

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
July 14, 2022
Final 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: Mayor Lynn Wolfe, Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer John Membrino, Solicitor Loren Szczesny (attending instead of David Comer who was on vacation), Engineer Joe Carlin and Secretary/Treasurer Mary T. Garber.

OFFICIALS ABSENT: None.

MOTION ON MINUTES: A motion was made by Gerald Godshall to accept the minutes of the June 9, 2022, Council meeting. Second by Jonathan Guntz. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- The Mayor reported that the Borough received several requests for fire police assistance. All of these events were approved earlier this year, but the Borough just received the specific time and date details.
 - The 60th Annual Philadelphia Folk Festival August 18 through August 21, 2022.
 - The Old Goshenhoppen Church Oyster Picnic, Church Road in Woxall, on Saturday, September 10, from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. The rain date is Sunday, September 11, 2022.
 - Big Bad Bon Fire at Spring Mount Ski Area and Salford Station Road Parking Lot, Saturday, October 15, 2022.
 - National Night Out at St. John's Church in Sumneytown on August 20, 2022.
- St. Luke's Volunteers will be painting the curbs in town on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, starting at 9 a.m. Paint and tools are being donated by President Carpenter.
- Cooks notified the Borough that it is proceeding with remediation work.
- Harleysville Ambulance will be merging with Trappe under the new name of Freedom Valley Medical Rescue.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS: State Police report on file.

VISITORS: Local business owners Tom and Kelly Weiss; resident Rick Stamper; Engineering Consultant Randy Waltermyer from Traffic Planning and Design.

- Tom and Kelly Weiss asked for an update on the dispute they are having with the sewer authority regarding sewer water backing up into the basement of their business on

Walnut Street during heavy rains. They asked if Mr. Godshall as the representative to the Authority from the Borough is advocating for them President Carpenter said he would follow up with the Borough's solicitor and ask him to contact the authority to see where resolution of the problem stands.

- Mr. Waltermeyer presented the final report on the "Activating Green Lane: Active Transportation and Revitalization Plan" that was funded by a grant from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI). The goal of the two-year project was to develop a plan to improve active transportation in Green Lane with connections to the regional trail network while simultaneously revitalizing the Borough. (An electronic version of the final report is on file in the Borough office and available on the Borough's website at www.greenlaneborough@comcast.net under Borough News.) Councilman Guntz made a motion to pass a resolution to accept the plan. Second by Gerald Godshall. Motion passed.
- Michael Fuller of Keystone Lighting Solutions gave an update on the Regional Streetlight Procurement Program. Slides from his presentation are on file in the Borough office. A motion was made by Jack Findley to pass a resolution authorizing cooperative purchasing and participation in Phases 3 and 4 of the RSLPP program to replace older lights with cost-saving LED bulbs at a cost to the Borough of \$19,682. Second by Gerald Godshall. Motion approved and so ordered.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Loren Szczesny attending in place of David Comer.

- A hearing was held regarding a civil complaint against the owners of 750 Lumber Street for ongoing zoning violations. District Justice Coggins ruled in favor of the Borough. However, a notice was received by the solicitor that the owners of the property have appealed to the County Court of Common Pleas in Norristown.
- A hearing is scheduled for July 20, 2022, in front of District Justice Coggins regarding the Rockwell's property; however, Solicitor Comer was contacted by the attorney for the property owner asking for a meeting with the Borough to discuss a potential settlement of the matter. He asked that the hearing be continued to a future date to give them an opportunity for discussion.
- Councilman Guntz asked if any progress had been made on the stormwater management issues at the New Covenant Church on Walnut Street. President Carpenter said he would follow up with Dave Comer when he returns from vacation.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: (report on file)

- Two permits were issued during the month. One was to William Eberman, 508 Main St., to rebuild a shed roof. The second to PECO Gas for a street opening at Second Street near Main Street.
- Mr. Membrino gave more information on the hearing regarding 2963 Real Estate/120 Gravel Pike/Rockwell's that is scheduled for July 20, 2022. He said the property owner has suggested fencing his property. Council members expressed concern that the fence would just hide issues about which the Borough has received multiple complaints.

Councilman Findley questioned how a business can continue to operate with an enclosed parking lot. After discussion, Council members said the business owner has demonstrated that he is not willing to work with the Borough in good faith because there are currently two judgements against him that he has not paid, so they are not willing to delay the hearing. Mr. Membrino said that the owner said under oath that he is operating a salvage operation which is not allowed in the zoning district. Mr. Membrino said the Borough does not have the ability to approved a salvage operation. That would have to go to the Zoning Hearing Board.

- Regarding McCuskin Properties, 750 Lumber St., vacant lot, Mr. Membrino attended a hearing before the District Magistrate on June 15, 2022, at which the judge ruled in favor of the Borough. Mr. Membrino was informed today that the ruling was appealed to County Court. A permit application has been received and is being reviewed by the engineer. The engineer said the shed permit application and change of use application that were received on July 5, 2022, do not meet the requirements regarding demonstrating no increase in the base flood elevation. The property owner also had not addressed the ongoing lighting concerns.
- A letter was sent to the property owner at 508 Main St. about a roof he is constructing. A permit application was received, and a permit issued.
- A letter was sent regarding a vehicle parked on the street without current license or inspection at Second and Main Streets. The vehicle has been moved.
- President Carpenter asked Mr. Membrino to inspect two properties on Walnut Street for violations.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: (Report on file.)

- The Hurricane Ida Hazard Mitigation Grant Program home buyout application was submitted on time. PEMA is advancing the application for the individual residences into the FEMA system. A letter was received from PEMA stating that it will be two to three months before a decision in made by FEMA regarding the application.
- The engineer has not received any communication from the owners of the New Covenant Chapel regarding the stormwater issues.
- Montgomery County has issued a new model Stormwater Management ordinance for adoption by September 30, 2022. Copies revised to conform with the Borough specifics will be provided for review at the August Council meeting.
- Regarding the Montco 2040 Grant, Route 29 Sidewalk project: Technical questions/comments have been resolved. The engineer has met with some owners since last meeting and will go door-to-door with President Carpenter to follow up with the remaining property owners.
- An application for funding to repave Green Street was submitted to the DCED (Horse Development and Gaming Act) Local Share Account Grant program, but no

announcements have been made regarding awards. Prior year awards were announced between May and June, but the next meeting of the committee is not until September.

- A Borough-wide pavement evaluation prioritizing repairs and determining cost estimates was conducted by Gilmore & Associates and reviewed by President Carpenter. Based on this information, an application was prepared for submission to the the DCED-Multimodal Fund Grant Program for \$1,586,000 to complete all the recommended repairs. No matching funds are required from the Borough as a condition of this grant. The application is due by July 31, 2022. A motion was made by Councilman Godshall to adopt a resolution authorizing Gilmore & Associates to complete the grant application. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion approved and so ordered.

REGIONAL PLANNING: Councilman Jack Findley said there was nothing new to report.

SEWER AUTHORITY: The Authority is considering two applicants to replace Lisa Duemler.

ROAD COMMITTEE: None.

PARK COMMITTEE: A bid of \$1,500 was received from Buso Tree and Landscaping for removal of six ash trees and one maple tree in Isaac Smith Park. President Carpenter said the treasurer's report includes a donation by the Borough to cover the cost of the tree removal.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A notification was received by email to the Borough that the second round of federal ARPA funds will be received in the next month.
- A complaint was received regarding unsafe launching of fireworks in the Borough. President Carpenter said that there is little the Borough can do about the problem that has resulted from changes in state laws.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: The Borough secretary is working on producing a newsletter to inform residents about projects and activities in the Borough.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Garber, Borough Secretary