

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 2021
Minutes

The regular meeting of the Borough Council was held on the above date in the Banquet Hall of the Green Lane Fire House to allow social distancing due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic. 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 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 January 14, 2021, Council meeting. Seconded by Jack Findley. Motion passed and so ordered.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Condolences were offered to Council Member Darren Landis on the recent passing of his mother-in-law.
- The Mayor performed one marriage ceremony during the month.
- The Fire Police spent two and half hours on a fire call for a tractor trailer that turned onto Park Road and took out the guard rail.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS: (reports on file)

VISITORS: Green Lane Fire Chief Ryan Crouthamel and Fire Police Captain Scott Bergey; Jereme Lockey, timber management specialist with J.C. Lockey Enterprises; Nancy Harvey, resident; and Jennifer Friel, Town and Country newspaper reporter.

- Mr. Lockey addressed Council asking if he needed ordinances to remove trees. John Membrino said there is no ordinance against removing trees from private property.
- Mr. Lockey also shared that trees on the Borough's 26-acre open space property above Green Street could be harvested to bring income to the Borough. Mr. Lockey said he was doing timber management at adjacent properties and saw that the Borough parcel could benefit from select harvesting. He said the market for good timber is very high right now, and the Borough could net about \$23,000. He also said that there are many ash trees on the property that should come down due to damage from the emerald ash borer. He said some of the ash trees are still salvageable for sale as timber and could

benefit the Borough financially. John Membrino said the County should be consulted for soil and erosion permits. Dave Comer said he will need to research the rules regarding the sale of Borough resources. Council President Brian Carpenter advised Mr. Lockey to prepare a proposal to remove and sell the trees and directed the Solicitor to consult the Borough Code regarding sale of Borough resources.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- Notice of the special Council meeting scheduled for February 18, 2021, to address the codification ordinance was published in the Town and Country newspaper.
- The owner of 124 Main Street has not responded to letters regarding the condition of the property's sidewalk. President Carpenter directed the Solicitor to send a letter giving the property owner 90 days to correct the problems noted by the Borough Engineer.
- Council President informed the owner of 417 Walnut Street that the stormwater issues must be corrected, or the Borough will proceed with enforcement.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (report on file)

- Two snow and ice inspections were performed on February 4 and February 8. Three letters were sent out noting violations. John Membrino said he received a complaint from a resident on Walnut Street, who said the snowplows kept covering her sidewalk after each time she cleared it.
- Regarding 2963 Real Estate Co./Rockwell's property:
 - A virtual hearing is scheduled for February 24, 2021, at 1 p.m. with District Justice Coggins. President Carpenter suggested having an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss the pending litigation and how the Borough wishes to proceed with the hearing currently scheduled for February 24, 2021.
 - The property "looks the best it has in a long time" said Membrino.
- McCuskin Properties LLC on Lumber St.:
 - John Membrino will be sending an enforcement notice to the owner regarding several violations on the property. Code Inspections, Inc., will be sending building code violations as well, according to President Carpenter.
- Sunday School, 301 Main Street, has been purchased and permits have been requested to convert it into a single-family home.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Joe Carlin reported the following: (report on file)

- Montco 2040 Grant Application- Route 29 Sidewalk
 - Gilmore & Associates has completed an updated estimate for the project with a total cost of \$240,375 and prepared a Resolution for the Borough to submit a grant request of \$199,375 with a matching amount to be provided by the Borough of \$41,000.
 - A motion to approve a resolution to apply for the Montco 2040 grant for funding for the construction of pedestrian accommodations along Gravel Pike (SR 0029) was made by Jonathan Guntz. Second by Gerald Godshall. Motion passed and so ordered.

- Lumber Street Parking Lot – Floodplain Issues
 - Information was provided to Mr. Membrino regarding the applicable portions of the floodplain ordinance, including placement of a new structure or relocation or expansion of an existing structure towards the creek bank within the Floodplain District.

REGIONAL PLANNING: Council Member Jack Findley reported that the County is making a high-resolution mapping program available to local municipalities.

SEWER AUTHORITY: Councilman Godshall reported that the pumping station in Sumneytown will have to be revamped soon.

ROAD COMMITTEE: President Carpenter will check into the snowplowing issue at the corner of Walnut and Second Street.

PARK COMMITTEE: The Green Lane Marlboro Lions Club donated \$2,700 for upkeep and maintenance of Isaac Smith Park, including the removal of dying trees.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Councilman Godshall made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay all bills. Councilman Guntz seconded the motion. Motion passed and so ordered.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

- The TCDI Grant Request for Proposal was advertised on Thursday, January 14, 2021, in the Town & County newspaper, and again on January 21, 2021. One proposal was received from Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. on February 2, 2021, for a proposal of \$43,982.37 to complete the "base" scope of work, which does not include a traffic study. President Carpenter said that Council could negotiate inclusion of a traffic impact study with the consulting firm following approval of the proposal. A motion was made by Jack Findley to accept the "base" proposal from Traffic Planning and Design, Inc., and seconded by Gerald Godshall. Motion carried and so ordered.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ethics forms need to be completed and returned to Borough Secretary by May 1, 2021.
- Tuesday, November 16, 2021, will be the date of the Limerick Generating Station drill.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At approximately 7:46 p.m., Council President Brian Carpenter called for an executive session to discuss pending litigation. At 8:16 p.m., the executive session ended, and the meeting was reopened to the public.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Garber, Borough Secretary