

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 1, 2021**

Call to Order / Silence for Meditation / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, November 1, 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 Council had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss legal, personnel, and real estate issues.

Mr. Sampogna asked all veterans in the audience to stand to be honored in celebration of Veterans Day next week. The audience applauded the veterans and Mr. Sampogna thanked them for their service.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Edward Schenck, Mayor
Mark Sampogna, President
Rino Lindsey
David Lorenzini (arrived 7:38 p.m.)
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
Kim Beck, Stenographer

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

October 4, 2021

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the October 4, 2021 Council meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Dan Gall, 996 Glencoe Avenue

Mr. Gall reported that another year of the Green Tree Farmers Market has been completed. He has been on the Farmers Market Committee since the market began. The biggest problem the Farmers Market faces is getting enough volunteers. He thanked Green Tree's administration office, including Babette Legler who does all the paperwork for the market, Deborah Gawryla for promptly forwarding vendor inquiries, and Jen Mathie who has been at almost all of the markets and done everything asked of her and more. He thanked those individuals who had volunteered their time to keep the Farmers Market operating over the years including Cindy Fritz, Mary Seibert, Donna Gall, and Lou Maholic. There are others who have helped tear down tents and tables after the markets, including Mark Sampogna, Fred Zinger, and Chris Short. He said that the Green Tree police officers are always available to help direct traffic and Public Works helps set up and take down the Farmers Market signs each Thursday. Ms. Luanne Jones and Ms. Stacey Cleary have volunteered at the market and helped almost every week. The audience applauded the volunteers.

Mr. Panza asked if there should be a meeting in the next few months with the Farmers Market Committee to see if there are any new needs or changes that need to be addressed. Mr. Gall replied that the Farmers Market is working just fine except for the need for additional volunteers.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck

- A. Mayor Schenck thanked Mr. Gall for providing a report on the Farmers Market, which is a great event for the community.
- B. Mayor Schenck reported the Borough Engineer, Mr. Lou Casadei, retired last week. He thanked him for his 21 years of service to the borough. Mr. Casadei has done an excellent job as the borough's in-house engineer and will be hard to replace. The borough is working on obtaining engineering services.
- C. Mayor Schenck thanked the Green Tree Woman's Civic Club for providing Meet the Candidates Night. He noted that tomorrow was Election Day and he hoped for a good turnout.
- D. Mayor Schenck said he had attended Trunk or Treat at Aiken School last week, which is a new event for the school. There were over 100 children in attendance with the owners of many decorated car trunks handing out treats.
- E. Mayor Schenck said he had met with the Keystone Oaks superintendent as part of a meeting of borough mayors and police chiefs from the school district region, including Mt. Lebanon where the high school is located. Both Mayor Schenck and Chief Cleary attended the meeting and the superintendent informed those in attendance what has been happening within the school district. It provides a good relationship between the school district and the communities. This was the first such meeting since the pandemic began.
- F. The library held a pumpkin-decorating contest. There were 25 entries and Mayor Schenck was one of the judges for the contest. There were a number of very original pumpkins.
- G. The Green Tree Police Department is sponsoring a Christmas Card Contest at the local elementary schools. Mayor Schenck said that he and Council members would be judging the entries. Officer Bacci is spearheading the contest.
- H. Mayor Schenck thanked Mr. Lindsey for providing the Mayor's report at the last Council meeting when the Mayor was in California visiting his daughter.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna

- A. Mr. Sampogna said he had attended a recent Three Rivers Wet Weather meeting. The municipal consent orders were discussed with a focus on municipalities that have separate sewer system. The various options and timelines were presented.
- B. The Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT) Climate Action Plan Subcommittee was held on October 18th. Discussion centered on how to obtain and maintain usable climate data for each municipality. A number of speakers were present and reported that plans are underway to investigate further collaboration with an organization called Communitopia and the Green Building Alliance.
- C. Mr. Sampogna said he met with the ALCOSAN Advisory Committee. Director of Engineering, Ms. Kim Kennedy spoke about the study that is required for the ALCOSAN tunnel system expansion project. The impacted communities must pass a resolution in support of the

modifications in order to move the projects to the construction phase. Mr. Sampogna noted that Green Tree is not one of the communities that need to pass such a resolution. The final design on the tunnels is yet to come and there will be an opportunity to provide comments on the tunnels.

REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Mr. Novak

1. Resolution #1289

Authorizing the proper Char-West COG executive to seek Community Development Block Grant on behalf of Green Tree Borough for ADA sidewalk ramps in the amount of \$65,000.

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adopt Resolution #1289 authorizing the Char-West COG executive to seek Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding on behalf of Green Tree Borough for ADA sidewalk ramps in the amount of \$65,000.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Resolution #1290

Authorizing the filing of an application for PennDOT multimodal grant for sidewalk replacement along Greentree Road in the amount of \$521,500.

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lorenzini, to adopt Resolution #1290 authoring submission of a grant application through the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for sidewalk replacement along Greentree Road.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Mr. Novak reported that the borough would be unable to complete any paving projects in 2021 because of work required by the gas company on one of the streets scheduled for repaving. By the time the gas company work is completed it will be too cold to pave roads. The paving contractor has agreed to postpone the paving of the streets scheduled for 2021 until the spring of 2022. Mr. Sampogna noted that the two streets scheduled for repaving in 2021 were School Street and McKenna Avenue.

B. PUBLIC PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT - Mr. Rea

1. Ordinance #1850

Repealing Article 1 of the Chapter 90, Records, Public as a borough ordinance to provide requirements for public access to borough records.

Mr. Rea stated that the Commonwealth has a right-to-know law that supersedes the borough's right-to-know ordinance, such as electronic requests for public records. By repealing the borough's right-to-know ordinance, the borough will then be following the state's right-to-know law.

Motion:

Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to pass Ordinance #1850, repealing Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the Borough's Code of Ordinances in its entirety.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Appoint Borough Manager as the designated Open Records Officer

Motion:

Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to appoint the Borough Manager as the designated Open Records Officer for the Borough of Green Tree.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Mr. Rea reported that the contractor working on the drainage issue at Hemlock II ball field has dumped several additional tons of dirt on the field and it appears to be fixing the problem.

4. Mr. Rea said there was a scheduled Sheriff's Sale in the borough today for a property owned by resident who has lived in the borough for 42 years who has a mental disability. There were rumors that the borough initiated the Sheriff's Sale, which are untrue. It was the school district that initiated the Sheriff's Sale.

C. 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 October 2021 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$1,345,240.51, Farmers Market totaling \$879.00, Payroll Account totaling \$199,500.21, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$4,932.85.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the November 2021 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$644,616.14, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$283.55, and Capital Projects totaling \$4,670.00. The General Fund payment includes an ALCOSAN payment of \$430,329.26.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Ordinance #1851

Authorizing execution of a Cable Franchise Agreement between the Borough and Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to authorize the execution of a Cable Franchise Agreement between the Borough of Green Tree and Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Resolution #1291

Approving that the acquisition and subsequent disposition of a vacant property in accordance with the Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the acquisition and subsequent disposition of a vacant property, known as Lot & Block #0067-R-00325-0000-00, would be in accordance with the Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program.

Mr. Sampogna said the Vacant Property Recovery Program allows a neighboring property owner to acquire a vacant property and that is what has happened in this instance. Someone in the borough has applied to the Vacant Property Recovery Program to acquire an adjacent property. The County requires that the municipality in which the property resides must approve the property transfer. It will wipe out delinquent taxes on that property and the new owner will be responsible for the property in the future.

Mr. Lorenzini said that this has been a project that he has worked on with both Ms. Miller and the previous Borough Manager and he was pleased that this vacant property request was finally being completed.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Resolution #1292

Allocating the distribution of State Aid Funds to the Non-Uniformed Employees Money Purchase Plan and Green Tree Borough Police Pension Fund.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adopt Resolution #1292, allocating the distribution of State Aid Funds to the Non-Uniformed Employees Money Purchase Plan and Green Tree Borough Police Pension Fund.

Mr. Sampogna said that the State provides money each year to be placed towards pension funds and passage of this resolution allows the funds to be placed in the proper pension plans.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Resolution #1293

Setting the contributions by the Participants of the Borough of Green Tree Police Pension Plan

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adopt Resolution #1293 setting the contributions by the Participants of the Borough of Green Tree Police Pension Plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza

1. Mr. Panza said there will be a Public Meeting on November 10th for input on the new Comprehensive Plan. He urged interested residents to attend the meeting and provide input on ideas regarding the direction of the borough over the next ten years.
2. Mr. Panza reminded residents that tomorrow is Election Day. Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and are open until 8:00 p.m.

E. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Lorenzini

1. Resolution #1294

Designating the Borough's Municipal Code Official under and pursuant to Section 144.4 of the Codified Ordinances of the Borough of Green Tree.

Motion:

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to adopt Resolution #1294 designating the Borough's Municipal Code Official under and pursuant to Section 144.4 of the Codified Ordinances of the Borough of Green Tree.

Mr. Lorenzini said that with Mr. Louis Casadei's retirement, this resolution would change the designation from Mr. Casadei to the borough's Code Enforcement Officer.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. General Report

- (a) Mr. Lorenzini recommended that all interested residents make an effort to attend the Public Meeting on November 10th to provide ideas and input for the Comprehensive Plan. Planning Commission has been working on updating the Comprehensive Plan and an online survey asking for input is also available.
- (b) Planning Commission met with Borough Solicitor Ms. Kate Diersen regarding her recommendations for changes to the current Zoning Code and its Use Table. Planning Commission is reviewing those recommendations and when they are completed the changes will be sent to Council for review and approval.
- (c) Planning Commission is reviewing a proposed ordinance for portable storage containers on residential properties and when it is completed it will be forwarded to Council for approval.
- (d) Mr. Lorenzini reported that long-time Planning Commission member Ms. Rebecca Chembars has resigned. She has been splitting her time between Green Tree and Utah and was able to continue to serve during the Zoom meetings. Since the meetings are now in-person and she is currently in Utah, she has stepped down. He said there are openings on the Planning Commission and he encouraged residents to volunteer.

- (e) Planning Commission recognized Mr. Lou Casadei at its October 27th meeting for all the work he has done for the borough and the Planning Commission.
- (f) Planning Commission only meets once a month in November and December because of the holidays, usually on the third Wednesday of these months.
- (g) Mr. Lorenzini said that the Zoning Hearing Board did not meet in October and currently has nothing scheduled for November.

F. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey

- 1. Mr. Lindsey stated that the Public Safety Committee of Council will be meeting immediately following tonight's Council meeting to continue the review and update of several policies and a review some changes to the Civil Service's rules and regulations. Discussion continued regarding the approval of Civil Service rules and regulations. Mr. Sampogna said that the Civil Service Board is an independent counsel that can control their own regulations and can adopt their changes.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. Char-West COG - Mr. Novak

Mr. Novak said a new administrative assistant was hired for the COG. The COG will be reviewing its 2022 budget. When asked, Mr. Novak said that the December COG meeting would be held on the third Thursday in December in Green Tree on December 16th. Officials are encouraged to attend this meeting. Mr. Novak stated that the new Council member who would be taking his place at the COG should try and attend as well.

Mr. Lorenzini asked about the COG providing a joint electronic recycling program. Mr. Novak replied that nothing has been decided about this program. Discussion continued regarding electronic recycling.

B. Library - Mr. Sampogna

Mr. Sampogna said the Library Board reviewed a report on the results of the Used Book Sale, which generated income of \$8,214. He thanked 33 volunteers who devoted a total of 375 volunteer hours towards making the Used Book Sale a great success. He recognized two of the teenage volunteers, Ms. Fiona Curran and Ms. Caroline Burns, for their enthusiastic cooperation.

Mr. Sampogna said the library's Love Your Library event in September raised \$4,604, which is similar to 2020's results. The library is waiting to receive notice from the Buncher Foundation regarding Green Tree Library's matching fund amount.

The Library Board discussed the library's preliminary budget and the Allegheny County Library Associations's (ACLA) request to the Regional Asset District (RAD) to increase their proposed 5% boost in library funding.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Ms. Diersen

Ms. Diersen had nothing to report at this time.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Ms. Miller

- A. Ms. Miller welcomed Ms. Kim Beck who will be taking over Ms. Deborah Gawryla's duties. Ms. Beck started with the borough in May as a part-time receptionist and she has accepted a full-time offer to continue in that role while assuming Ms. Gawryla's duties.

- B.** Ms. Miller reported that the proposed 2022 borough budget is underway and will be distributed to Council by November 15th. A budget presentation meeting will be held on November 22nd.
- C.** Ms. Miller said the borough has engaged the DCED for a peer review and the paperwork has been completed for that project. It should begin within the next month or two.
- D.** Ms. Miller stated that there is a sanitary line break near Whiskey Run Creek and the sanitary line is currently entering the creek. The staff has been actively engaged in working on this problem with the help of Lenin-Smith Engineers and ALCOSAN to do an emergency, temporary repair before moving on to do a permanent repair that could be quite costly.
- E.** Ms. Miller said that Mr. Lou Casadei retired at the end of October and she has been seeking another engineer to take his place. Council will be interviewing engineering firms to replace Mr. Casadei and she anticipates having a firm in place at the beginning of 2022.

Mr. Lorenzini said there had been discussions about the sewer mandates to reduce flows and the cost of various alternatives. He hoped that the engineering firms being interviewed would be asked about their ability to provide the borough with specific costs and answers. Council must decide if it wishes to implement a lateral ordinance on transferred properties by April 2022, so there are only a few months to gather the information and make a decision. Ms. Miller said that the engineering firms being considered all have municipal engineering experience and are familiar with the mandates. She did not see a problem with any of the firms being able to provide this information before April and the borough would make this information a priority.

Mr. Lorenzini said that a new engineering firm would probably be aware of the Trumbull Drive Bridge replacement project and the pool renovations, but he wanted to make sure that they would be aware of the mandates and be able to provide detailed information on the various options and costs. Mr. Lorenzini hoped that an engineering firm involved with the community could provide some of this information by the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adjourn the meeting until the budget presentation meeting on November 22, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Sampogna, President

Judy Miller, Borough Manager