

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 2, 2017**

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

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, October 2, 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 take a moment to remember those who lost their lives in yesterday's Las Vegas tragedy as well as the first responders at that scene.

**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  
Peter Molinaro, Jr., Borough Solicitor  
Harry Faulk, Assistant Borough Manager  
Colin Cleary, Chief of Police  
Deborah N. Gawryla, Stenographer

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**September 11, 2017**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lorenzini, to approve the September 11, 2017 minutes as presented.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**HEARING OF THE CITIZENS**

**James Scheuermann, 121 Longuevue Drive, Mt. Lebanon**

Mr. Scheuermann said he had heard that Council was considering a resolution on gerrymandering and redistricting issues. He said that gerrymandering is a form of voter fraud and it is a way of denying the effect and meaningfulness of citizen participation in the electoral process. Mr. Scheuermann said that gerrymandering is the most pernicious form of voter fraud.

Mr. Scheuermann asked Council to pass a resolution in favor of House Bill 722 and Senate Bill 22 that would enshrine an impartial citizens' commission to draw the lines for both state legislative districts and U.S. congressional districts in Pennsylvania. This would allow independent citizens to draw fair lines so that everyone's vote counts.

**Elaine Kramer, 783 Ella Street, Mt. Lebanon**

Ms. Kramer said she appreciated that Mr. Montz, Mayor Schenck, and Borough Council had taken the time to read the materials that had been prepared for them. She said she agreed with everything that Mr. Scheuermann had just said. She said another reason that Council should consider approving a resolution supporting House Bill 722 and Senate Bill 22 is to prevent the problems of a dysfunctional Harrisburg. Ms. Kramer said she was frustrated with the stalemate in Pennsylvania's state government and felt that nothing was getting done. She felt this

happens because there is no bi-partisanship in Harrisburg, and there is no bi-partisanship because there is gerrymandering.

Local communities must sometimes wait for state budgets to get passed to allow for local roads to be repaired, social services, economic development grants, recreation improvements, regulatory protection, etc. Communities like Green Tree must wait for laws to be passed to give the municipalities clarity on what is expected with local governance and this can impact items such as storm water management with MS4. Ms. Kramer said that Harrisburg's dysfunction makes it difficult for anything to get done in the local communities, which diminishes the citizens' quality of life.

Ms. Kramer asked Council to consider passing a resolution in support of changing how Pennsylvania does its redistricting. Ms. Kramer said she has been registered throughout her life as a Republican, a Democrat, and mostly as an Independent.

**Don Folkmire, 1006 Avacoll Drive**

Mr. Folkmire thanked Council for the turning restrictions that have been implemented on Avacoll Drive. He felt that the changes have made a difference, but vehicles are still making left-hand turns from Avacoll onto Carnahan when police enforcement is not present.

Mr. Montz said that the borough had been counting cars traveling along Avacoll about a week ago and that showed that the volume of vehicles has decreased. Mr. Folkmire thanked Council for implementing the changes.

**MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck**

- A. Mayor Schenck thanked Mr. Scheuermann and Ms. Kramer for presenting their views on gerrymandering. He provided details on the history of gerrymandering.
- B. Mayor Schenck said he would be holding Mayor's Office Hours for the public on Saturday, October 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Chief Cleary will also be in attendance.
- C. Mayor Schenck stated he had attended the recent Public Safety Committee meeting.
- D. Mayor Schenck said he recently took part in a walk for the poor held at Green Tree Park and made a donation.

**REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

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

**1. Three Rivers Wet Weather Meeting**

Mr. Novak reported that he had attended the recent Three Rivers Wet Weather Committee meeting. The regionalization of the sewer lines was discussed with Alcosan. Alcosan plans on taking over 4,000 linear miles of sewer lines by 2020, but the lines must be good condition before Alcosan takes them over.

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

- 1. Mr. Rea said pool improvement construction started several weeks ago. When asked, Mr. Rea said the wall near the swimming pool and the upper deck's concrete slab were being replaced.

2. When asked, Mr. Montz said that the cemetery wall should be completed by the end of October.
3. Mr. Montz said he had no new updates on the Nature Center. Mayor Schenck asked what issue would need to be addressed first at the Nature Center. Mr. Rea said that the trees would need to be addressed before the trails. Mr. Montz said that the borough must find out what it would cost to do trenching of the areas around the diseased trees in the Nature Center. Another contractor will be determining whether the trees can be logged out or some other method should be used.

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

**1. Octoberfest**

Mr. Panza reported that Octoberfest had been a success. He thanked the committee for all of the work they had done and how smoothly the event had been run. He said that the fireworks display was the best in all of the years of Octoberfest.

Mr. Panza stated that the Octoberfest Committee has again asked for the ability for the borough to be able to accept credit cards as payment. This would also help with the various recreation events that take place throughout the year as well.

**D. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey**

Mr. Lindsey had nothing to report at this time.

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

1. Mr. Lorenzini said there are no meetings scheduled for Planning Commission or Zoning Hearing Board. He asked if the tentatively scheduled zoning ordinance review meeting could be changed from October 30th to October 23rd. After a discussion, Council agreed that the review meeting would be moved to October 23rd.

**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 September 2017 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$174,941.32, Payroll Account totaling \$212,793.00, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$4,572.94.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the October 2017 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$180,330.57, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$124.65, and Capital Projects Fund totaling \$2,721.75.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Resolution #1247**

**Setting contributions for 2018 by participants of the Borough of Green Tree Police Pension Plan at 5% of total compensation, based upon 2018 MMO.**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adopt Resolution #1247 by title only.**

Mr. Molinaro read Resolution #1247 by title only.

Mr. Montz said that the MMO (Minimum Municipal Obligation) is an actuarial calculation for the police pension plan that indicates what is needed for the plan next year. Under state law, the borough is permitted to pass along 5% to the members of the plan. This resolution states that the officers will continue to receive 5% in 2018. When asked, Mr. Montz said that this plan only applies to the full-time officers.

**Roll Call Vote**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Tintori</b>   | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Mr. Lindsey</b>   | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Mr. Panza</b>     | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Mr. Rea</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. Tintori stated that, based upon information received from the Borough Manager, the borough will be providing \$160,233 to the police pension plan. For the non-uniformed pension plan, the borough will be providing \$153,617. Mr. Tintori said that the borough is supporting its employees.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. MRTSA - Mr. Montz**

Mr. Montz said that MRTSA is doing additional finance analysis that would be available to be shared in the near future. MRTSA does not make money on patient transports unless the person is taken to the hospital. There has been an increase in opiate transportation, but often patients, once revived, do not wish to be transported to the hospital. These non-hospital transports have been putting some financial stress on MRTSA. MRTSA is working on better defining their budget numbers for various transports.

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

Mr. Novak reported that the COG is keeping the cost of the sewer vacuum rental the same at \$960 per day. The most recent speaker at the COG meeting was Mr. Greg Butler, the new Executive Director of Local Government Academy (LGA), who described some of the courses being offered through LGA.

Mr. Montz said that the borough would probably participate in the COG's joint paving program. Mr. Novak has been instrumental in this program and more information about the benefits, the number of participating communities, etc., will be available soon. Discussion continued regarding some of the services provided by the COG.

**C. Library - Mr. Sampogna**

Mr. Sampogna stated that the annual Friends of the Green Tree Public Library's Used Book Sale starts on Thursday, October 5th through Monday, October 9th. A special Preview Sale

will take place on the evening of October 5th with a \$5 admission fee. Admission is free on October 6th through the 9th.

Other library events include Stuff Your Own Teddy Bear Storytime and Workshop, Social Security Strategies, Book Bingo for Kids, Horror Movie Marathon, Ghost Stories for Adults, and the annual Halloween Storytime and Parade.

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

- A.** Mr. Sampogna said that he and Mr. Novak had attended the Alcosan Regionalization Meeting. Alcosan showed photos of some of the 171 miles of sewer line that they have inspected so far. Mr. Montz said that the borough has some multi-municipal lines that will be transferred to Alcosan. Discussion continued regarding the details of the lines being transferred.
  
- B.** Mr. Sampogna stated that he had attended a CONNECT meeting at Pennsylvania One-Call where there was a review of the Coordinate PA software website for underground utility safety coordination with excavations. The website is anticipated to roll out sometime in November. Many new pipelines are being installed due to Marcellus Shale and the cracker plant construction in Beaver County. Discussion continued regarding the requirements for proposed excavation.

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

Mr. Molinaro had nothing to report at this time.

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

- A.** Mr. Montz said that the work at the pool area is moving along. Most of the new wall at the pool has been constructed. The Municipal Center Park gazebo has been repaired.
  
- B.** Mr. Montz said he has been working on the 2018 budget. He has received feedback from Council on the budget and things are going well. The pension money from the state has been released.

**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