

Green Lane Borough  
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania  
Borough Council Meeting  
July 11, 2024  
Minutes

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** President Brian Carpenter, Vice President Gerald Godshall and Council Member Jack Findley.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jonathan Guntz and Darren Landis.

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

**OFFICIALS ABSENT:** Mayor Lynn Bergey.

**MOTION ON MINUTES:** Councilman Godshall made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on June 13, 2024. Second by Councilman Findley. Motion passed.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** None.

**PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS:** State police and ambulance reports are on file.

**VISITORS:** Borough residents: Rich McNelly, Sherri Lee, Erin Lee, Marshall Whinney, Kris Malysz, Betty Krause, James Krause, David Whetstone, Trevor Reed, and Karie Ulrich; non-residents: Evan McAuley, Joy DeBach, Micheline Marshall, Christina Brathwaite and Jim Miani; and Town & Country reporter Mary Gibbs Kershner.

**VISITORS COMMENTS:**

- Mrs. Lee asked for an update on action being taken against her neighbor for bamboo that has spread to her property. She said she contacted the district court and was told that if the bamboo has not been removed by now, she needed to contact the Borough. President Carpenter said the code enforcement officer will follow up on it.
- Mr. Krause asked if he needed a permit to put down landscaping stone. He was told to contact the code enforcement officer. He also asked for NO PARKING signs on Macoby Street. President Carpenter said he will check to see if that is a no-parking area by ordinance.
- Mrs. Krause asked if there are any regulations in the Borough regarding chickens. President Carpenter said that there are currently no ordinances in the Borough regarding chickens, but Council may look into it because the number of people keeping chickens in the Borough is increasing. She also asked about a neighbor's driveway project that was started last summer but not finished and is a runoff problem.
- Ulrich, Debach, Marshall, Brathwaite, and Miani expressed concerns about an incident that occurred during an event hosted by an independent organization that rented Isaac Smith Park on June 29, 2024.

- McAuley, Whinney, and Malysz expressed concerns about the June 29<sup>th</sup> event being marketed towards families and children when they felt that it included materials and activities inappropriate for children. He asked that the Borough more carefully scrutinize groups renting the park.
- Braithwaite said she is the executive director for Parents for Inclusion (the organizer of the June 29<sup>th</sup> event in Isaac Smith Park) and she was at the meeting to support her board members.
- Mr. McNelly had questions about replacing a sidewalk. Borough Engineer Joe Carlin said he would take a look at it for him.
- Mr. Reed said he was disheartened about getting a letter regarding a greenhouse on his property. He expressed concern about the conditions of several other properties in the Borough that are in violation.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

- A hearing is scheduled for August 13, 2024, regarding a bamboo citation.
- The hearing regarding violations at the greenhouse property owned by 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Lawyers LLC has been postponed until September 10, 2024. The solicitor shared drawings of a potential plan to develop the property. Mr. Comer explained what the property owner would need to do to move forward with development.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: (Report on file)**

- A permit was issued to Stephen and Angela Schlegel to replace an existing fence.
- Atlas Holdings LLC, owner of 115 Main St., has not responded to the letter sent regarding bamboo on their property, and they were cited at the district justice on May 19, 2024. A hearing at the district court is scheduled for August 13, 2024.
- A hearing regarding violations at property owned by 2nd St. Lawyers LLC (greenhouses) was continued until September 10, 2024.
- 2963 Real Estate (Rockwell's) was again cited at the district justice on May 19, 2024, for creating a nuisance. The owner was also sent a notice of violation for violating the zoning ordinance by failing to abide by their agreement and operating a scrap and recycling operation in the Borough's commercial zoning district, where it is not permitted. The property owner did not accept certified mailings regarding these issues. Service by a constable is being considered.
- A letter was sent to the property owner at 113 Main St. (Old Hoagie Shop) for failing to obtain a permit prior to erecting a sign. A formal notice of violation was sent to the property owner on June 29, 2024. As of the meeting, Mr. Membrino had not received a response from the property owner.
- A pergola was erected at 101 Walnut St. without a zoning or building permit. Mr. Membrino is working with the property owner to meet the necessary requirements.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** (Report on file)

The engineer provided reduced-scope plans and a request for grant extension until June 30, 2025, for the Montco 2040 Grant - Route 29 Sidewalk Project to the Montgomery County grant committee. The scope change and extension were approved. A Greenways Trails and Recreation Program Grant application was submitted for the amount of \$79,770 to make up the funding shortfall. See details in Engineer’s Report on file.

Bids were opened on July 10, 2024. with scope reduced to install lights as Phase II. The apparent low bidder of the four submitted bids was NJS Concrete in the amount of \$307,658. Bids were also submitted by: T. Scheifer Contractors inc. - \$365,588.50; Associated Paving Contractors, Inc.- \$376,393; and LB/DB Construction - \$384,370. A complete tabulation or bids is on file.

An application is also being prepared for a DCED-MTF grant to complete the borough-wide paving project. The deadline is July 31, 2024. Estimated project cost is \$463,077. A resolution requesting the grant amount of \$463,077 from the Commonwealth Finance Authority is required as part of the grant application. Councilman Findley made a motion to approve the resolution. Second by Councilman Godshall. Motion approved.

**REGIONAL PLANNING:** None.

**SEWER AUTHORITY:**

- Councilman Godshall reported that the Authority has replaced its engineering firm. The new company is Hydraterra Professionals.
- The Authority is continuing to investigate the settling of the Green Lane pumphouse to determine the necessary remediation.

**ROAD COMMITTEE:**

- Traffic signs continue to be repaired or replaced throughout the Borough.

**PARK COMMITTEE:**

- Councilman Godshall was concerned about the quality of mowing.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

- Councilman Findley made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report and pay all bills. Second by Councilman Godshall. Motion approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- In the FEMA/PEMA Hurricane Ida buyout program, the second half of the funding will be deposited in the Borough account on July 15, 2024. Two settlements are scheduled for July and one for August.
- The signage has been delivered to the Borough for the Highlands Trail through town and for the kiosk. Installation is being scheduled and will be paid for by the Appalachian Mountain Club.
- The Borough newsletter was distributed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Secretary Garber was appointed to be the Borough's representative to the Perkiomen Watershed Initiative Phase One: Mapping and Flooding Reduction advisory board.
- Representatives from Project Live met with Secretary Garber and with Mayor Bergey to discuss ways of promoting drug and alcohol abuse prevention activities in the Borough. A Project Live brochure was included in the Borough's recent newsletter mailing and a Borough resident was contacted to see if she would be interested in attending Project Live meetings.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Malysz said he is specifically requesting the Borough Council more carefully look at organizations renting the park. Secretary Garber explained the Isaac Smith Park is owned by both the Borough and the Green Lane Fire Company and is regulated by the Isaac Smith Park Committee and not the Borough alone.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Garber, Borough Secretary