

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
December 9, 2021
Minutes

The Borough Council met on the above date in the Banquet Hall of the Green Lane Fire Company. Signage was posted at the Borough Office and on the Borough's website to advise 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, Darren Landis and Jonathan Guntz.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

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

OFFICIALS ABSENT: None

MOTION ON MINUTES: A motion was made by Gerald Godshall to accept the minutes of the November 11, 2021, Council meeting. Seconded by Jack Findley. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Former Green Lane Mayor Boyd B. "Barry" Baughman passed away on November 25. He served as mayor in the late 1980s.
- Cook's Technologies on School Alley has been sold, and the new owners would like to meet with the Council President and Mayor. The company's owner asked the Borough to share that the company has job openings in its machine shop. The Borough also received notification from an environmental and energy law practice that Cook's has sent a Notice of Intent to Remediate to the PA DEP and to the Borough.
- The Mayor will officiate a wedding on Saturday.
- The Green Lane Fire Police have been asked to assist with two events including a 5K Ugly Sweater Run at Tylersport Fire Company on December 11 and a drive-through nativity at St. John's Church's in Sumneytown on December 18. Gerald Godshall made a motion to approve participation by the Fire Police in the two events. Second by Jack Findley. Motion approved and so ordered.
- A new fire police member was sworn in by the Mayor, giving Green Lane six fire police.

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

VISITORS: Reed's Barber Shop owner Trevor Reed; Kelly Weiss, owner of the Perkiomen Valley Brewery, 101 Walnut St.; Borough residents David Whetstone, 401 Main St. and Rick Stamper, 100 Green St.

- Mr. Reed asked if any action is being taken to get the owner of Rockwells to clean up his property. He expressed concern about a motor home being stored on the property and possible drug use there. Code Enforcement Officer John Membrino said he has refiled a notice of violations with the district magistrate citing the owner in his position with the entity that owns the property. Council President Brian Carpenter said the Borough is not going to drop the action. Mr. Reed also said the roof of the front porch is propped up on bricks. Mrs. Weiss also expressed concern about an animal head possibly falling on someone. Mr. Whetstone said he was concerned about the condition of the property as well.
- Mrs. Weiss asked if any progress has been made toward setting up a meeting about the conflict they are having with the Green Lane Marlborough Joint Authority regarding water backing up into the basement of their business. Solicitor Dave Comer said he is working on scheduling a meeting with the authority's management and Solicitor to discuss the issue.
- President Carpenter said a noise complaint was received regarding live music at the Brewery owned by the Weiss Family. He discussed this with Mrs. Weiss and she is going to address it.
- Mr. Whetstone asked if any progress is going to be made on the condition of the PennDOT culvert adjacent to his property on Route 63. President Carpenter said he will contact PennDOT about the issue again.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- Notice of the proposed 2022 budget was publicized appropriately on the Borough website and in the Town & Country newspaper on November 18, 2021; therefore, the Solicitor said a motion could be made to approve the 2022 budget if Council is so inclined. Gerald Godshall made a motion to approve the proposed 2022 budget. Second by Jack Findley. Motion approved and so ordered.
- Gerald Godshall made a motion to approve a resolution adopting the tax rates for 2022 at the same level as they were in 2021. Second by Jack Findley. Motion approved and so ordered.
- President advised Council that they may need to increase taxes for 2023 to address road repairs. He said it has been 20 years since taxes have been raised, and it may need to be considered.
- The Solicitor presented a schedule of meetings for 2022. Jonathan Guntz made a motion to publish notice of the meeting dates. Second by Darren Landis. The biannual reorganization meeting, Industrial Development Authority meeting and regular January Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 3, 2021, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Borough office.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (report on file)

- One permit was issued to PECO Gas for street excavation at 400 Walnut St.
- New Citations have been prepared and are being processed by the office of the District Justice for 2963 Real Estate/120 Gravel Pike/Rockwell's. Mr. Membrino has filed the complaint against the owner in his capacity with the business entity.
- Discussions are taking place with the Solicitor and Flood Plain Administrator about enforcement options regarding McCuskins Properties' vacant lot at 740 Lumber St. It appears that the property is now being used for a new use. President Carpenter said the Borough Solicitor will work with Mr. Membrino to prepare a letter to send to McCuskins regarding violations of the Zoning Ordinance.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: (on file)

- Post Tropical Storm Ida efforts continue as requested.
- Montco 2040 Grant - Route 29 Sidewalk Project continues. The permit application has been created in PennDOT EPS, though it is not completely uploaded yet. Mr. Carlin needs an authorization form signed by the Council President and Secretary, and a business partner ID must be obtained from PennDOT. He will facilitate signing of the forms.
- Awards have not been announced for the ARLE Grant for Route 29 and Main Street Signal Maintenance and Upgrades. Last year, results were announced in December.
- The Borough requested on 11/30/21 that a study of Lumber Street truck traffic be performed by PennDOT.
- The HOP was again renewed for the Pedersen Property. This does not signify any work is imminent as much as the fact that they are not abandoning the project entirely.
- President Carpenter directed the engineer to contact the Army Corps of Engineers to have them look at the possibility of rebuilding a wall along Lumber Street to help mitigate future flooding.

REGIONAL PLANNING:

- The new survey compiled by the planning commission is now available publicly for completion. Jack Findley encouraged everyone to take the survey.

SEWER AUTHORITY:

- Repairs and new connections are being made by the Authority.
- The Authority is filing a Request For Public Assistance through the FEMA/PEMA Hazard Mitigation program for repairs made following Tropical Storm Ida.

ROAD COMMITTEE:

- Gerald Godshall made a motion to authorize participation in the RSLPP program through the DVRPC to convert streetlights in the Borough to LED. Second by Jonathan Guntz. Motion approved and so ordered.

PARK COMMITTEE:

- There continues to be issues with the mowers.
- A recommendation will be made by the park committee on how to proceed at the January 3 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Councilman Jonathan Guntz made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay all bills. Second by Councilman Godshall. Motion passed and so ordered.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- A meeting was held immediately before this Council meeting at 5:30 with FEMA/PEMA and the residents interested in the home buyout program resulting from the Tropical Storm Ida disaster declaration.
- The Borough has also filed a Request for Public Assistance for funding to help with any mitigation efforts to help avoid serious flooding in the future, including storm drain repairs.

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