

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2017**

Call to Order / Silence for Meditation / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, September 11, 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.

Mr. Sampogna asked those present to reflect upon the tragedy of 9-11 that occurred 16 years ago, and remember the first responders as well as the innocent victims of terrorism that day.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

W. David Montz, Borough Manager
Harry Faulk, Assistant Borough Manager
Colin Cleary, Chief of Police
Deborah N. Gawryla, Stenographer

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

August 7, 2017

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to approve the August 7, 2017 minutes as presented.

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

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Don Folkmire, 1006 Avacoll Drive

Mr. Folkmire thanked Council for implementing the new turning restrictions at Avacoll. He thanked the Chief, too. He said his neighbors feel that it has made a difference in the traffic on Avacoll.

William Opperman, 40 Robinhood Road

Mr. Opperman said that he has spoken with Mr. Montz several times about the tarp that was installed on the fence at Hale Park blocking the view between his home and the basketball courts. He said that many of the neighbors along Robinhood did not know that it was going to be installed. He asked why the residents were not asked about the installation of the tarp. Mr. Opperman said that he had purchased his home on Robinhood Road specifically for the reason that he loves the park and loves being able to see his children and others over there.

Mr. Opperman said that it appeared was installed because of one neighbor who repeatedly complained about the park noise. He said that now he and his wife cannot see the park at all from their home and asked that at least half of the tarp be removed near his home so he and his family can enjoy the park once again.

Mr. Opperman said he has no complaints about the various sports that take place in the park, from soccer to basketball and any of the resulting noise. He suggested that Council consider removing a portion of the tarp at his home, but could leave up the tarp in the area of the resident's home that had complained about the park.

Mr. Opperman said that he and his wife have lived in their home on Robinhood for 11 years and have never had a problem with the noise, games, or language. He has small children and they play at the park and have never had an issue either.

Mr. Rea said that he had been in touch with Mr. Opperman. The Public Property Committee is taking his request under advisement. The borough will be conducting some sound testing and look into the issue further. They should have a response soon.

Jerry Bigley, 19 Pocono Drive

Mr. Bigley said he was surprised when Ordinance #1777 for the left hand turn prohibition onto Carnahan was passed. None of the residents on Pocono had been contacted about these changes. Mr. Bigley said the change is an inconvenience and a safety hazard. He has lived in that area for 20 years and has never seen an afternoon traffic issue. He said he understands the reason for the Avacoll turning prohibition during the morning hours, but did not see a problem during the afternoon hours. He asked about the specific data that had driven Council to make this type of decision. Mr. Montz said he did not have the data with him, but would be glad to contact Mr. Bigley tomorrow with that information.

Mr. Bigley said it is a safety concern to have to exit the area by making a left hand turn from Pocono onto Greentree Road between 3:00 and 7:00. There are approximately 150 homes on Daleland, Avacoll, Oakdale, and Pocono with only two ways to leave that area via either Avacoll or Greentree Road. Council has now shut down one of those exits for these homes by not allowing turns from Avacoll onto Carnahan.

Phoebe DiBello, 32 Pocono

Ms. DiBello said she comes home from work on Carnahan. She has been trying to be very good about following the new rules, but forgot on Friday and got pulled over. She is not pleased with the turning prohibition and wanted to know why it was enacted. She asked if she could also be informed about the data and information that prompted Council to make this change.

Ms. DiBello said that change affects residents in the area from conveniently going places between 3:00 and 7:00. Exiting onto Greentree Road from Pocono during that time is difficult.

Sarah Kunsak, 43 Pocono

Ms. Kunsak asked to be contacted with the data and information that had prompted the decision to prohibit left hand turns from Avacoll onto Carnahan. She said that there is no way a driver can turn left onto Greentree Road during those hours. She wondered if residents in that area could get some sort of sticker for their vehicles that would allow them to use Avacoll for turning, or if Council would install a traffic light at Greentree Road and Pocono. She said that she recently sat on Pocono for about 20 minutes trying to make a left hand turn onto Greentree Road.

Mr. Sampogna said that the borough cannot exempt certain residents from the traffic laws with special stickers. It is not enforceable. Ms. Kunsak said it was aggravating to sit at Pocono for 20 minutes to make a left hand turn onto Greentree Road to go to Eat 'N Park on Banksville.

Mr. Montz said that there had been an extensive study done. Ms. Kunsak she remembered when the borough tried to turn Avacoll into a dead end after a study, which did not work out. Ms. Kunsak said it is a safety hazard to force residents to have to make a left onto Greentree Road between 3:00 and 7:00 to get out of the area. Mr. Sampogna stated that residents are permitted to make a right hand turn onto Carnahan during that time periods. Ms. Kunsak said she had been trying to get to Eat 'N Park on Banksville Road and needed to make a left onto Greentree Road to get there.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck

- A. Mayor Schenck said he had recently attended two borough events: the Green Tree Senior Citizens Picnic and the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company's Sportsman's Bash. Both were very nice events.
- B. Mayor Schenck noted that the Green Tree American Legion Post #823 would be holding a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on October 1 from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m.

REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE - Mr. Tintori

1. Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded Mr. Lindsey, to ratify the actions of the Borough Manager in paying the August 2017 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$69,934.61, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$3,906.48, and Payroll Account totaling \$247,483.27.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the September 2017 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$549,807.69, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$655.69, and Capital Projects Fund totaling \$12,120.50.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Mr. Novak

1. Resolution #1245

Authorize Borough Manager as responsible official to execute required MS4 documents.

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adopt Resolution #1245 by title only.

Mr. Montz read Resolution #1245 by title only.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Novak	Yes
Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Lorenzini	Yes

Mr. Panza	Yes
Mr. Tintori	Yes
Mr. Sampogna	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Montz stated that MS4 stands for the minimum storm sewer requirements that the borough must meet under some new state and federal laws. It had been discussed at the last Council meeting.

2. Resolution #1246

Adopting the Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP) for the MS4 Permit

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to adopt Resolution #1246 by title only.

Mr. Montz said that the Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP) was presented to Council at the August Council meeting. Under the requirements of state law, the borough has advertised the plan and it has been publicly available for review for a 30-day period. The borough received no comments on the proposed PRP. The borough has a five-year period to comply with the regulations set forth. The expense in implementing the PRP over a five-year period is estimated to be approximately \$1 million. The initial plan is to create two sedimentation ponds in the Green Tree Park area and to restore the stream banks of Whiskey Run Creek for a significant distance. The improvements must be completed within the five-year period and meet state and federal requirements, but there is no requirement for the borough to do anything immediately.

Mr. Montz stated that he has not yet made a recommendation to Council as to how the borough would cover the cost of implementing the proposed improvements. It is an unfunded mandate. Mr. Montz noted that Green Tree is not the only community in the area must implement improvements to reduce pollution in the storm water. Some neighboring communities have decided to enact a storm water fee. There are a few ways that Green Tree's PRP could be funded and Mr. Montz said he would be making a recommendation to Council on those various ways sometime during the next several months. Discussion continued regarding possible scheduling of the work to be done, the details of the projects, and different ways to fund these projects.

Mr. Montz read Resolution #1246 by title only.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. PUBLIC PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT - Mr. Rea**1. Authorize Borough Manager to purchase one (1) Administrative Vehicle from COSTARS 13-010.**

Mr. Montz asked if Mr. Rea would consider tabling this item until another meeting since he has not received all of the information needed regarding this purchase. Mr. Rea said that this item would be tabled at this time.

2. Nature Center

Mr. Rea reported that there had been a meeting with the Penn State Agricultural Extension regarding the Nature Center. They confirmed that a group of oak trees in the Nature Center have a fungus called oak wilt. There are approximately 20 trees that have been affected by this fungus and the trees cannot be saved. It is an extensive process to control oak wilt and the committee is looking at various options, such as trenching around the area that has been affected to mitigate the spread of the fungus.

Mr. Montz said that a contractor will be coming in this week to look at the trenching area and he will be talking to the company that will be logging the trees. He hoped to be able to provide an update on this by next week.

3. Mr. Montz stated that the construction of a wall around Greentree Cemetery should be done within the next month.**D. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza****1. Mr. Panza said that Oktoberfest would be held this coming weekend, September 16-17. The Oktoberfest Committee will be meeting tomorrow. He asked for volunteers to help sell tickets for the rides during Oktoberfest.****2. Mr. Panza asked if the borough could set up a system to accept credit cards. Many of the Oktoberfest vendors have asked if they can issue payment via a credit card and they are unable to do so with the borough.**

Mr. Panza said that residents are now able to pay their sewage bill online with a credit or debit card. Mr. Montz stated that there is a link on the borough's website to allow credit card payments and it was also advertised in the most recent newsletter.

3. Mr. Panza asked about the status of the property behind Aiken School. Mr. Montz said he would be preparing some information for Council about the status of the possible purchase of this property and it would have to be discussed at an Executive Session.**E. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey****1. Authorize Borough Manager to purchase two (2) police vehicles through COSTARS 13-010.**

Mr. Lindsey said two police vehicles are budgeted to be purchased and they would replace two vehicles currently in use. One vehicle is an SUV and the other is a patrol car. Both of the vehicles that are in use will be reaching their expected maximum mileage. It is hoped that these vehicles could be put into service by the beginning of next year.

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to purchase two (2) police vehicles through COSTARS 13-010. One vehicle is a Ford Taurus at a cost of \$25,980. The other vehicle is a Ford Explorer SUV at a cost of \$28,390.

Mayor Schenck said that both vehicles in service do need to be replaced, but he asked that the Chief be consulted regarding his recommendations on these vehicles.

Discussion took place regarding the budgeting for these vehicles. Mr. Montz said that the purchase of each vehicle came under a different fund in the budget and sufficient funds are available for the purchase of both vehicles. Mr. Lorenzini asked why the purchase of a Ford Explorer SUV was needed instead of a regular vehicle and suggested that two Ford Tauruses be purchased instead. Mr. Montz said that both the proposed Explorer SUV and the Taurus are built on the same chassis, but the SUV has more interior room. Mr. Lorenzini asked for other reasons to purchase an SUV rather than a regular vehicle. Mr. Montz said that primary reason for the SUV is the interior room size.

Mayor Schenck asked if the Public Safety Committee could meet with the Chief to discuss these issues. Mr. Montz said that the vehicles need to be purchased tonight in order to receive them by the end of the year. Mr. Lorenzini said he would prefer the purchase of two Tauruses to cut expenses. Mr. Montz recommended that the borough purchase an SUV and a Taurus.

Mr. Panza asked about the mileage on the two vehicles that were being replaced. Mr. Montz said they were both at approximately 97,000 miles. Mr. Panza felt that an SUV was necessary since SUVs traditionally perform better in the snow and provides more clearance in traveling over snowdrifts if needed. Discussion continued regarding the advantages of an SUV versus a traditional police vehicle.

Mr. Novak seconded the motion.

Mr. Sampogna called for a roll call vote for the purchase of one Ford Explorer SUV and one Ford Taurus for the police department as stated in Mr. Lindsey's motion.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried, 6-1-0, with Mr. Lorenzini voting "No."

2. Mr. Lindsey reported that the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company held another successful Sportsman's Bash last Saturday. He thanked Mr. Montz, the borough staff, and Council, as well as Mayor Schenck and Chief Cleary, who supported this event. He

thanked all the residents and attendees and stated that the annual Sportsman's Bash could not take place without the support of local businesses that provide donations for door prizes. He thanked the fire company's wives and non-GTVFC members who had helped out for this event. The Sportsman's Bash benefits both Green Tree and Dormont Volunteer Fire Companies.

F. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Lorenzini

1. Mr. Lorenzini reported that the Planning Commission met on August 23 to review and recommend to Council the proposed sidewalk grant.
2. Mr. Lorenzini asked to set a meeting date for an overall comprehensive review of the proposed Zoning Ordinance. After a discussion, Council decided that the next Zoning Ordinance Review meeting would be held on Monday, October 30 at 7:30 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. MRTSA - Mr. Montz

Mr. Montz said that at the last MRTSA Board meeting they voted to increase the 2018 subscription rates. A family subscription will cost \$75, and an individual subscription will cost \$47.

MRTSA is working on more detailed information to present to the communities regarding what MRTSA specific operations cost. Although MRTSA appreciates those residents who subscribe, they do lose some money on some of their services. In Green Tree there are 517 households that have subscribed to MRTSA and 142 individuals who are members.

B. Char West COG - Mr. Novak

Mr. Novak had nothing to report at this time.

C. Library - Mr. Sampogna

1. Mr. Sampogna said that new Assistant Librarian, Ms. Emily Bryan-Reeder, presented a comprehensive review of this year's Summer Reading Program, along with some suggestions for improvements next year. The program has been successful, but changes could be made to increase participation.
2. The library's booth at Octoberfest will feature a basketball-shooting contest this year.
3. Mr. Sampogna said that in compliance with ACLA's non-discriminatory use policy, it was decided by the board to change the library's policy of charging different computer class rates for residents versus non-residents.
4. Mr. Sampogna said that there are a number of "Love Your Library" signs throughout the borough. September is "Love Your Library" month and the Jack Buncher Foundation has made a sum of money available to match library donations up to a maximum. He said that those who would like to donate to the library should do so during September in order for the library to receive the matching funding.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna

- A.** Mr. Sampogna said that the Seniors Picnic was a big success. The entire room was filled with people.

- B. Mr. Sampogna said that Green Tree's Summer Concert Series had record attendance at the Jeff Jimerson concert.
- C. The Green Tree Farmers Market continues every Thursday through October.
- D. Mr. Sampogna said he had attended the CONNECT Health Policy Working Group meeting on August 30 where the latest overdose data was reviewed. In 2015-2016 there were 910 overdose deaths in Allegheny County with an updated report being released in several months. He noted that there is also information on opioid resources and overdose prevention information on the Allegheny County website. He detailed some of the facilities and programs available to assist recovering addicts and said there are a number of "three-quarter facilities" popping up housing recovering opioid addicts. He suggested that Council might want to consider adding something to the proposed Zoning Ordinance about these types of facilities.

Mr. Sampogna said that the group had also discussed methods in handling fentanyl for first responders. An informative guide had been distributed and he has forwarded a copy of this guide to the Chief to distribute to the officers, and to Mr. Lindsey to distribute to the volunteer firefighters.

Mr. Sampogna said that Council received information regarding the number of times Narcan has been administered in the borough. From 2016 through the present the Green Tree Police have administered Narcan 17 times and MRTSA has administered it twice. Three of the overdose victims that were revived were Green Tree residents, three were employees of local businesses, and one was visiting a resident. The rest were passing through. Mr. Montz advised residents to be cautious when picking up trash in public places and parks that might contain fentanyl, since fentanyl is absorbed through the skin. The Public Works Department has also been notified of this danger.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Mr. Molinaro

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

MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Montz

- A. Mr. Montz reported that the borough has applied for the Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) from PennDOT for the Poplar Street storm sewer project. The borough anticipates hearing from PennDOT about the HOP in the next several weeks. Mr. Montz anticipated that bids for this project should be received in time for Council to vote on it by the November Council meeting.

Mr. Montz said the proposed work for this sewer project would be best completed during the winter months because there are lower amounts of storm water. PennDOT is planning to repave Poplar Street next year, so the borough wants to have the sewer project completed prior to the repaving and possibly save on some of the restoration costs.

- B. Mr. Montz said the borough has applied for a grant to rehabilitate sidewalks along Greentree Road between Pocono and Orchard and to install a new sidewalk along Mansfield from Holiday to Trumbull. This would be a \$1 million contract with the borough

funding 30% of the project. The borough will receive notification about this grant at the beginning of next year.

Mr. Lorenzini asked which sidewalk project would be done first if the borough only received a partial grant. Mr. Montz replied that it was more likely that installation of a new sidewalk might be considered first.

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

dng