

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
August 12, 2021
Minutes

The Borough Council met on the above date in the Banquet Hall of the Green Lane Fire House. Signage was posted at the Borough Office and on the Borough's website to advise people that the meeting was being held in the Banquet Hall. Borough Council waited five minutes past the 7 p.m. starting time to allow people to walk from the Borough office to the Banquet Hall. The meeting was called to order by President Brian Carpenter at 7:05 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: President Brian Carpenter and Vice President Gerald Godshall and Council Members Jack Findley and Jonathan Guntz.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Darren Landis.

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Lynn Wolfe, Solicitor Loren Szczesny, Secretary/Treasurer Mary T. Garber, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer John Membrino, and Engineer Joe Carlin.

OFFICIALS ABSENT: Solicitor Dave Comer.

MOTION ON MINUTES: A motion was made by Gerald Godshall to accept the minutes of the July 8, 2021, Council meeting. Seconded by Jack Findley. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Wolfe reported that the Green Lane Fire Police assisted with parking and crowd control on July 18, 2021, at the Perkiomen Valley Brewery when it hosted the Cousins Maine Lobster Truck and were asked to assist again on August 15, 2021, when the truck returns. Fire Police also helped with traffic control during curb painting by St. Luke hospital volunteers on August 6. Gerald Godshall made a motion to approve assistance at these events for insurance purposes, and Jack Findley seconded. Motion approved and so ordered.
- She also thanked the volunteers from St. Luke's Hospital's Athletic Training Department for painting the curbs on Main Street and around the Fire House on August 6. Local residents Jack Findley, Nancy Harvey, and Gerald Godshall also assisted along with the Mayor and Borough Secretary. Borough resident and St. Luke's athletic trainer Rose Discipio organized the event. Council President Brian Carpenter provided painting supplies through Willow House Paints.
- National Night Out will be held Saturday, August 14, at St. John's Church in Sumneytown. Police, ambulance and fire company units from throughout the area will participate. Free COVID 19 vaccines will be offered. A helicopter may land at the event.
- The Green Lane Fire Company responded to a lightning strike on a house at 124 Main St. in the Borough. The lightning hit an air conditioner unit, but no one was hurt.
- The Mayor asked that everyone complete the online survey being conducted by the Montgomery County Planning Commission in an effort to update the County Hazard

Mitigation plan. She also invited Borough officials to attend the Pipeline Awareness Training on Monday, August 16, 2021.

- The Mayor told Robin Reinert, who was in attendance, that she had not received an email from her regarding the flooding on Lumber Street. Ms. Reinert said she spoke to a County or PennDOT representative who came out to inspect the area where the retaining wall in the Macoby Creek is located. She said he will follow up with his supervisors. Ms. Reinert said the wall was originally built in 1972.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS: (State Police, Ambulance and Fire Company reports on file)

VISITORS: Borough residents Rick Stamper, Larry Marks, Tor Hammond, Rita Pietrobono Hiriak, and Robin Reinert (with her friend Margaret Heller), and Upper Perk YMCA Director Michael Tannous.

- Mr. Tannous gave a slide presentation on the benefits of the local YMCA and encouraged the Council to support the organization. Councilman Godshall commended Mr. Tannous and the YMCA for being a great organization.
- Mr. Marks reported his concern about the condition of a storm grate at Maple Alley and Route 29 behind the brewery. President Carpenter said he was aware of the problem and was making arrangements for repairs.
- Mr. Hammond expressed his concern about the condition in which the logging company left the field and forest on Green Street across from his house. President Carpenter said he was working with the forester Jon Regan to address these issues.
- Ms. Reinert read a letter from the residents of Lumber Street expressing their gratitude for the cleanup of conditions at 770 Lumber Street and their expectations that the cleanup will continue.
- Mr. Stamper and Mrs. Hiriak both said they attended the meeting to observe.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- Solicitor Loren Szczesny, filling in for Dave Comer, reported that the notice sent to the owner of 417 Walnut Street regarding stormwater runoff was returned unopened. Solicitor Comer will follow up on this after he returns from vacation.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (report on file)

- Permit number 21-292-Z was issued to Dana Macintosh for a new home at 602 Main St.
- In regards to 770 Lumber St., a letter was sent to the owner giving him notice that his property is in violation and needed to be cleaned up. The owner contacted the Code Enforcement Officer John Membrino immediately and stated that he would do what he could. On Saturday Aug. 7, 2021, the owner initiated a clean-up effort. The State Police were on the scene to keep all the parties calm, and they contacted Mr. Membrino to verify that the letter sent was authentic. Some clean up took place, but the State Police eventually halted it due to valuables being discarded. They also informed the owner that the cars could not be removed due to them having current PA State Registrations.

- Citations have been prepared for 2963 Real Estate/120 Gravel Pike/Rockwell's and are currently being processed by the District Justice. The citations are for violating Section 257 of Ordinance 2017-01 for creating a nuisance by accumulating trash, junk, rubbish, etc. The citations are for a seven-day period and will be going out next week.
- President Carpenter asked if Council had seen the report (on file) from the Fire Marshal regarding Rockwell's. He said the owner has cleaned up some of the violations, and the did comply with the Fire Marshal's shut-down order. President Carpenter said he is still waiting to hear from the PLCB in Allentown regarding a hearing on the license for the property. Councilman Godshall said he also contacted the State Police about the problems at Rockwell's.
- Councilman Godshall also asked about conditions at the green house property on Second Street. Councilman Findley also commented on this, especially the weeds. President Carpenter asked Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer John Membrino to send a notice to the owner of the property.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

- The Preliminary Plan and Drainage Statement for the Montco 2040 Grant Application-Route 29 Sidewalk project has been provided to PennDOT for review. The Engineering Company continues to move forward with other aspects of the project awaiting feedback from PennDOT.
- Applications for the 2021 CTP Grant for Green Street Repaving and the ARLE Grant for Route 29 and Main Street Signal Maintenance and Upgrades have been submitted.
- Construction is ongoing at the MacIntosh residence on Upper Ridge Road.
- Regarding McCuskin Properties, 724 Lumber Street, the owner's legal counsel contacted Gilmore & Associates regarding the need for a hydraulic study to obtain a variance from the flood plain ordinance. There has been no further movement on this.
- Mayor Wolfe asked about the lights shining from the property into the roadway. President Carpenter said the owner was informed that the lights needed to be directed away from the road.

REGIONAL PLANNING: No report.

SEWER AUTHORITY:

- Authority Board Member Dave Garber will be moving out of the Borough and will need to resign his position as a Borough's representative. A new Green Lane resident will need to be appointed to the Board. Mr. Godshall said he will recommend retaining Mr. Garber as a consultant to the Authority.
- The Authority is considering borrowing money to make a variety of necessary repairs to the entire sanitary sewer system.
- Problems continue regarding collections of fees.

ROAD COMMITTEE: President Carpenter said repairs will be made to the storm grates at Maple Alley and Route 29 and at Fifth and Main Streets. PennDOT will be paving Lumber Street.

PARK COMMITTEE: While repairing the paved surface of the park pavilion, Schaeffer Sell Excavating noted that parts of the pavilion were leaning or deteriorated and should be inspected by an engineer. Park Committee members Godshall and Findley said they looked at the pavilion and agreed that it should be inspected. President Carpenter said he will look at it and see if someone needs to go over there.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Council President Carpenter noted funds were being transferred by check to Harleysville Bank to open new Borough accounts. These checks were in the treasurer's report under expenses.
- Councilman Godshall made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay all bills. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion passed and so ordered.
- President Carpenter asked for approval of a letter to Harleysville Bank authorizing the Borough Secretary/Treasurer to have daily access to the accounts online and by phone for monitoring and reporting purposes. She will not have signing privileges on the accounts. Gerald Godshall made the motion. Second by Jonathan Guntz. Motion passed and so ordered.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Council members were asked to sign a letter of thanks to the Perkiomen Valley Brewery for their recent donations.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Gerald Godshall to adjourn and seconded by Jack Findley. Motion passed and so ordered.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Garber, Borough Secretary