

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2018**

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

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, September 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sampogna asked residents to remember the tragic events that took place in our country on September 11, 2001 as well as the first responders who sacrificed so much on that day.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

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:**

Edward Schenck, Mayor  
David Rea

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**August 6, 2018**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve the August 6, 2018 Council minutes as presented.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**August 20, 2018**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve the August 20, 2018 Council minutes as presented.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**HEARING OF THE CITIZENS**

**Bob Flowers, 98 Ringold Avenue**

Mr. Flowers said that the borough had done a great job with the traffic situation in the area near his home during the recent construction and closure of Poplar Street. The police presence helped and the re-routed traffic through his neighborhood was reduced.

**Joe Tortorea, 20 Clearview**

Mr. Tortorea said he was the property owner of 20 Clearview. It is one of about seven or eight properties on Clearview that sustained a massive landslide in the backyard. Mr. Tortorea said he met with the Borough Engineer several weeks ago and he, along with the other residents that are impacted, are requesting assistance from the borough to address the hillside slides. He hoped that a plan could be reached that would help all of the properties affected by this landslide. He suggested that a storm sewer might need to be installed between Terrace and Clearview to remove

all of the rainwater coming off the hillside. Mr. Tortorea said he had spoken to an engineer that had reviewed the issue several years ago who told him that the slide could not be fixed on only one property, but would need to be a joint effort.

Mr. Sampogna said he had not seen a report from the Borough Engineer. Mr. Tortorea said he had received a citation indicating that he had not fixed the most recent slide. Mr. Tortorea said he had gone to court regarding the citation and he said that the judge felt that he should not have been cited. He said the landslide was not done maliciously and did not occur because of a failure of action on anyone's part. It is a rotational slide or slump that occurred as a result of a tremendous amount of rain and usually occurs after the winter months and a drain needs to be as the existing sanitary sewer line to stop the slides from occurring.

When asked, Mr. Tortorea said it impacts approximately seven or eight homes on both Clearview and Terrace. He said he would be having an engineer put together a cost analysis of the project.

**Amy Cesario, 1134 Greentree Road**

Mrs. Cesario asked what the borough was doing regarding curbside recycling. Mr. Sampogna said that Mr. Novak would be giving a report on borough curbside recycling later in the meeting.

**Lisa Bender, 1055 Greenlawn Drive**

Ms. Bender asked about the status of the borough's solar ordinance and when the revised version of the ordinance would be in effect. She said she was trying to install solar panels on her home, but learned she would have to pay an extra fee to have solar panels installed on both sides of her roof. She would like to see the solar ordinance approved soon to avoid the extra fee.

Mr. Montz said that Council members generally do not respond to residents' questions during Hearing of the Citizens. Mr. Montz said he would be glad to talk to her later about the issue.

**Shannon Barron, 8 Pocono Drive**

Mrs. Barron thanked the borough and Council for extending the pool season by a few days because of the heat wave. It was great responsive work and that is what she seeks in borough leadership. However, Mrs. Barron felt there has been a downhill decline in the borough's pool services over the past few years. She said that this past summer the pool was closed a few times when the weather forecast predicted that it might rain or it only rained for a short period of time and then was hot and humid the rest of the day when the pool could have been open. Mrs. Barron said that it is important to have a complete team of pool managers, lifeguards, and concession stand workers who work hard and are responsive to the neighborhood's needs.

**Aldo Colautti, 143 Sheldon Avenue**

Mr. Colautti was concerned about the November closure of the Poplar Street PNC Bank. He had spoken to Mr. Sampogna and left a message for Mayor Schenck. He said it could have an impact on the business and residential community of Green Tree.

Mr. Colautti said the PNC bank closure was done at a bad time with the recent fire at the nearby First Commonwealth Bank and he hoped that PNC would consider postponing this closure until next year.

**Dan Hosko, 9 Terrace Drive**

Mr. Hosko said he lives in one of the homes that have been affected by the landslide mentioned earlier. He asked Council to consider expediting this issue. He said his home was on the receiving end of the landslide and it is impacting the Terrace homes dramatically. The residents have shown

photos to the Borough Engineer comparing the hillside over the past five or six years and a definite difference is visible. He hoped that this problem could be addressed soon before additional slides occur.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck**

In the absence of Mayor Schenck, there was no report this evening.

### **REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

#### **A. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey**

##### **1. GTVFC Sportsmen's Bash**

Mr. Lindsey said the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company held its annual Sportsmen's Bash fundraiser, in conjunction with the Dormont Volunteer Fire Company, on Saturday. It was another successful event. He thanked the Borough Manager and Council members who had supported the event. He noted that Chief Cleary also attended to provide an additional layer of security.

2. Mr. Lindsey said the Borough is in the process of negotiating a new police contract with the union. The talks are ongoing and appear to be headed in the right direction.

#### **B. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Mr. Novak**

##### **1. Authorize the proper officers to execute contract for emergency repairs to the Trumbull Drive Bridge.**

###### **Motion:**

**Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to authorize the proper officers to execute the contract for emergency repairs to the Trumbull Drive Bridge.**

Mr. Montz stated that the Borough Engineer has declared this repair an emergency. There is a crack in the floor beam. There is a limited amount of time to make this repair or weight limits will be imposed on the bridge. Without repair, the businesses along Trumbull Drive would be impacted since the bridge is the only ingress and egress to Trumbull Drive. Even with weight limits, the bridge could become unsafe and a hazard.

Mr. Sampogna said that the borough had received a quote from Thornberry, Inc. to perform the work at a lump sum cost of \$40,000, with the right to make modifications depending upon any other issues they might find once work commences.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

##### **2. Curbside Recycling**

Mr. Novak said that the Streets Committee of Council met last week and discussed the types of containers that would be provided for the residents. A new requirement begins on January 1, 2019 that will not allow glass recycling and only #1 and #2 plastics will be accepted for recycling. Paper and cardboard recycling will still be accepted. These recycling changes will require reeducating people in their recycling habits. The committee is seeking to apply for a grant to assist with the cost.

Mr. Lindsey said the borough had budgeted for curbside recycling this year and hoped to implement it soon. However, what can be recycled will be changing.

Mr. Montz stated that as of January 1, 2019, no glass would be accepted for recycling. Only #1 and #2 plastics will be accepted. No plastic bags will be allowed into the mix and if

they are used those recyclables will be considered to be contaminated load and will not be accepted. Newspaper and cardboard will be accepted, but no shredded paper will be accepted. Mr. Montz said that no matter how the borough implements curbside recycling, there will need to be a need to educate the residents on the new rules of what will and will not be accepted. However, the goal is to move forward with curbside recycling.

Mr. Montz said the specs for curbside recycling still need to be completed, along with a decision regarding what type of container will be provided to the residents. Whether a wheeled can would be provided to the residents might depend upon whether a grant is received and the amount of the grant. Discussion continued regarding curbside recycling requirements.

**3. Storm Sewer Update**

Mr. Novak said the Poplar Street storm sewer project should take approximately two weeks once work begins. Mr. Montz said work should begin on Monday, September 17. There should be no road closure, but if the workers find that a closure is necessary it will be done at night.

4. Mr. Novak said that the Roadbotics company will be scanning Green Tree's streets and provide a report on the condition of the roads. The road report will be put into a GIS file. Mr. Tintori noted that Roadbotics is a local Pittsburgh company whose business has been growing. It cuts down the expense of individuals walking streets that need to be repaved to determine those streets in greatest need of repair by using timesaving software.

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

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

**D. 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 August 2018 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$81,985.41, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$862.69, Capital Projects totaling \$10,044.45, Farmers Market totaling \$813.50, and Payroll Account totaling \$245,731.96.

Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Motion:**

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the September 2018 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$196,640.21, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$4,175.00, and Capital Projects totaling \$3,895.51.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Mr. Panza said he would like to meet with Mrs. Barron to discuss the pool issues she had mentioned earlier.
2. Mr. Panza reminded those present that Green Tree's Octoberfest would be held this coming weekend. The Octoberfest Committee is watching the weather reports that currently indicate that rain from Hurricane Florence could be in the area this weekend. The

committee will be meeting on Thursday and will look at the forecast at that time to make a determination about what to do if it is predicted to rain all weekend.

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

1. Mr. Lorenzini said there are no Zoning Hearing Board meetings scheduled during September at this time. Addressing Ms. Bender's comments during the Hearing of the Citizens, Mr. Lorenzini said that the passage of the proposed solar ordinance would not come before Council until November. He said that if that did not work with Ms. Bender's plans for the installation of solar panels, she should consider applying for a variance with the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mr. Montz said changes to the borough's zoning ordinances require review by the Allegheny County Planning Commission where they have 45 days to review and comment on it before Council can formally approve the zoning change by ordinance. The revised solar ordinance has been sent to the County Planning Commission with their deadline being sometime in mid-October.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. MRTSA - Mr. Montz**

- (1) Mr. Montz reported that MRTSA is in the midst of contract talks with the paramedics.
- (2) Two new MRTSA ambulances should be delivered within the next several months.

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

Mr. Novak said the COG would be meeting on Thursday to review and post information on the hiring of a COG Executive Director and an office worker.

**C. Library - Mr. Sampogna**

- (1) Mr. Sampogna said the Library Board met on August 21 and discussed proposals for a new website host and a new website support company. The Library Board voted to contract with a company called Imagebox for website support and with Pair Networks for website hosting. However, some questions were raised about Pair Networks, so additional discussion will take place at the next Library Board meeting. The library will be working with Imagebox to begin the migration of the current website to the new web host.
- (2) September is Love Your Library month. Love Your Library is a fundraiser for all Carnegie and ACLA Libraries. All monetary donations made during September will be matched by a certain percentage by the Jack Buncher Foundation.
- (3) Upcoming library events include the library's Oktoberfest booth, a program on how to prepare for an emergency with the Pittsburgh Department of Public Safety, Pet Care 101 for Kids conducted by Humane Animal Rescue, Stuffed Animal Sleepover, and the Friends of the Library's Used Book Sale. The used book sale will be held from October 4-7. The book sale's Preview Night is October 4th with a \$5 entrance fee per person. All other book sale dates have free admission.

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

- A. Mr. Sampogna directed the Finance Committee of Council to discuss what alternatives the borough might be willing to take with the closure of the Green Tree PNC Bank branch. Mr. Sampogna said that some PNC patrons had not been notified of this November closure.

Mr. Montz said that the borough itself had not received any type of notification from PNC either. Discussion continued regarding the November closure of the Green Tree PNC Bank branch.

- B.** Mr. Sampogna said he had received a complaint from a resident regarding tractor-trailers blocking Greentree Road when they back in to make deliveries to the new beer store. Mr. Sampogna said that he and Mr. Montz would investigate this issue further.
- C.** Mr. Sampogna stated that CONNECT did not have an organizational meeting in August, but there are several meetings scheduled during September.
- D.** Mr. Sampogna reported on the following borough events:
  - Green Tree Farmers Market continues every Thursday through October.
  - Summer Concert Series concluded on August 23. He thanked Recreation Coordinator Jen Mathie for putting together these concerts. The Summer Concert Series will be continued next year.
- E.** Mr. Sampogna said that the borough never wants to close the swimming pool when it does not need to be closed. There is no intent to close the pool to keep residents away and it should be utilized as much as possible.

**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 received a Green Light Go grant to replace the three-lane signals along Greentree Road. PennDOT has approved the installation of white lane signals that would contrast with the red and green traffic signals. Mr. Montz hoped the new lane signals could be installed next spring.
- B.** Mr. Montz said the borough previously sent its used vehicles to auction. There is a new online auction service called MuniBid that sells municipal equipment. It does not cost the municipalities to post items for bid, but the buyer pays a fee. The borough has a number of items to sell and is going to try this service and see how well it works.
- C.** Mr. Montz said that a number of areas in Green Tree were flooded after the heavy rains in June that had never flooded before. One of the areas was Elmhurst that also experienced flooding of the sanitary sewer. After a review, the borough still cannot figure out what caused this back up. Monitors have been placed in the system in this area and were in place during last weekend's rains. He noted that it is impossible to design a system that can handle six inches of rain in an hour and that is what occurred in June and there will still be some storms that create flooding conditions.

Mr. Montz said that there was also flooding on Poplar Street where it has never happened before and a manhole cover was blown off. However, the improvements being made to the sewer system on Poplar Street should alleviate or stop these types of incidents from happening in this area.

- D.** Mr. Montz said he would discuss the details of the Clearview/Terrace landslide with the Borough Solicitor.
- E.** Mr. Lindsey asked how residents could sign up for Green Tree's Reverse 911 system and if it would be able to call cell phones or send text messages to people if they signed up for those

services. Some people no longer have home landlines and use their cell phones as their primary method of receiving calls or messages. Mr. Montz said those services are available through Green Tree's Reverse 911 system. Discussion continued regarding the Reverse 911 system.

**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

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