

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2018**

Call to Order / Silence for Meditation / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, November 5, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sampogna said Council had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters. Mr. Sampogna asked those in attendance to remember the victims and the families of the recent shooting in Squirrel Hill.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

W. David Montz, Borough Manager
Peter Molinaro, Jr., Borough Solicitor
Colin Cleary, Chief of Police
Deborah N. Gawryla, Stenographer

Absent:

Arthur Tintori

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Sampogna said there two public hearings were scheduled this evening. Both are amendments to the borough's zoning code. When asked, Mr. Montz stated that both Public Hearings were advertised and the borough has proof of publication.

Amendment to Section 420-211, Solar Energy Structures.

Mr. Sampogna opened the Public Hearing for amending solar energy structures and asked for any comments from the public.

Bob Flowers, 98 Ringold Avenue

Mr. Flowers stated that he had just signed a contract to have solar panels installed on his home and he was glad to see that this change in the ordinance was moving forward.

Mr. Montz said the amended ordinance would allow individuals to place solar panels on the front roofs of their homes in accordance with building and electrical codes. Ground solar units are permitted on properties of one acre or larger. Most average-sized properties do not have enough area for ground-mounted solar panel systems. The amendment is actually the solar ordinance that Council has reviewed as part of the proposed revised zoning code. Mr. Lorenzini said that both amendments being presented tonight are revisions to the existing zoning code, but are being presented for adoption at this time in an effort to hasten the process because of several residents' requests. They will continue to be part of the proposed revised zoning code that Council hopes to adopt in 2019.

Mr. Rea asked if the ordinance provided location information regarding ground-mounted solar systems. Mr. Montz referred Mr. Rea to the area in the proposed ordinance that addresses the issue and confirmed that solar panels cannot be located in the front yard of a property.

Mr. Panza asked if neighboring properties had any relief if solar panels would create a glare. Mr. Sampogna said that any glare would only be for a short period of time each day as the sun passed.

Christine Snyder, Tesla

Ms. Snyder stated that she worked for Tesla, a producer and installer of solar systems. She said that most solar panels currently being produced do not have any glare at all. Roof panels are anti-glare.

There being no other comments or questions, Mr. Sampogna closed the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING

Amendment to Section 420-92, Commercial "A" District allowing for assisted living, independent living, nursing and personal care, and skilled nursing facilities.

Mr. Sampogna opened the Public Hearing.

There was no one present that wished to be heard.

Mr. Montz stated that the amended ordinance would permit assisted living, independent living, nursing and personal care, and skilled nursing facilities within the Commercial "A" zoning district. This change was recommended by the Planning Commission in the proposed revised zoning code that is currently being comprehensively reviewed by Council. Commercial "A" is the same district where the borough's hotels are permitted and these uses do not differ much from a hotel. When asked, Mr. Montz stated that this amendment, if approved, would be added to the current existing zoning code, but would also be part of the proposed revised zoning code. Mr. Montz reviewed the current zoning map and provided a general description of the location of the Commercial "A" District.

Mr. Montz noted that both of these proposed zoning amendments were sent, as required by the MPC, to Allegheny County Planning. Both have been reviewed by Allegheny County Planning and indicated as being acceptable.

Mr. Sampogna closed the Public Hearing.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

October 1, 2018

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the October 1, 2018 Council minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Carol Hickman, 200 Arla Drive

Mrs. Hickman said she and her husband have lived in their current home for 50 years and enjoy living in Green Tree. Homes in her neighborhood are generally kept in good condition. However,

there is one home in the neighborhood in disrepair. The trim on the house has not been painted for 35 years or more, the garage door is hanging crookedly, there are a number of cars parked in the driveway, overflowing trash with branches and debris are often in the driveway, and a parking gulley with gravel thrown on top has been dug parallel to the street for parked vehicles. She said the house looks like a slum and reduces the value of other homes in the neighborhood. She asked what could be done about this neglected house.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck

A. General Report

1. Mayor Schenck said he held Mayor's Office Hours in October. Several residents came to talk about water issues, which were referred to Mr. Montz. Another resident asked that the mailbox behind the Municipal Center be moved and it has been relocated.
2. Mayor Schenck said he attended the Keystone Oaks Homecoming Parade in Dormont along with the other two mayors from the other Keystone Oaks communities.
3. Mayor Schenck attended the borough's Halloween event where he spoke to District Magistrate Craig Stevens. Magistrate Stevens told him how professional Green Tree police officers are when they appear before the magistrate.
4. Mayor Schenck said he has been traveling the borough with several police officers and hopes to be able to spend some time with all the officers over the next few months.
5. Mayor Schenck said he grew up a block away from the Tree of Life Synagogue where the recent shooting took place. He visited the memorial and spoke with City of Pittsburgh Police Commander Herrmann who lives outside of Green Tree. Commander Herrmann showed him around and informed him of the officers' responses during this shooting. He offered a compliment to the Green Tree officers who were involved in another incident that had occurred recently.
6. Mayor Schenck said that he and a number of other elected officials attended the Shabbat service at the Beth-El Synagogue where a blessing was given to all the elected officials present. There were over 450 people in attendance. Mayor Schenck detailed some of the events that took place during this service.
7. Mayor Schenck suggested that whenever there is a police retirement or resignation the borough needs to take steps to have another officer hired and trained to provide a smooth transition.

REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Lorenzini

1. Ordinance #1799

Adopting the Amendment to Chapter 420, Section 420-211.1 to 420-211.15 of the borough's codified ordinances, regulating solar energy facilities.

Motion:

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to place Ordinance #1793 on first and final reading by title only.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Molinaro noted that there needed to be a minor typographical error corrected in the title and in section 2, referring to Section 420-211.14. The referral numbering should be corrected to 420-211.15.

Mr. Molinaro read Ordinance #1793 by title only, with the number correction made.

Motion:

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to pass Ordinance #1793 on first and final reading by title only.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1793 and that it be advertised according to law.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Ordinance #1794

Amending Section 420-92 of the borough's codified ordinances to allow assisted living, independent living, nursing and personal care, and skilled nursing facilities with the Commercial "A" Zoning District.

Motion:

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to place Ordinance #1794 on first and final reading by title only.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Molinaro read Ordinance #1794 by title only.

Motion:

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to pass Ordinance #1794 on first and final reading by title only.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Lorenzini made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1794 and that it be advertised according to law.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. General Report

Mr. Lorenzini said neither Planning Commission nor the Zoning Hearing Board have meetings scheduled this month. The Zoning Hearing Board approved a variance for the construction of a garage in Rook at its October 18th meeting.

Mr. Lorenzini asked when the final draft of the proposed zoning code would be available for a final review by Council. Mr. Montz said he would try to get the revisions completed by January and should have a tentative schedule for approval to present to Council by December.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey

Mr. Lindsey had nothing to report at this time.

C. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Mr. Novak

1. Resolution #1255

Adopting the Allegheny County 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adopt Resolution #1255 by title only.

Mr. Sampogna said this resolution was to enable to the borough to apply and receive funding for disaster mitigation. This could possibly help the borough with some flood mitigation and storm water issues that the borough has recently been experiencing. Mr. Montz stated that none of the past flooding and storm water issues would qualify for this funding. It would only apply for future issues that might occur. Discussion continued regarding what types of funding the borough might be able to receive with the passage of the resolution.

Mr. Molinaro read Resolution #1255 by title only.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

2. General Report

Mr. Novak reported that Poplar Street repaving is underway. He requested that the Streets Committee of Council meet after this meeting to discuss some of the details of the recycling issue.

D. PUBLIC PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT - Mr. Rea

1. Nature Center

Mr. Rea reported that a group of volunteers, Code Enforcement Officer Gregg Earley and the Hollow Oak Land Trust worked on clearing the Nature Center and building a quarter-mile of new trail. He hoped that another session could be scheduled soon to continue the Nature Center improvements. He thanked everyone who came out to help.

E. FINANCE - Mr. Tintori

In Mr. Tintori's absence, Mr. Rea agreed to present the Finance Committee section of the agenda.

1. Motion:

Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to ratify the actions of the Borough Manager in paying the October 2018 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$130,085.80, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$9,228.06, Farmers Market totaling \$5,775.72, Payroll Account totaling \$298,565.48, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$7,272.81.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve payment of the November 2018 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$604,594.48, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$1,519.54, and Capital Projects totaling \$36,458.15.

Motion carried unanimously.

F. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza

1. Fall Fest

Mr. Panza reported that the Octoberfest Committee met on October 22 to review the recent Octoberfest event. Mr. Panza said the committee hoped to make some significant changes in next year's event.

The event will be renamed "Fall Fest" after numerous comments that the event no longer is held in October and the name Octoberfest sometimes led individuals to believe that alcohol would be served at the event.

The event will be reducing its Sunday hours to 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. and the fireworks will be held on Saturday night instead of Sunday.

The committee said it would be concentrating on better rides and better entertainment with a reduction of crafters and commercial vendors in order to make it a better community event that is more family-oriented.

Mr. Panza said that although the event would have a new name, the history of the event will continue. Fall Fest will be held September 14 and 15, 2019. Discussion continued regarding some of the details that Mr. Panza had presented.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. MRTSA - Mr. Montz

Mr. Montz reported that MRTSA currently has two new ambulances that have been updated. The boxes on the back of the ambulances will be refurbished and updated. Two more ambulances will be updated soon. MRTSA's annual membership drive has started. MRTSA's total fleet consists of nine ambulances.

B. Char West COG - Mr. Novak

Mr. Novak said engineers from HMT Associates discussed providing code enforcement and GIS services for the COG. The COG's guest speaker spoke about providing IT services, backing up data, 24/7 support, hardware and software support, and virus removal.

C. Library - Mr. Sampogna

1. Mr. Sampogna said the Library Board met on October 16. The Love Your Library donation campaign in September totaled \$2,136.50, which was an increase of 50% over the 2017 total. The library has not yet received information on what the matching amount will be from the Jack Buncher Foundation.
2. The Friends of the Library Annual Used Book Sale produced over \$8,000.
3. The Library will be closed on November 12th for Veterans Day, and November 22-23 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna

- A. Mr. Sampogna attended the Three Rivers Wet Weather meeting in October where the topic of 100-year storms was discussed. He detailed how a 100-year storm is calculated and discussion continued regarding the wet summer and flooding that had occurred in the area.
- B. Mr. Sampogna said the borough's consent decree expired and an interim agreement was adopted between the borough, the state DEP, and the DEA. The interim agreements are due to expire at the end of the year, but it does not appear that anyone at DEP or DEA will be doing anything about the expired agreements. This impacts all municipalities that are served by ALCOSAN.

ALCOSAN has awarded a contract to a contractor that municipalities can piggyback on for sewer repair work.

Mr. Sampogna said there have been a few occasions in the borough when manhole covers have popped off. He learned that there is such a thing as hinged manholes. He suggested that the borough consider installing them in certain locations.

C. CONNECT

Mr. Sampogna said he had attended CONNECT's health policy working group meeting. The Allegheny County Health Department reported that they are getting an additional person to assist with connecting opioid abusers with available countywide services. There has been an increase in cocaine/fentanyl abuse in the past six months throughout the county. Two part-time

community paramedics will be hired soon in an effort to expand the personal overdose response team to areas outside of the City of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Sampogna said that Mr. Rich Garland from Pitt's graduate School of Public Health and the Violence Prevention Project reported that in the last three years Allegheny County's homicides are almost equal to the number of homicides in the city.

- D. Mr. Sampogna stated that Light Up Green Tree would be held on Saturday, December 1 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- E. Mr. Sampogna said that the Manager's 2019 Budget presentation would be held on Monday, November 26 at 7:30 p.m. The Public Hearing on the proposed 2019 budget will be held on Monday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Mr. Molinaro

Mr. Molinaro had nothing to report at this time.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Montz

- A. Mr. Montz said the Poplar storm sewer project that was 85% funded by ALCOSAN's GROW grant is now complete. Some money was saved on this project since the borough did not have to restore the road since PennDOT had already scheduled Poplar repaving.
- B. Mr. Montz said that a hinged manhole cover like Mr. Sampogna had mentioned earlier had been installed on Poplar Street.
- C. A sanitary sewer line that runs in the middle of the creek and under the Parkway has broken open and is taking on creek water. It will have to be repaired. He detailed some of the reasons that this may have occurred. This sewer line is scheduled to be taken over by ALCOSAN and the Borough Solicitor has been looking at the agreements that would transfer the sewer line, but there is no final agreement yet. Discussion continued regarding the details of the sewer agreement.
- D. Mr. Montz said that PennDOT is looking at the Green Tree and Carnegie Parkway interchanges. The engineer for this project has not yet been hired, but once hired, PennDOT will contact the borough for its input on this project. He anticipated that this might begin sometime in early 2019.
- E. Mr. Montz said there have been several major storm water issues, including Elmhurst. The borough is looking at possible solutions. He detailed some of the ideas that were being considered.
- F. Mr. Montz reported that the borough has received a recycling grant for \$77,958 towards the purchase of recycling containers for curbside recycling. He hoped this issue could be addressed soon and the borough can move forward with curbside recycling. There will be a newsletter article in the upcoming newsletter about the changes taking place in recycling starting January 1, 2019.
- G. There have been issues with residents raking their leaves into the street instead of merely placing them curbside. Mr. Lindsey had suggested that the newsletter contain two pictures detailing the correct way and the wrong way of placing raked leaves.

- H.** Mr. Montz asked Council to consider approving the delaying the scheduled 2018 road repaving until the spring of 2019. This was done several years ago when it got too late in the year to repave. After a discussion, Council agreed that the paving should be delayed until the spring of 2019. The agreed-upon price would be held on the streets that were scheduled for the fall repaving.
- I.** Mr. Montz said the borough has received the data from Roadbotics regarding street conditions and is beginning to analyze the results.
- J.** Mr. Montz said he would like to work with the Streets Committee regarding a new storm water management plan that must be completed. The Borough Engineer has reviewed it and the Borough Solicitor has looked at it from a legal standpoint. Mr. Montz detailed the changes that the new plan has to include and some issues that need to be considered.
- K.** Mr. Montz said the proposed 2019 budget would be distributed to Council members by November 15. The budget presentation meeting will be November 26 and the Public Hearing on the proposed budget will be held on December 3.

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

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