

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER / MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, November 5, 2007 at the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Sampogna stated that Council had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

ROLL CALL

Members present:

Mark Sampogna, President
Ron Panza, Vice President
Paul Kirsch
Janine Palmer

Also Present:

W. David Montz, Borough Manager
Peter Molinaro, Jr., Borough Solicitor
Marian Kochin, Junior Council Person
Deborah N. Gawryla, Stenographer

Edward Schenck

Absent:

Vincent J. Abbato, Mayor
Daniel Behanna

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

October 1, 2007

Motion:

Mrs. Palmer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2007 Council meeting with the following corrections:

p.4 Change "Dr. Schenck" to "Mr. Schenck."

p.7 Change "The comprehensive plan being developed in conjunction with Dormont Borough is moving along, " to "The *grant application for the* comprehensive plan being developed in conjunction with Dormont Borough is moving along."

Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Abbato

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

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Marilyn Albitz, 1061 Greenlawn Drive

Mrs. Albitz asked if there were plans to establish a committee and fund the Borough's 125th anniversary celebration in 2010. Mr. Panza replied that the Recreation & Community Affairs Committee would begin looking at plans for this event in the new year. He asked Mrs. Albitz if she would be interested in meeting with the committee to discuss the event and help develop ideas for the celebration. Mrs. Albitz suggested that a notice be placed in the Borough newsletter about plans for this event so that the community groups might discuss ideas among themselves. Mr. Panza said that discussion of the 125th anniversary of the Borough is on the RCA Committee's agenda for 2008.

Kristina Pusateri, 13 Terrace Drive

Ms. Pusateri said there were problems on her street with a neighbor who drives a car with an illegal muffler, sets off fireworks at all hours of the night, and speeds up and down the street. She stated that the car could be heard from several streets away. Neighbors have called the police several times, but the neighbor was gone by the time the police arrived.

Mr. Montz asked if the problem was with a car or a truck. Ms. Pusateri replied that this neighbor annoys others with every vehicle that he owns. Mr. Schenck asked if the vehicles were "souped up." Ms. Pusateri said that they appeared to be and the neighbor also rides his Quad-4 up and down the street.

Mr. Schenck felt that the Motor Vehicle Code should have restrictions on mufflers and noise. Mr. Montz said that he would make the Mayor aware of the situation. He said that the Borough's noise ordinance had been written to deal with loud stereos in vehicles and might not apply in this situation. After a discussion, Mr. Montz said he would speak to the Mayor and the Chief to see if the noise ordinance might apply in this situation and see if there was anything else that could be done.

REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**A. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza****1. Light Up Night**

Mr. Panza said that Light Up Night is scheduled for Sunday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m. He encouraged all residents to attend.

B. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Schenck

1. Mr. Schenck reported that the Planning & Zoning Committee was considering revising an ordinance that would restrict the hours of construction activities in the Borough. Mr. Sampogna asked if the revisions would only apply to residential areas or to all areas in the Borough. Mr. Schenck replied that it would be throughout the Borough.
2. Mr. Schenck stated that the grant application for the Comprehensive Plan with Dormont is still pending. Mr. Montz confirmed that the Borough has not heard anything from the state.
3. Mr. Schenck said that an article regarding the McDermitt settlement will be in the upcoming newsletter. The article will include the reasoning behind the settlement and the details of what the settlement involves.

C. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Dr. Kirsch**1. Motion:**

Dr. Kirsch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Palmer, to authorize the proper officers to execute the Settlement Agreement between Cardello Electric Supply Company and the Borough of Green Tree for the Poplar Street Lighting bid.

Mr. Montz explained that bids had been opened for the Poplar Street lighting project. It was later discovered that the low bidder had made a mistake in their bidding and had grossly underbid the project. The Solicitor reviewed how this should be handled and a settlement agreement was drawn up that Council has received. This agreement allows

the contractor to relinquish his bid and the project will be rebid. New bids will be opened on November 15.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Dr. Kirsch reported that the reconstruction project at the entrance to South Bee Street has been completed.
3. Dr. Kirsch said that ivy has been replanted along the Whiskey Hollow Creek gabions. The landscapers who planted the ivy said that it must be watered regularly.
4. Dr. Kirsch said that the first phase of the Greentree Road sidewalk replacement program is nearing completion.
5. Dr. Kirsch stated that the first phase of the Greentree Road Streetscape Project is underway and should be completed in approximately two weeks. The section of sidewalk between East Manilla and Leon is being replaced with assistance from Columbia Gas. The driveways in this area will be better defined and will result in a safer area.
6. Portions of the Arla Drive sanitary sewer are being replaced. Other streets with areas requiring sanitary sewer repairs are along Greenlawn, Arbor and Glencoe. These should be completed this year.

D. PUBLIC PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Mr. Sampogna stated that the Borough Manager would give a report later in the meeting.

E. FINANCE - Mr. Behanna

1. Motion:

Mrs. Palmer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to ratify the actions of the Borough Manager in paying the October 2007 Payroll Account totaling \$232,156.70, General Fund - EFT Utility Payments totaling \$27,197.54, Purchasing Card totaling \$683.37, Health Care Fund totaling \$745.61, Capital Projects Fund totaling \$13,566.03, Educational Service Agency totaling \$6,249.11, EIT Unallocated totaling \$261.35, Pension Proceeds Fund totaling \$160,214.48, and other bills on the bill sheet totaling \$197,506.49.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mrs. Palmer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to approve payment of the November 2007 invoices from the 2002 Sanitary Sewer Bond Fund totaling \$69,939.10, Capital Projects Fund totaling \$22,032.00, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$88.15, and General Fund totaling \$311,369.72.

Motion carried unanimously.

F. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mrs. Palmer

1. Mrs. Palmer said that the Chief of Police had visited Wallace Pre-School to talk to the students about some safety topics. He also visited Aiken Elementary, along with another officer, to hold an anti-bullying program.
2. As a result of the recent bomb threat at the middle school/high school complex, the Chief is working with officials from the school district, Dormont, Castle Shannon and Mt. Lebanon to establish an emergency response plan.
3. Mrs. Palmer said that some of the officers had recently participated in the non-support warrant round-up program with the Sheriff's Office. As a result, over 50 of the county's biggest offenders were arrested and collectively owe over \$418,000 in back child support.

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

Mr. Montz said that MRTSA's annual subscription drive is underway. As Chairman of MRTSA's Finance Committee, he receives weekly reports on the amount of money that has been deposited in the bank for subscriptions. MRTSA is in the process of adopting next year's budget. Although there will be a deficit, the amount has been decreased thanks to a study whose results were implemented to reduce or eliminate deficiencies in MRTSA's billing process.

2. Char-West COG - Mr. Behanna

In the absence of Mr. Behanna, there was no report this evening.

3. Library Board - Mr. Sampogna

Mr. Sampogna said that the library will be sending out another fund raising letter as a follow-up to the one sent out in the spring. The Borough's mailing list has been merged with the library's mailing list and the letter will be sent to all Borough residents as well as library patrons who live outside the Borough.

4. Keystone Oaks School Board - Mr. Schenck

Mr. Schenck said that two school board seats for Green Tree representatives are on tomorrow's election ballot. Two incumbents and one non-incumbent are running for these two seats.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna

1. Mr. Sampogna said that he and the Borough Manager will be attending a Local Government Academy seminar regarding the 2007 Taxation Update. Items to be discussed include changes to the EMST, Judge Wettig's decision regarding the constitutionality of the base year system that is currently before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and House Bill 1550 proposing to change the collection of the EIT to a County-wide system.

Mr. Sampogna said the Borough has been concerned about the possible implementation of the County-wide collection of earned income tax. Green Tree does not see any benefit to a County-wide collection system. Mr. Sampogna said that if the bill passes, the Borough hopes it will allow municipalities the option to "opt-out" of the process.

2. Mr. Sampogna stated that a free veterans' health fair at the Municipal Center is scheduled for Saturday, November 17 from 9:00 to 1:00 p.m. This fair is open to all veterans, regardless of where they live. Mrs. Albitz, from the audience, said she would pass out the flyers to members of the Green Tree Seniors at their next meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Mr. Molinaro

Mr. Molinaro had nothing to report at this time.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Montz

1. Verizon Cable Services

Mr. Montz reported that the Borough has worked on an agreement through the COG to provide Verizon cable services in the Borough. Council must pass it by December 14. Mr. Montz has forwarded the agreement to the Solicitor for review. It will bring cable competition to the Borough. The main issue under discussion is the proposed schedule for "build out" of the cable service. Some areas will have it within 0-5 years and others will have to wait longer. The time period for service seems to be based on the first three digits of a person's phone number. He hoped that a clearer map regarding the timeline for service would be provided. Mr. Montz anticipated that this item would be on Council's December agenda.

2. Mr. Montz said that volunteers are still needed to help establish a Farmer's Market in Green Tree next summer. Committee members are needed to solicit farmers and the Farmer's Alliance will help the local committee with start-up procedures. Mr. Sampogna hoped that those interested in the Farmer's Market could begin before the end of the year.
3. Mr. Montz said the dugout/storage facility at Hemlock I is nearing completion. Upon completion, the GAA materials currently stored in the Foliart House will be moved to the new facility and the Foliart House will be demolished.
4. Approximately 20 trees will be planted around the Borough within the next few weeks. Some will be planted in the parks and others will line the guardrail along Greentree Road near the West End.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Palmer, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Sampogna, President

W. David Montz, Manager