

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 21, 2016**

**Call to Order**

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, November 21, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**Roll Call**

**Members Present:**

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

**Also Present:**

W. David Montz, Borough Manager  
Louis A. Casadei, P.E., Borough Engineer  
Kary Rahner, Public Works Director  
Babette K. Legler, Finance Director  
Chief Colin Cleary, GT Police Department  
Deborah N. Gawryla, Stenographer

Mr. Sampogna wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and offered congratulations to Mr. Louis Casadei's son, Antonio, and his family on Antonio's becoming an Eagle Scout. The audience applauded.

**HEARING OF THE CITIZENS**

There was no one present who wished to be heard.

**MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck**

- A. Mayor Schenck he would not be attendance at the December 2016 meeting.
- B. Mayor Schenck said he had attended the MRTSA 40th anniversary event along with Mr. Montz, Mr. David Palmer (MRTSA representative), and Mr. Sampogna. It was a very nice event held at the South Hills Country Club.
- C. Mayor Schenck said that a number of Roman Catholic parishes would be consolidating in 2018. Those churches impacted by the consolidation will be announced sometime in 2017 and he asked Council to keep that in mind in the event that Green Tree's St. Margaret parish might be one of the churches involved in the consolidation. Mr. Tintori commented that concerns about the future of St. Margaret's were premature. He said that even if this should occur, such consolidations would be many years in the future. He did not want residents to think that St. Margaret's would be closing or there would any changes in the immediate future. Mayor Schenck said he wanted to bring it up since Council is in the process of reviewing the borough's zoning ordinance so they might give consideration to the zoning in this area in the event that a consolidation does take place.
- D. Mayor Schenck said that he, Mr. Sampogna, and Mr. Montz had attended the event for Mr. Antonio Casadei's Eagle Scout award last evening.

**REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

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

Mr. Lorenzini had nothing to report this evening.

**B. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey**

Mr. Lindsey had nothing to report this evening.

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

**1. Rescheduling 2016 Paving Program**

**Motion:**

**Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to extend the 2016 paving contract with El Grande Industries to April 2017. There will be no increase in costs.**

Discussion took place regarding what the contract price had been for this contract.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

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

1. Mr. Panza said that this was the 21st budget meeting he had attended. Some of the earlier meetings he had attended had gone until midnight or later. He thanked those involved for streamlining the process.
2. Mr. Sampogna said that Light Up Green Tree night will be held on December 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

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

Mr. Rea had nothing to report at this time.

**F. FINANCE - Mr. Tintori**

**1. Presentation of the Proposed 2017 Budget by the Borough Manager**

**Revenues**

Mr. Montz thanked the staff members who were present this evening and said he could not run as efficient of a borough without these individuals. The proposed 2017 budget does not have a tax increase, but some of the reserve funds are being used to balance the budget. This has been done in the past, but things are getting tighter each year. Real estate tax appeals are leveling off and it does not appear that additional money needs to be added to the escrow account. Discussion and review continued regarding the various funds.

Mr. Montz said that the borough hopes to increase the earned Income tax (EIT) collection in the coming year. An audit is being done with Jordan Tax Service to gain more information about residents who have not reported earned income.

Mr. Montz said that the business privilege tax (BPT) collection has concerned him. The annual amount collected has been falling and the new businesses that have come into the borough do not provide as much BPT. Discussion continued regarding how the various revenues were presented in the budget.

Mr. Montz said that the increase in real estate transfer tax from 0.5% to 1.0% many years ago has generated a lot of income for the borough. When the larger buildings are sold to new owners, it provides the borough with additional revenue. However, the borough cannot predict when the larger developments will be on the market and it is hard to estimate what the borough might collect in real estate transfer tax each year. Review continued of the line items in the revenue section of the proposed budget.

**Expenditures**

Mr. Panza stated that he was very happy with this proposed budget. He felt it was a very workable budget. Discussion continued regarding the history of good and bad decisions made in previous budgets.

Mr. Montz said that Chief Cleary has been watching his budget. The Chief saved money by making some of the required training done online, reviewing the computer system, and various other ways. The borough has always been looking for ways to save money. Mr. Montz said that Council should consider adding a part-time police officer. With a small police department there will always be a fair amount of overtime because someone must always be called in when another officer calls off.

Mr. Montz said the police department has been looking at traffic enforcement in more detail than in the past. Mr. Montz, the Chief, and the traffic engineer have been reviewing different areas where traffic complaints have been made and addressing them in various ways depending upon their specific locations.

Mr. Montz said that two police cars would be purchased in 2017 instead of just one. One car's purchase will come out of the police budget and another one from the Capital Fund. Mr. Montz detailed how the second car's cost was being covered in the budget.

Mr. Panza questioned what expenses were involved when changing over all of the equipment to a new police car. He asked if the 85,000-90,000 mile standard for police car replacement could possibly be increased to 100,000 miles. Discussion continued regarding police car use and purchases.

Mr. Lorenzini asked if the usage of brine pre-treatments before a snowfall had helped save money. Mr. Rahner said he had looked at this issue last year, but said it was difficult to determine how financially effective the brine treatment had been based upon other variables, such as when the trucks need to go out, how much time was needed for pre-treatment, and how much snow finally arrived. Mr. Rahner said that the brine pre-treatment helps to eliminate the ice build up on the road from compacted snow from vehicles and improves the overall conditions. Mr. Montz said the snowplow drivers had reported that pre-treated roads helped the plows from sliding on steep hills when they were out plowing. The drivers said that it appeared that the pre-treatment had prevented snow from bonding with the road and reduced icing. Mr. Rahner agreed that the brine is a useful tool.

Mayor Schenck asked about the possibility of having the sidewalk on Mansfield extended down to the hotels. Mr. Montz said the Borough Engineer would have to determine the cost and feasibility of installing it. There have been requests for this sidewalk to be extended, but information such as actual pedestrian usage would have to be calculated. Mr. Lindsey said it would also need to have state approval since Mansfield is a PennDOT road.

Mr. Montz said that the hockey court in Green Tree Park is being rebuilt. The asphalt should be leveled and a new type of sideboard, which is plastic, should have a longer life. Mr. Rahner contacted some communities that have used these sideboards. All the communities he spoke to were happy with them and there were no negative comments. Discussion continued about the sideboards and the preparation and installation of the court.

**Capital Projects Fund**

Mr. Montz said the replacement of the Public Works/Pool roof had been postponed because of problems with the ornamental cap that sits on top of the stone. There had been discussions about how to fix it, but nothing had been decided upon. He hoped to have this project out for bid by spring 2017.

The purchase of dash cameras for the police vehicles is in the budget. A decision will have to be made whether they should be purchased or not. He noted the additional police car is budgeted in this fund for 2017.

Mr. Montz referred to the ongoing Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) with the PaDEP. Mr. Casadei said that the borough must report on how they plan to reduce the pollutants in the storm sewers using Best Management Practices (BMP). BMPs are based on years of statistics and studies throughout the country that are applied to the borough. It is currently all based on published data. However, as the borough gets into more permit cycles it could change. Discussion continued regarding the details of the MS4 requirements and how the borough might meet these requirements.

Mr. Montz said Council's request for an informational digital sign has been kept in the budget. However, in speaking to other communities that allow informational digital signs for non-profits only, he found that problems often arise when local businesses begin requesting these signs as well and are unhappy when they are denied. Discussion continued regarding digital signs.

Mr. Lindsey asked about funding for video surveillance in the Capital Projects Fund. Mr. Montz stated that he had several possible ideas where additional video surveillance could be installed. He said that further review would be needed. Discussion continued regarding video surveillance as well as some other capital projects for 2017.

Mr. Montz reviewed the other special budgets.

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Mr. Lindsey said that borough is looking at about \$1 million in extra costs. Mr. Montz said that a lot of that is the sewer maintenance and treatment with sewer treatment increasing by over 11%. Mr. Montz explained several line items.

Mr. Sampogna commended Fire Chief Don Gaupp for his report in the budget.

Mr. Montz said there would be an increase in the sewer maintenance fee in 2017. It would be a separate ordinance that would be on next month's Council agenda.

Mr. Montz requested that a Finance Committee meeting be held next Monday, November 28.

Mr. Montz noted that the proposed 2017 budget includes an electronic recycling event. There are a number of ideas regarding how it will be run and there might be enough in the budget to hold two electronic recycling events, but there will definitely be at least one. Mr. Tintori said residents could benefit from an electronic recycling event that includes the collection of televisions, CRTs, and monitors.

**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

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