

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
March 10, 2022
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 and Council Members Jack Findley, Gerald Godshall, Darren Landis and Jonathan Guntz.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Lynn Wolfe, Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer John Membrino, Solicitor Dave Comer, 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 February 10, 2022, Council meeting. Seconded by Darren Landis. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- The Mayor asked for a moment of silence in honor of Thomas Huguenin Sr. who passed away on February 15, 2022. He was a veteran of the United States Army, a life-long member of the Skippack Fire Company and a sergeant with the Green Lane Fire Company Fire Police.
- Trooper Loretta J. Miree, Community Service Officer and Peer Contact with the Skippack Office of the Pennsylvania State Police, will retire on March 19, 2022. The Mayor acknowledged the service of Trooper Miree and wished her well in the future.
- The Mayor recognized the Borough Secretary for the work she has been doing processing the many grant applications in the which the Borough is currently involved.
- Councilman Godshall made a motion to approve participation of the Green Lane Fire Company and Fire Police in the funeral of Mr. Huguenin on February 21, 2022. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion approved and so ordered.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS: Fire company and state police reports on file.

VISITORS: Ryan Crouthamel, Green Lane Fire Company chief, and Tom Huguenin, deputy chief; Kelly Weiss, owner of the Perkiomen Valley Brewery at 101 Walnut St.; Nancy Harvey, resident; Kelsey Butt and Mike Tierney, residents; Barry Borchert, property owner.

- Mrs. Weiss asked if the GLMJA was going to apply for funding from the County through the ARPA program for improvements to the sanitary sewer system. President Carpenter said the GLMJA is looking at projects for which to apply.

- Mr. Borchert expressed concern about the dumpsters being stored at 750 Lumber Street. He said it is an emergency situation and could cause a catastrophe if the dumpsters got lodged under the bridge in a flood. President Carpenter said the Borough is pursuing legal action against the property owner for zoning violations.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- A hearing was held before Judge Coggins in Magisterial District Court on March 1, 2022, regarding violations that had been filed against the owner of 120 Gravel Pike (Rockwell's). It was attended by Solicitor Dave Comer, Code Enforcement and Zoning officer John Membrino and Council President Brian Carpenter on behalf of the Borough. Judge Coggins found the property owner guilty on seven counts of violating the Borough's nuisance ordinance. The property owner has 30 days to appeal the decisions to the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Membrino has issued 21 additional days of violations against the property owner, but hearing dates have not been set on these violations.
- Regarding 750 Lumber Street, a civil complaint has been filed with the Magisterial District Court against the property owner for zoning violations. A hearing date has not been scheduled.
- An attorney contacted the Borough's solicitor regarding the possibility of installing a billboard at 101 Main Street, the site of the old Yoder's property. He responded that the property is not zoned for that purpose and asked what the owners would be doing to make improvements to the property. He awaits further information.
- Councilman Godshall had asked the solicitor if "cow chip" bingo would be allowed in Isaac Smith Park. The solicitor said he would research the matter.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: (report on file)

- A permit was issued to PECO Gas for a street opening at 412 Fourth Street.
- There are still 21 additional days of violations against the owner of 120 Gravel Pike (Rockwell's), and hearings will be scheduled.
- Regarding McCuskins Properties at 750 Lumber Street vacant lot: There has been correspondence from the attorney for the property owner but there has been no movement toward bringing this property into compliance. A civil complaint was filed with the Magisterial District Court on March 9, 2022.
- Mr. Membrino answered one zoning/permit question related to a generator install at the Sunoco.
- The Mayor asked about the time the PECO workers are allowed to be working on Route 29. President Carpenter said the construction workers are not allowed to be on the street after 3 p.m., and they are exceeding this on a regular basis. Councilman Findley and Mrs. Weiss also said the workers are littering at the site. President Carpenter said he would stop at the site again to talk to the workers.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

- Post Ida Efforts: The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application was submitted on time, but no feedback has been received to date. The RPA Grant Effort is ongoing.
- Montco 2040 Grant Application- Route 29 Sidewalk:
 - The engineer has received feedback from PennDOT and will submit updated plans by March 14.
 - Bid documents have been prepared for Borough review.
 - Letters to owners and invitations to the next meeting will go out soon.
- Green Street - DCED (Horse Development and Gaming Act) Local Share Account Grant: Application submission is due March 15, 2022, and it requires a resolution from Council to apply for a grant in the amount of \$276,223 to resurface Green Street. Grant amount has been updated per recent costs and includes some additional full-depth repair compared to prior applications. Jonathan Guntz made a motion to sign the resolution to apply for the grant. Second by Gerald Godshall. Motion approved.

REGIONAL PLANNING:

Councilman Jack Findley reported that only about 200 people completed the Upper Perkiomen Valley Regional Planning Commission’s survey.

SEWER AUTHORITY:

Councilman Godshall reported that relining of sewer pipes is continuing.

ROAD COMMITTEE: None.

PARK COMMITTEE: None.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS: The Borough is waiting for notification from FEMA/PEMA as to the eligibility of the Borough’s application to the home buyout program.

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Wolfe asked about the procedure to extend the “no parking” zone on Third Street. Solicitor Comer said he would research the ordinance.

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