

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 2, 2009**

**Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, November 2, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sampogna reported that Council had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel matters regarding pending contracts with Police and Public Works.

**Roll Call**

**Members Present:**

Vincent J. Abbato, Mayor  
Mark Sampogna, President  
Daniel Behanna  
Paul Kirsch  
Janine Palmer  
Ron Panza  
Edward Schenck  
Arthur Tintori

**Also Present:**

W. David Montz, Borough Manager  
Peter Molinaro, Jr., Borough Solicitor  
Brendan Helt, Jr. Council Person  
Deborah N. Gawryla, Stenographer

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**October 5, 2009**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to approve the minutes of October 5, 2009 with the following correction:**

p. 3 - Item #3 - Change, " Each municipality and school district appoints one representative to the tax collection committee and each of the districts," to " Each municipality and school district appoints one representative to the tax collection committee in each of the districts."

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Abbato**

Mayor Abbato had no report at this time.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD FOR GOVERNMENT ENTITY PRESENTATION**

Mr. Sampogna introduced Ms. Jill Byers and Ms. Margaret Dunn from the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission, the regional planning organization for southwestern Pennsylvania. Ms. Byers stated that on October 1, 2009 the Ohio River Watershed Celebration had held its annual cruise where awards are given each year for various entities for their work in water and energy-related issues. Green Tree Borough was awarded the government entity award for its energy-related projects, for converting traffic signals to LED lights, the retrofitting of the Municipal Center, the Borough's recycling program, etc. They presented the award to Council on behalf of Green Tree Borough as an example of an energy proactive municipality.

Ms. Dunn said the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission is an all-volunteer, ad hoc group that started eight years ago in an effort to do something positive by awarding groups for improving their areas and making a difference. It started with approximately 200 people in the commission and is now up to 800 people and includes environmental groups as well as large organizations

such as Consol, Quality Aggregates, Merriman, Dominion and the Port of Pittsburgh Commission. She thanked Green Tree for their efforts in its energy-saving programs. The audience applauded.

### **HEARING OF THE CITIZENS**

There was no one present who wished to be heard.

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

#### **A. PUBLIC SAFETY - Ms. Palmer**

##### **1. Cameras to Catch Red Light Runners**

Mr. Montz stated that there was an article in yesterday's newspaper regarding a successful test program in Philadelphia using traffic cameras to catch vehicles running red lights. Some representatives are suggesting that this program should be brought to the City of Pittsburgh. He recommended that Council write to their state legislator asking that this program be expanded beyond the City of Pittsburgh to any community that can justify the need for these cameras at specific intersections. Discussion continued regarding areas where this program has been used and the success of the programs.

#### **Motion:**

**Dr. Kirsch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Palmer, for Council to draft a letter to Green Tree's State Representative requesting that the test program for cameras at intersections be expanded beyond the City of Pittsburgh to communities that can justify the need for such cameras.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **B. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza**

##### **1. Appointment of Official and Alternate Delegate to the Allegheny County Boroughs' Association**

Mr. Panza stated that he has been the delegate and Mr. Schenck has been the alternate to the Allegheny County Boroughs' Association and both he and Mr. Schenck are willing to continue in these positions.

#### **Motion:**

**Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to retain Mr. Panza as the delegate, and Mr. Schenck as the alternate delegate, to the Allegheny County Boroughs' Association.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

2. Mr. Panza said that as part of next year's anniversary celebration he hoped that Council would reenact the first year of Council meetings for Green Tree based upon the minutes from the first year. Some period items will be part of the reenactment.

#### **C. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Schenck**

1. Mr. Schenck said that the public meeting for the Comprehensive Plan was held several weeks ago with several citizens in attendance. The comprehensive plan will be finalized by June or July 2010.
2. Zoning Hearing Board will be meeting on Thursday, November 5 regarding a fence request.

**D. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Dr. Kirsch**

1. Dr. Kirsch reported that Parkedge Road is currently being paved.

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

1. **Resolution #1123**

**Authorize Borough Manager to proceed with renovations to the Police Department**

Mr. Tintori reported that estimates for the proposed renovations to the Police Department would total \$58,496.00. This will include demolition, painting, furniture, and the completion of the upgrade of the department.

**Motion:**

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Behanna, to authorize the Borough Manager to proceed with the proposed renovations to the Police Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:**

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Behanna, to authorize the Borough Manager to purchase the office equipment and furniture for the Police Department from Mt. Lebanon Office Equipment at a cost of \$46,091.00 under the State contract.

Motion carried unanimously.

**F. FINANCE - Mr. Behanna**

1. **Motion:**

Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to ratify the actions of the Borough Manager in paying the October 2009 General Fund EFT Payments totaling \$26,269.62, Payroll Account totaling \$168,152.66, Capital Projects Fund totaling \$47,598.05, Health Care Fund totaling \$1,625.35, Educational Service Agency totaling \$5,301.09, and other bills on the bills sheet totaling \$115,544.10.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Motion:**

Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to approve payment of the November 2009 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$99,612.60, Capital Projects totaling \$63,427.67, and Health Care Fund totaling \$1,827.50.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Authorize Borough Manager to accept bids for the 2010 Tax Anticipation Loan.**

**Motion:**

Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to authorize the Borough Manager to accept bids for the 2010 tax anticipation loan, for a loan not to exceed \$1,000,000.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

**LIAISON REPORTS****1. MRTSA - Mr. Montz**

Mr. Montz said that MRTSA anticipates passage of its 2010 budget shortly with a surplus of approximately \$30,000 in revenues. MRTSA's fees and the cost of the subscription rates will remain the same for 2010. MRTSA is working on improving collections from individuals who have received ambulance services and have been reimbursed directly from their insurance companies. Dr. Kirsch commended Mr. Montz for his work in improving MRTSA's financial picture over the past several years.

**2. CharWest COG - Mr. Behanna**

Mr. Behanna had nothing to report at this time.

**3. Library - Mr. Sampogna**

Mr. Sampogna said that RAD had rejected ACLA's proposal over a month ago. As a result, ACLA formed a Rapid Response Committee that developed two different formulas. One formula gave 22 libraries more money and the other formula benefitted the other 22 ACLA libraries. This split the vote and prevented passage of either formula. Another new formula is being prepared that will take local funding into consideration. Additionally, changes in funding will be phased in to allow libraries that will be losing funding to have the opportunity to prepare for these changes.

**4. Junior Council Person - Mr. Helt**

Mr. Helt had nothing to report at this time.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna****1. Alcosan's Upcoming Public Officials Meetings**

Mr. Sampogna encouraged Council members to attend one of these meetings and outlined the dates, times and locations.

**2. Western Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Award**

Mr. Sampogna said that Borough had received an award recognizing the Green Tree Parkway Garden for outstanding public planting and improving the quality of life through horticulture. Judges noted that this roadside beautification garden had been established in 1996. He thanked the Boys Scouts, Girls Scouts and numerous volunteers who helped with the planting. Mr. Sampogna noted that this garden is under the stewardship of Mrs. Janice Adamski, and thanked this year's volunteers: Ralph Vitt, Louis, Boettner, Lauren Super, Annette Studeny, Felicia Dusetzina, Rachel Dusetzina, Charles Dusetzina, Linda Guest, Rachel Guest, Rachel Santillo, Rich Novak, Kathy Novak, Richard Novak, Theresa Novak, Gail Planz-Wachter, Victoria Wachter, Mary Lou Pacella, Joe Mielnicki, Kathy Meinhardt, Matt Wren, and Nick Urbano.

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

Mr. Molinaro had nothing to report at this time.

**MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Montz****1. Library**

Mr. Montz noted that while the City of Pittsburgh has been in the news with the number of libraries they are considering closing, recent newspaper articles have listed that the city provides a total of \$40,000 in assistance for all of their libraries, while Green Tree provides

over \$100,000 towards its library. He said Council should be commended for their support of the Green Tree Library.

**2. 2010 Proposed Budget**

Mr. Montz said the preliminary 2010 budget is put together and there is no proposed tax increase for the ninth straight year.

3. The Streetscape Project is underway and moving along well.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Schenck made a motion, seconded by Mr. Behanna, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

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Mark Sampogna, President

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W. David Montz, Manager

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