

Green Lane Borough  
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania  
Borough Council Meeting  
March 11, 2021  
Minutes

The Borough Council met on the above date in the Banquet Hall of the Green Lane Fire House to allow 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 Banquet Hall. Borough Council waited five minutes past the 7 p.m. starting time to allow people to walk from Borough office to the Banquet Hall. 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, Darren Landis and Jonathan Guntz.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

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

**OFFICIALS ABSENT:** None.

**MOTION ON MINUTES:** A motion was made by Jonathan Guntz to accept the minutes of the February 11, 2021, Council meeting. Seconded by Darren Landis. Motion passed.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- The Borough declared two snow emergencies in 2021: first, from January 31 at 12 p.m. through February 3, at 12 p.m.; second, from 6 a.m. on February 18 until 6 a.m. on February 20.
- Upper Perkiomen Valley Chamber of Commerce President Luanne Stauffer has announced that she will retire in June.
- The Fire Police responded to another incident in which a tractor trailer tried to turn onto Park Road and took out the guard rail.

**PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS:** (reports on file)

**VISITORS:** Green Lane Fire Police Captain Scott Bergey; Jereme Lockey, timber management specialist; and Town and Country newspaper reporter Jennifer Friel.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

- The special Council meeting scheduled for February 18, 2021, to adopt the codification ordinance was cancelled due to snow. Public notices were placed in both the Town and Country newspaper (2/25/2021) and the Pottstown Mercury (2/22/2021) to advertise that the ordinance would be adopted at this meeting. Notice was also sent to the Montgomery County Law Library. Gerald Godshall made a motion to approve the adoption of the full ordinance for codification. Second by Jonathan Guntz. Motion passed and so ordered. The Solicitor will publish a notice in the Town and Country that the ordinance has been adopted.

- The owner of 417 Walnut Street will be meeting with a contractor to determine a solution to the stormwater issues.
- Hearing regarding 120 Gravel Pike was continued until April 13, 2021.
- In response to questions brought up at the at the February 11 meeting about conducting timber management on Borough-owned parcels, the Solicitor researched the Borough Code to determine if Council had the authority to remove and sell trees on Borough property. He reported that under the category of “municipal forest,” there is language in the “pruning and thinning” section that allows the Borough to sell the product of pruning and thinning out of municipal forest by Resolution. President Carpenter said he will support removing damaged trees and thinning to improve the health of the forest, but he does “not want to strip the land just to generate income.” He said he will follow up with the forestry manager before next month’s meeting.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (report on file)**

- Two snow and ice inspections were performed on February 20 and February 23.
- McCuskins Properties LLC on Lumber St.: Code Enforcement reported that the property is zoned “limited industrial” which would allow for storing vehicles, but he is working with the Borough Engineer to determine if there are flood plain issues with this use and with a shed that was placed on the property. He is also addressing a sign ordinance issues, and Code Inspections, Inc., is looking into electrical permit and lighting issues.
- The owner of Sunday School, 301 Main Street, has requested a driveway permit and is working with the Engineer and Code Enforcement to meet the requirements.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** Engineer Joe Carlin reported the following: (report on file)

- The Montco 2040 Grant Application for the Route 29 Sidewalk has been submitted.
- The Borough received and submitted with the grant application a commitment letter from the William and Dorothy Yeck Foundation for \$41,000 in matching funds.
- The owner of 124 Main Street Sidewalk has contacted the Engineer with a request for contractor referral and to confirm that the Engineer should be notified and inspect forms prior to pouring.

**REGIONAL PLANNING:** Council Member Jack Findley reported that PerkUP is looking for nominations of business and community leaders for annual awards.

**SEWER AUTHORITY:**

- Councilman Godshall said smoke testing of sewer lines in being conducted.
- The Borough received notification from Environmental Engineering & Management Associates that the Green Lane Marlborough Joint Authority is submitting application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for a Hydraulic Capacity Rerate of its wastewater treatment facility. Councilman Godshall will get more information.
- There will be no late charges on sewer bills since there were many problems with mail delivery of the bills.

**ROAD COMMITTEE:** Schaeffer Sell completed snow removal during the season.

**PARK COMMITTEE:** Dead Ash Trees have been cut down in the park. Firewood is still available to any resident who wants it.

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

- Councilman Godshall asked for the total spent on snow removal this year, which was \$18,778 for the 2020-2021 season.
- Two real estate tax bills were received by residents due to an error in the County tax millage. Residents should disregard the first bill and pay the second. If they had already paid the first bill, they should just send in the difference.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

- At the February 11, 2021, meeting, Council voted to approve Traffic Planning & Design, Inc., as the Consultant for the TCDI planning project, at a cost of \$43,982.37 to complete the "base" scope of work, which did not include a traffic study. Upon submission of the appointment for approval to Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Secretary Garber was told that the amount would exceed the allowable total cost of the project which required a five percent in-kind administrative match. After Secretary Garber explained, the problem to TPD, the quote was revised to a lower amount of \$42,750, which would include the desired traffic study. A motion was made by Gerald Godshall to accept the revised budget proposal and confirm TPD as the project's consultant. Second by Jack Findley. Motion approved and so ordered.
- The next step is formation of a steering committee for the TCDI Grant planning project. Jack Findley and Gerald Godshall volunteered to be on the committee.
- Ethics forms need to be completed and returned to the Borough Secretary by May 1.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** A resident contacted the Borough office to see if chickens were allowed in the Borough limits. Council said chickens are allowed, but goats are not. Chickens must be contained on the property.

**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