussion continued regarding the details of the expenditure.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

2. When asked, Mr. Lorenzini said that the next Zoning Hearing Board meeting would be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 2.

**C. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey**

**1. Ordinance #1846 - Adoption of Green Tree Borough Police Department Policy 424, Body-Worn Cameras.**

Mr. Lindsey said that there has been ongoing work to create a body-worn camera policy for the Green Tree Police Department. Most of the policy was written prior to the pandemic, but was put on hold at that time because of budget considerations. The issue was addressed again this year and approval of the policy is time-sensitive due to the application requirements of a grant the department is seeking towards the purchase of the cameras that would cover 50% of the purchase.

He thanked the Public Safety Committee, the Chief of Police, the Borough Solicitor and the police union for working on this policy and getting it to completion.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, to pass Ordinance #1846 adopting Policy 424 entitled Body-Worn Cameras as part of the Police Manual of the Green Tree Borough Police Department.**

Mr. Lorenzini asked when the cameras would be purchased. Ms. Miller replied that the grant is technically approved, but part of the grant process required requires the approval of the policy to be completed.

**Roll Call Vote**

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

**Motion carried unanimously.**

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

**1. Contract Award - 2021 Paving Program**

Mr. Novak said that School Street and McKenna would be paved this year.

**Motion:**

**Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to authorize the Borough Manager to execute a contract with Mele & Mele & Sons, Inc., in the amount of \$271,170 for the 2021 paving program in accordance with the Borough Engineer's correspondence, dated July 23, 2021.**

Mr. Sampogna commented that there had been several bidders, but at least one bidder was disqualified because the bidder had failed to complete some paperwork properly.

Mr. Lorenzini asked about the possibility of getting more funds to pave additional streets. Ms. Miller replied that this contract award would complete the paving for 2021. The intention is to look at the budget taking into consideration possible shortfalls due to the pandemic along with assessment appeals before considering additional paving in the budget for 2022. Ms. Miller described the details of the repair of the handicapped curbcut that would be completed soon. Mr. Lindsey said that paving costs are currently quite inflated and it is hoped that by next year paving costs would be somewhat better and the borough would be able to get more paving completed for a lower cost. Discussion continued regarding next year's paving budget.

Mr. Rea asked if this is Mele & Mele & Sons, Inc. first road-paving project. Mr. Sampogna replied that this is the first time Green Tree has used them, but they have done paving for the school district and other municipalities. Paving would be done according to the Borough Engineer's specifications.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

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

1. Mr. Rea reported that the Aiken property deal has been completed and the borough is the owner of the Aiken baseball fields. He thanked everyone who was involved in getting the deal completed.
2. Mr. Rea said the committee was unable to meet with the pool architects due to a family emergency, so the meeting was rescheduled for next Tuesday. At this time, it appears that

initial repairs would be done to the baby pool starting this fall. Repairs to the main pool would be being delayed until the following year.

3. Mr. Rea said that Council would be considering the approval of DCED's Governor's Center for Local Government Services to help do an assessment of borough operations, from administration to public works to police management to finances. The assessment is supposed to provide peer review regarding technical assistance to help build capacity and increase efficiencies in the various departments. Council would have to approve a letter of intent to be sent to DCED to begin the process.
4. Mr. Rea thanked the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company for their recent picnic.

**F. 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 July 2021 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$56,564.12, Farmers Market totaling \$532.00, and Payroll Account totaling \$247,890.75.**

Mr. Lorenzini asked about the cost of a Sweeper Rental for \$2800 to A&E Equipment Company. Mr. Sampogna said the Sweeper Rental was for the rental of a street sweeper. Mr. Lorenzini asked about a Fire Equipment Rental charge of \$9700 for Truck #6. Fire Chief Gaupp replied that it was for testing of the aerial and pumper inspections and there were no problems.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the August 2021 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$474,349.10, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$619.32, and Fire Department Apparatus totaling \$545.00. The General Fund amount includes an ALCOSAN invoice for \$385,345.40.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Ordinance #1847 - Setting the Sanitary Sewer User Fee/Surcharge Fees.**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to pass Ordinance #1847 amending Ordinance #1780 by setting the Borough of Green Tree's Sanitary Sewer User fee/surcharge at \$5.50 per 1,000 gallons of water used, effective July 1, 2021, for water usage on and after July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.**

Mr. Lorenzini asked why this fee is only being set for six months. Mr. Sampogna said this is the borough's surcharge fee. Ms. Miller said she anticipates another 50-cent surcharge increase in 2022 and she would bring it before Council in November for a vote. It had been decided that there would be incremental increases over time instead of one large increase.

Mr. Rea asked how much this increase would impact an average homeowner. Mr. Panza said that an average family of two would use about 6,000 gallons per month. Mr. Sampogna said that the current surcharge is \$5 per 1,000 gallons and this would increase by cost by 50 cents per 1,000 gallons. Discussion continued regarding water surcharges.

**Roll Call Vote**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Ordinance #1848 - Setting the hourly rates and benefits for the Special School Police.**

**Motion:**

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to pass Ordinance #1848, setting the hourly rates and benefits to be paid to the Special School Police, effective August 1, 2021.

**Roll Call Vote**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Resolution #1286 - Authorizing Judith Miller to act on behalf of the Borough in regards to the Green Tree Police Pension Fund.**

Mr. Tintori said that there had been a meeting of the Police Pension Board to conduct an annual review of the pension and several changes were made.

**Motion:**

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adopt Resolution #1286, amending Resolution #1061 by authorizing Borough Manager Judith Miller to act on behalf of the Borough of Green Tree in regard to the Borough of Green Tree Police Pension Fund and the Associated Agreements by and between the Borough of Green Tree and Parker/Hunter, a division of Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC and PNC Bank, NA (formerly Pittsburgh National Bank).

**Roll Call Vote**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

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

Mr. Novak had nothing to report at this time.

**B. Library - Mr. Sampogna**

1. Mr. Sampogna said the library would be once again holding the annual Love Your Library campaign during the month of September with the support of the Buncher Foundation.
2. Mr. Sampogna said that a library card is no longer required to use the library's computers. There may still be a time limit for computer usage depending upon the number of people using the computers.
3. Mr. Sampogna said the library's physical circulation was 80% of the same month in 2019, which indicates that library usage is slowly returning to normal. The use of e-resources, such as books, videos, periodicals, etc., was up by 73% over June 2019, which indicates that the pandemic has resulted in changes in some library patrons' reading habits from paper to digital.
4. The new bookkeeping system is being transitioned to the new ACLA-managed system during August.
5. Mr. Sampogna stated that the library would be holding a Used Book Sale from October 7 to 11, 2021. A final book donation day will be held on Saturday, August 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Ms. Diersen**

Ms. Diersen had nothing to report at this time.

**MANAGER'S REPORT - Ms. Miller**

- A. Ms. Miller said that the school tax bills have been sent out. The discount due date is September 14, 2021.
- B. Ms. Miller said that Green Tree Police Department, Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company, and MRTSA will be sponsoring a local National Night Out tomorrow, August 3 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. for residents to get to know their local first responders.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:**

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

**Motion carried unanimously.**

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Mark Sampogna, President

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Judy Miller, Borough Manager