

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
June 10, 2021
Minutes

The Borough Council met on the above date in the Pavilion of the Isaac Smith Park to allow for 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 Pavilion. Borough Council waited five minutes past the 7 p.m. starting time to allow people to walk from Borough office to the Pavilion. 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, and Jonathan Guntz.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Darren Landis.

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

OFFICIALS ABSENT: Engineer Joe Carlin.

MOTION ON MINUTES: A motion was made by Gerald Godshall to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2021, Council meeting. Seconded by Jack Findley. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Wolfe reported on the Radiological Emergency Response Training & Tabletop Exercise that was held at the Marlborough Township Municipal Building on Thursday, May 20, 2021. The Mayor, Council Member Jack Findley, Borough Secretary Mary T. Garber, Fire Company Chief Ryan Crouthamel and Fire Police Captain Scott Bergey participated in the training in preparation for the Limerick Generating Station drill on November 16, 2021.
- The Mayor thanked the adornment committee members, and Council Members Jack Findley and Gerald Godshall for doing such a great job keeping the park looking nice this year. She said she recently attended a graduation party in the park, and many of the attendees remarked how great the park is looking this year.
- She also thanked the volunteers who assisted in hanging the American flags throughout the Borough in time for Memorial Day.

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

VISITORS: Borough residents Rita Hiriak, David Whetstone, Georgia Nesmith, Robin Reinert and Town & Country reporter Jennifer Frieze.

- Mrs. Hiriak expressed concerns about the survey being taken in town as part of the Green Lane Borough Active Transportation and Trail-End Revitalization Project. She submitted a list of concerns from herself and other Borough residents that she spoke to prior to the meeting. Her comments will be submitted to Traffic Planning & Design, the

engineering consultant that is managing the grant-funded project. Some of her concerns included: safety of the Main Street/Gravel Pike intersection and trails, speeding, parking congestion and needed repairs to town roads.

- Mrs. Hiriak also expressed concerns about the use of illegal fireworks in the Borough. She reported that there have been several instances of fireworks being set off at all hours of the day and night. Council Member Godshall asked if the State Police had been called when the fireworks were seen. He said the Borough is not responsible for enforcement of Pennsylvania laws against fireworks. Council President Brian Carpenter confirmed that the State Police should be called if anyone has a concern about fireworks even if they are not sure if a law is being broken.
- David Whetstone said he attended the meeting to hear what Mrs. Hiriak had to say.
- Robin Reinert also expressed concern about the noise produced by fireworks. She also attended the meeting to report problems with noise, accumulating trash and abandoned cars at her neighbor's property on Lumber Street.
- Georgia Nesmith said she attended the meeting just to learn.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- Another letter was sent to the owner of 417 Walnut Street regarding storm water issues. If no response is received within 30 days, the Borough will proceed with legal action.
- Borough Forest Management Project: Council President Carpenter reported that a proposal for managing the forest above Green Street in the Borough was reviewed following the April Council meeting and was put out for bid by the consulting agency Future Forest Timber Management, LLC. The resulting high-bid proposal to selectively timber the approximately 28-acre property was forwarded to all council members by email prior to this meeting. According to the proposal, the Borough would receive \$32,580 upon execution of contract and a second equal payment prior to the start of harvesting operations. A bond will be placed on the project which will be paid back once the property and roads are restored to their prior condition. Solicitor David Comer will be reviewing the contract prior to starting the project. Council Member Jonathan Guntz made a motion to accept the contract pending final review by the Solicitor and consultation with Borough Council President. Jack Findley seconded the motion. Motion approved and so moved.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (report on file)

- Permits were issued to Kelly and Michael Wright, 201 Walnut St., for installation of a Gazebo on their property and Caitlin Santrock, 405 Fourth St., for a fence.
- McCuskin Properties LLC has fired their previous counsel regarding their vacant Lumber Street lot and has hired Ken Picardi and Jamie Ottaviano. They conveyed to the Zoning Officer that they will be filing for a variance from the Zoning Hearing Board.
 - A sign that was not allowed was removed, and there is no longer any enforcement action necessary.
- Continuing correspondence has been received regarding junk and debris at 770 Lumber St. Mr. Membrino has been in contact with the owner who is in the process of an

eviction proceeding. The owner told him that he is awaiting the opening back up of the courts so that a hearing can be held on the eviction. There is a restraining order that has been placed on him and he cannot enter the property without a State Police escort.

- Miss Reinert expressed concerns about this Lumber Street property, including garbage piling up, noise at all hours, traffic coming and going, and abandoned cars on the property.
- She also expressed concern about a damaged retaining wall along Lumber Street. She said the wall was built by the County. She has contacted them and FEMA, and they have told her to contact the Borough.
- Miss Reinert said she would email information about the wall to the Borough and or greenlanemayor.com, and the mayor would help point her in the right direction for assistance.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

- Green Lane Borough has been awarded a Montco 2040 Implementation Grant for \$199,375 for pedestrian improvements on Route 29 between Green Street and Main Street. Next step is to receive and execute the grant agreement before moving forward with the design.
- Employee education information and public participation plan has been provided under separate cover for review as part of the ongoing permitting requirements for the Borough’s Stormwater MS4 Permit requirements.
- Site plans from MacIntosh Builders for the lot at Upper Ridge Road and Main Street were submitted and reviewed by the engineer. A letter including minor comments on the plan was sent to the builder.

REGIONAL PLANNING: Councilman Findley reported that there are a lot of construction projects going on throughout the region, including an over-55 community going in across from Wal-Mart on Route 29.

SEWER AUTHORITY: Smoke testing of sewer lines was conducted in the Borough May 17-18, 2021. Some issues were reported at two locations in the Borough. These will be discussed at the Authority’s next meeting.

ROAD COMMITTEE: Several Stormwater inlets need cleaning out, and the work has been scheduled.

PARK COMMITTEE: Councilman Godshall is working with the Green Lane-Marlboro Lions Club on plans to update the park’s bathrooms.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Councilman Godshall made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report and pay all bills. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion passed and so moved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The Borough Secretary has been working through the process of setting up an account to receive the American Rescue Plan Act funds that are being released by the Federal government to the State of Pennsylvania for distribution to municipalities this month.

Green Lane Borough is scheduled to receive approximately \$52,000 in two payments a year apart. It is not completely clear how the money can be used, so the Borough Secretary will be researching this and reporting back to Council.

- According to the notification, Recovery Funds may be used “to invest in broadband infrastructure, services and programs to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including capital investments in public facilities, payroll and covered benefits expenses for public health, health care, human services, public safety and similar employees, and investments in housing and neighborhoods. Funds should not be used by state and local governments to cut taxes, pay down debt, or bolster reserve funds.
- The Borough Secretary gave an update on the progress of the TCDI Planning grant project.
 - A survey was conducted of residents, business owners and stake holders resulting in 161 completed surveys, 77 of them from Borough residents.
 - The next Steering Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 29, 2021, in the Fire Company Banquet Hall at 6:30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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