

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2018**

Call to Order / Silence for Meditation / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, December 3, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in 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 in reference to the Public Works and Police Departments, and legal matters regarding the Mansfield Road landslide.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

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

Absent:

David Rea

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2019 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mr. Sampogna opened the Public Hearing and asked for any public comments. He stated that there had been a public meeting last week where the proposed budget had been presented and reviewed. The budget has been available for public review both online and at various other locations. There was no one from the public who wished to be heard.

Mr. Panza stated that there is no new tax increase with the proposed 2019 budget.

Mr. Montz said that Council had met on November 26. Each department head presented the 2018 expenses and the proposed 2019 plans. This is the 17th consecutive year where there has been no real estate tax increase while still providing excellent services to the residents. Since 2005 there has been over \$400,000 annually in road paving, which is more paving than in some of the surrounding communities. Since 2005 the borough has spent approximately \$6.9 million in capital improvements throughout the borough. While the borough has held the line on real estate tax increases, it has done a lot in improving the borough and its infrastructure.

The proposed 2019 budget's General Fund is \$9,370,497. The Capital Fund is proposed to be \$2,305,433. Green Tree relies heavily upon the borough's commercial properties to supplement its tax base. Mr. Montz said that the revenues created by the commercial properties generate 38.2% of the budget.

Mr. Montz said that one of the revenues that will be decreasing in 2019 would be the real estate tax revenue. He estimated that they would decrease by approximately \$100,000 as a result of several commercial properties with pending tax appeals that should be settled in 2019. The borough will make every attempt to minimize that amount and the Borough Solicitor has been very involved in these negotiations.

Mr. Montz said the 2019 budget relies on additional funding from the Reserve Funds and other special funds that have been created over the years to assist with balancing the budget. These funds will decrease and that may require a tax increase in the future.

Some of the main changes in the proposed 2019 budget include an increase of about \$13,000 – a 28% increase – for MRTSA services. This is a result of MRTSA's revenues being stagnant while costs are increasing, requiring MRTSA communities to provide more funding.

Mr. Montz said that the proposed budget for street repaving was reduced from \$400,000 to \$300,000 in 2019, but should continue to provide Green Tree with a superior road system. Additionally, the amount budgeted for snow and icing supplies is lower than it traditionally has been because the borough currently has a large stockpile of supplies from previous years.

Mr. Montz stated that garbage collection increased \$7.92 per household per year, resulting in a 5% increase. Residents do not pay an additional fee for garbage collection; everything is paid for via the borough's general real estate funds. It costs about \$164 per household to collect garbage. The borough will start curbside recycling in 2019 and has secured over \$70,000 in funding to provide recycling containers for the residents.

Mr. Montz said a change in proposed 2019 budget from previous years is the presentation of the library's budget in the General Fund allocations. The borough has always provided funding to the library and the library would administrate its own budget. In 2019, to save the library's outside accounting fee expenses and to make its budget more transparent to the general public, the borough is taking over the library's accounting procedures and they will be shown in the borough's budget. The proposed 2019 budget reflects the entire budget of the library, which not only includes the borough's contribution, but the funding the library receives from ACLA and the state.

Mr. Montz said that the 2019 budget shows \$2.3 million in capital improvements. Some of the major improvements planned include an upgrade to the three-lane signals along Greentree Road, new sidewalks along Mansfield Avenue between Holiday Drive to Trumbull Drive (pending the work that needs to be done along Mansfield as a result of the recent landslide), sidewalk replacement along Greentree Road from Pocono to Orchard on both sides of the street, and the painting of the exterior of the Municipal Center. Mr. Montz said that the borough has been fortunate to receive over \$1 million in grant money for some of these projects.

Mayor Schenck noted that the borough is also doing a lot of work on the sanitary and storm sewer systems. Mayor Schenck stated that many departments in the borough are second to none and provide excellent services to the residents, including the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company, the Green Tree Public Library, and the recreation department. He added that Green Tree is paying \$56,285 for the MRTSA ambulance service and despite MRTSA's increase it remains a great deal. The borough's 3.61 millage in real estate tax is much lower than the millage in other nearby municipalities. Mayor Schenck thanked the Borough Manager and all the borough department heads, including Chief Cleary, for attending the November 26 meeting when the 2019 budget was present and for keeping their departments budgets under control.

Mr. Lorenzini asked about the money that would be used from the Reserve Fund in the 2019 budget. Mr. Montz replied that the borough would be utilizing reserve funding from the following funds: \$125,000 from the Real Estate Escrow Fund, \$100,000 from the Earned Income Escrow Fund, \$200,000 from the insurance dividend, and \$125,000 from the Solid Waste Fund. A total of approximately \$550,000 would be used from reserve funding to balance the budget. When asked, Mr. Montz stated that the borough has been using reserve funds to balance the budget for the last several years. The borough had anticipated some revenue shortfalls several years ago, but was

fortunate to obtain dividends from the borough's insurance trust plan. Therefore, some money has been set aside over the years to help with the budget. Additionally, unexpected property sales provided additional revenues from the deed transfer tax. Mr. Montz said the department heads would be conducting a thorough review of their departments in the coming year to determine if there are any other ways to cut their budgets and help avoid a tax increase in the following year. Discussion continued regarding details of the various sources of revenue that have helped prevent a tax increase.

Mr. Montz encouraged residents to review the budget. He said that the Trumbull Drive Bridge project will be a major project that will need to be undertaken within a few years and will require the borough to float a bond. Other major expenses that will occur in the next several years will include some updates to the fire company's trucks. Mayor Schenck said that a one-mill tax increase would provide the borough with an additional \$500,000.

There being no other comments on the proposed 2019 budget, Mr. Sampogna closed the Public Hearing.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

November 5, 2018

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the November 5, 2018 Council minutes as presented.

Motion carried, with Mr. Tintori abstaining because he had not attended this meeting.

November 26, 2018

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the November 26, 2018 Council minutes as presented.

Mr. Lorenzini asked if the PowerPoint presentation that was presented at the November 26th meeting would be included with the minutes. Mr. Montz said that the visual presentation has never been part of the approved minutes and the written minutes summarize what was presented and discussed at the meeting. He suggested that perhaps the PowerPoint presentation could be added to copies of the budget and on the website for interested citizens to review.

Motion carried unanimously.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

There was no one present who wished to be heard.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Schenck

A. General Report

1. Mayor Schenck noted that former President George H.W. Bush, who passed away recently, had grace, humility, and civility.
2. Mayor Schenck said that local resident and regular attendee of Council meetings, Mrs. Irene Bocchino, recently passed away. He had paid his respects on behalf of Green Tree Borough and she will be missed.
3. Mayor Schenck attended Light Up Green Tree on Saturday. Although it was a rainy evening, there were a good number of people in attendance.

REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**A. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza****1. General Report**

- (a) Mr. Panza said that although there would be cutbacks with the annual Fall Festival, he hoped that the Summer Concert Series could be expanded. He said they would be seeking additional dates and performers.
- (b) Mr. Panza said the Allegheny League of Municipalities (ALOM) is holding a meeting on January 17, 2019 at the Sheraton in Station Square where local council members and legislators can mingle and discuss issues that will impact the local area. He suggested that the Council, Mayor, and Borough Manager should consider attending this event.

B. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Lorenzini**1. Proposed Zoning Ordinance**

Mr. Montz recommended that a final Zoning Ordinance workshop meeting could be held on Monday, January 28 at 7:30 p.m. After a discussion, Council agreed to this date and time. Mr. Lorenzini said that after the January 28th meeting the proposed zoning ordinance would be sent to Allegheny County for its review and recommendation. Mr. Montz said he would follow up with the County regarding how they would like to proceed with such a comprehensive review. Solicitor Molinaro said that the entire zoning ordinance would need to be sent as one package to the County.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Lindsey**1. General Report**

- (a) Mr. Lindsey thanked Chief Cleary for the extra effort he provided for Light Up Green Tree in getting Mr. & Mrs. Claus over to the Municipal Center.
- (b) Mr. Lindsey stated that Green Tree's probationary patrol officer, Ms. Dannielle Ripper, has tendered her resignation. As a result, there is a vacant position at the police department.

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tintori, to request that the Civil Service Commission work on providing a new list of candidates for the position of Patrol Officer.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Mr. Novak**1. Ordinance #1795**

Repealing Chapter 289 of the Borough Codified Ordinance entitled Storm Water Management and adopting in its place, a document to be known as the "Green Tree Storm Water Management Ordinance."

Mr. Novak stated that the proposed ordinance was originally from Act 167, asking the municipalities to adopt a storm water management program, to help control flooding.

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to place Ordinance #1795 on first and final reading by title only.

Mr. Montz said the state DEP is requiring municipalities to update their storm water management plans as a station mandate. Allegheny County adopted a plan that has been approved by DEP and municipalities can join in on the plan. Approval of this ordinance will allow Green Tree to do so. The County offered a \$1000 grant to the borough to help pay for the engineering and legal review, but no changes can be made to Allegheny County's plan.

Mr. Montz said the significant part of the plan is regarding new development, both commercial and residential. New construction would have to calculate storm water runoff and most likely require larger storm water tanks or the installation of new storm water tanks. This will be more burdensome for new development, but it would be the same throughout the county. Discussion continued regarding how this ordinance would impact new development.

Motion carried, 5-1, with Mr. Lorenzini voting "No."

Mr. Molinaro read Ordinance #1795 by title only.

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to pass Ordinance #1795 on first and final reading by title only.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Novak	Yes
Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Tintori	Yes
Mr. Panza	Yes
Mr. Lorenzini	No
Mr. Sampogna	Yes

Motion carried, 5-1-0.

Motion:

Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1795 and that it be advertised according to law.

Motion carried, 5-1, with Mr. Lorenzini voting "No."

2. Curbside Recycling

Mr. Novak said the Streets Committee discussed the logistics of purchase and distribution of curbside recycling containers. Additional education of the residents would be required to explain what can and cannot be recycled. Starting in 2019, no glass will be accepted for recycling.

E. PUBLIC PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

In Mr. Rea's absence, there was no report this evening.

F. 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 November 2018 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$217,070.74, Capital Fund totaling \$17,927.25, Fire Department Apparatus

Fund totaling \$56,831.96, Payroll Account totaling \$257,253.14, and Educational Service Agency totaling \$3,797.86.

Mr. Lorenzini questioned an invoice for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for advertising, and asked if the borough could do its advertising online instead. Mr. Sampogna said legal advertising must be done in print. Discussion continued regarding the requirement of print advertising for municipalities.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the December 2018 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$120,447.34, and Capital Projects Fund totaling \$94,102.86.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Ordinance #1796

Adopting the budget for the year 2019, pursuant to Section 501 of the Home Rule Charter of the Borough of Green Tree.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to place Ordinance #1796 on first and final reading by title only.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Molinaro read Ordinance #1796 by title only.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to pass Ordinance #1796 on first and final reading by title only.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1796 and that it be advertised according to law.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Ordinance #1797

Fixing the real estate tax rate for the fiscal year 2019 and providing for discount and penalties as authorized by law.

Mr. Tintori said this would set the 2019 real estate tax at 3.61 mills.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to place Ordinance #1797 on first and final reading by title only.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Molinaro read Ordinance #1797 by title only.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to pass Ordinance #1797 on first and final reading by title only.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1797 and that it be advertised according to law.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Ordinance #1798**

Implementing and adopting terms, conditions, and hourly rates of pay/fringe benefits under a collective bargaining agreement between the Borough of Green Tree and Teamsters Union No. 249 for a period commencing April 1, 2018 and ending March 31, 2021, and authorizing proper officers to execute said agreement.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to place Ordinance #1798 on first and final reading by title only.

Mr. Lindsey stated that this ordinance was for the Public Works contract.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Molinaro read Ordinance #1798 by title only.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to pass Ordinance #1798 on first and final reading by title only.

Roll Call Vote

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

Mr. Sampogna Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1798 and that it be advertised according to law.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Mr. Tintori thanked everyone for his or her help and input in putting together the 2019 budget.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. MRTSA - Mr. Montz

Mr. Montz had nothing to report at this time.

B. Char West COG - Mr. Novak

Mr. Novak said the COG was informed that there could be salt shortage with longer delivery times. Additionally, there is now a Board of Appeals through the COG engineering group, HMT & Associates. The COG speaker was from the Cohen Law Group, who discussed the cable franchise information. The next COG meeting will be December 20th in Oakdale. The new permanent COG Director is Ms. Michele Lutz. Mr. Novak said he would be unable to attend the December 20th meeting. Mr. Panza said he would attend the December COG meeting in Mr. Novak's place.

C. Library - Mr. Sampogna

1. Mr. Sampogna said the Library Board met on November 20 and discussed the library's proposed 2019 budget. Mr. Montz attended this meeting. Library Director Adaena Tray announced that the library has received a \$2,000 grant for early childhood resources. Assistant Librarian, Ms. Emily Bryan-Reeder, has attended four training session in order to qualify for the grant.
2. Upcoming library events include an Identity Theft Protection program on December 11, Family Movie Night on December 19, and Storytime with Santa on December 20.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna

- A. Mr. Sampogna said the most recent Green Tree newsletter prominently laid out the new recycling guidelines that take effect January 1, 2019. He hoped Green Tree residents would take note of these recycling changes and abide by them in the new year.
- B. Mr. Sampogna said CONNECT's Executive Committee met on November 15 in Ross Township to discuss a revision to CONNECT's municipal contribution policy. To date, the municipal contribution policy has been strictly voluntary. The Executive Committee approved a mandatory dues payment in order to be a CONNECT member municipality, effective January 2019. There are currently 31 non-paying municipalities that are considered member communities, but those not paying their 2019 dues will be removed as members. A 5% increase for dues was approved for 2019.
- C. Mr. Sampogna said that he and Mr. Montz attended a meeting of the Airport Corridor Transportation Association (ACTA). They talked with the PennDOT District 11 executive about the mudslide issue on Mansfield Avenue and the Trumbull Drive Bridge issue. An engineering

firm has been hired to develop preliminary plans for the Green Tree/I-376 interchange upgrade. The borough would be contacted by this firm for input in 2019.

- D.** Mr. Sampogna attended Light Up Green Tree on Saturday and attendance was good despite the wet weather. There were more indoor activities than in the past. He thanked the Recreation & Community Activities Board and the other community organizations for their hard work in putting this event together.
- E.** Mr. Sampogna wished all Green Tree residents a blessed, happy, and healthy holiday season.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Mr. Molinaro

Mr. Molinaro had nothing to report at this time.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Montz

- A.** Mr. Montz thanked everyone for the help with the budget process, including a special thank you to the many volunteers who helped throughout the borough. When reviewing the number of hours the Green Tree volunteer firefighters put in, Mr. Montz said it is staggering what they do for the community for free. Additionally, the help the borough receives with all its recreation programs makes the many programs offered throughout the year possible. He thanked Mrs. Christine Short and Mrs. Luanne Jones, who were in the audience, who are just two of the many volunteers that make these programs possible. The audience applauded. He thanked Council and the Mayor for their support.
- B.** Mr. Tintori said Local Government Academy (LGA) that provides training for elected officials for over 30 years. The LGA was videotaping and taking photos of tonight's meeting as part of a course they are putting together called "Contemplating Government." This course will be for individuals considering stepping up and getting involved in their communities. He thanked the members of LGA who were present.

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