

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
February 9, 2023
Minutes

The Borough Council met on the above date in the Borough Office in the Green Lane Fire Company building. The meeting was called to order by President Brian Carpenter at 7 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Darren Landis.

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

OFFICIALS ABSENT: Mayor Lynn Bergey.

MOTION ON MINUTES: A motion was made by Jack Findley to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2023, Council meeting. Second by Gerald Godshall. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS: (State police and fire company reports on file.)

- President Carpenter presented the schedule of events and activities for the year for the Green Lane Fire Police. Councilman Godshall made a motion to approve the list for insurance coverage purposes. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion passed and so ordered. The list of activities will be attached to and incorporated into the approved minutes for this meeting.
- President Carpenter asked Council to review and make comment on the new Montgomery County Mitigation plan, which is available on the county's website.
- Chief Don Lynch explained that Freedom Valley Medical Rescue has now been created from the merger of Harleysville Area EMS and Trappe Ambulance. Chief Lynch hopes to once again be able to provide Council with monthly ambulance reports and have one of his officers attend monthly meetings on a regular basis.

VISITORS: Mary Kershner, reporting for the Town & Country newspaper; Don Lynch from Freedom Valley Medical Rescue; Green Lane Zoning Hearing Board Chair Ken Brewer; and Borough residents Walter and Kristin Sherzer.

- Ken Brewer asked about the progress on the decision from the recent zoning hearing board meeting. The zoning hearing board found in favor of the Borough on January 5, 2023, where McCuskins Properties LLC, the owner of the property at 750 Lumber Street, appealed an enforcement notice they received from Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer John Membrino. The property owner has the opportunity to appeal, and the

solicitor will investigate next steps for the Borough if the decision is not appealed. Solicitor Dave Comer said he would follow up with the zoning hearing board's solicitor to see when the decision would be sent to the board members for signature.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- Council discussed the proposed ordinance addressing invasive species, specifically bamboo, in the Borough, which was duly advertised. Mr. Carpenter said the proposed ordinance outlaws planting bamboo in the Borough and addresses any bamboo currently planted on a property. Following the discussion, Councilman Godshall made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion approved and so ordered.
- Councilman Godshall made a motion to approve the following list of appointments, and Jack Findley seconded the motion. Motion approved and so ordered.
 - Brian Carpenter to three-year term on Green Lane Borough Planning Commission
 - Jack Findley and Jonathan Guntz to Upper Perkiomen Valley Regional Planning Commission
 - Ken Brewer to a three-year term on the Borough Zoning Hearing Board
 - Bedhr Majeed to a five-year term on Green Lane Marlborough Joint Authority Board
 - Jerry Godshall, Jack Findley and Jonathan Guntz to the Isaac Smith Park Committee.
- Settlement of the sale of the Borough lot at 303 Main Street was held on January 23, 2023, with President Carpenter in attendance acting on behalf of the Borough.
- The IDA will be receiving about \$2,000 in proceeds from an ongoing project.
- The Pennsylvania State Legislature adopted a new law addressing fireworks in October of 2022, and it states that fireworks may not be discharged within 150 feet of a building or a vehicle and includes additional provisions. The solicitor said that the state police will enforce the new regulations regarding safety issues.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: (Report on file)

- Mr. Membrino said McCuskins Properties LLC has submitted a revised zoning application to store dumpsters on the property. They application was deemed insufficient. Mr. Membrino has denied the permit and will continue to site the property owner for violations of the zoning ordinance.
- The County has also issued a judgment against the McCuskins Properties LLC.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: (Report on file)

- There has been no word on the Hazard Mitigation Program Grant Application that was submitted by the Borough in January 2022 in response Hurricane Ida flooding. Mr. Carlin supports the Borough contracting with a consultant to manage the grant project once approved by FEMA/PEMA. Councilman Godshall made a motion to approve hiring Susan

Mazzitelli, of Yardley, as Green Lane Borough Flood Mitigation Project Manager at a cost of \$100 per hour. Second by Jonathan Guntz. Motion approved and so ordered.

- The owner of 417 Walnut Street has completed some of the required stormwater improvements. Mr. Carlin is working with them to make sure all requirements are met.
- There are no updates on the Green Street Repaving - DCED (Horse Development and Gaming Act) Local Share Account Grant.
- No updates have been received on the DCED-MTF Grant Application for road resurfacing throughout the Borough.
- Montco 2040 Grant - Route 29 Sidewalk: The PennDOT permit has been issued. Grant opportunities to fund pedestrian level streetlights as part of the project are being pursued. Councilman Godshall made a motion to approve a resolution to apply to the Montco 2040 program to fund the streetlights. Second by Councilman Findley. Motion approved. Gilmore and Associates will proceed with the application.

REGIONAL PLANNING: No Report.

SEWER AUTHORITY: GLMJA is also waiting for word on a FEMA grant.

ROAD COMMITTEE:

- The LED streetlight replacement project is moving forward.
- President Carpenter said repairs to the intersection at Routes 29 and 63 should be started on February 10.
- Councilman Guntz expressed concern about the condition of the roads in the Borough. President Carpenter said he will look at the roads and see if the Borough can start making repairs.

PARK COMMITTEE: Mr. Godshall is investigating prices for mowing the grass at Isaac Smith Park.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Councilman Godshall made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and pay all bills. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: A steering committee is being formed to develop a long-range master plan for Green Lane Park. Secretary Garber and Councilman Findley will participate on the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Garber, Borough Secretary