

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
October 13, 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, Vice President Gerald Godshall and Council Members Jack Findley, Darren Landis and Jonathan Guntz.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Lynn Wolfe, Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer John Membrino, and Solicitor David Comer.

OFFICIALS ABSENT: Engineer Joe Carlin and Secretary/Treasurer Mary T. Garber.

MOTION ON MINUTES: A motion was made by Gerald Godshall to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2022, Council meeting. Second by Jack Findley. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Fire police events were presented for approval. Gerald Godshall made a motion to approve the list of fire police events for the community in October, and Councilman Guntz seconded. Motion approved.
 - 10/8 – Parade for citizen – Candelwyck Estates
 - 10/14 – Fire Prevention Marlborough Elementary
 - 10/15 – Fall Festival at Perkiomen Valley Brewery
 - 10/15 – Upper Salford Bonfire – Fire Police
 - 10/21-22 and 10 28-29 October 21-22 and October 28-29 – Tylersport haunted Hayride.
 - 10/23 – St. Johns Church Trunk or Treat
 - 10/23 – Upper Perk Halloween Parade
 - 10/24 (rain date 10/27) – Bally Borough Eastern Berks Fire Police Halloween Parade
 - 10/31 – Trick or Treat Green Lane.
- Green Lane-Marlboro Lions Club will hold a fundraiser on October 15 from 12 to 5 p.m. at Perkiomen Valley Brewery to benefit the Lions and Isaac Smith Park. The Lions will sell pulled pork sandwiches, and Gerald Godshall has organized a bake sale with contributions from the community. There will also be a jar for donations for the Isaac Smith Park bathroom project.

- Trick or Treating is scheduled for October 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. Fire Police Captain Scott Bergey procured flares from the State Police and Marlborough Township Police for traffic calming for kids in the Borough from 6 to 8 p.m.
- The annual tree lighting event will be Sunday, November 27 at 5 p.m. Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Green Lane Fire Company will be present.
- Everyone was asked to update their contact information for the records.
- Town and Country advised Council that Mary Kershner will be attending and reporting on Borough meetings.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS: (State police and fire company reports on file.)

VISITORS: Borough residents Mike and Sherri Lee of 417 Fourth Street.

- The Lees shared concerns about bamboo that a neighbor planted about seven years ago and is now slowly invading his property. Mr. Lee said his dog fence has already been compromised, and he is concerned about his sewer lines being damaged. He showed pictures of the bamboo to Council, and said it is also spreading to other neighboring properties. The Lees said they know there is no ordinance against planting bamboo in the Borough, but they would like Council to consider enacting one to prevent other properties from being damaged. Solicitor Comer said that at this time without further review this appears to be a private issue between the property owners. Council President Carpenter advised Mr. Lee to speak with an attorney. Mr. Carpenter said he will see if the Borough has any ordinances already in place that can address the issue, and Mr. Comer will research ordinances adopted by other municipalities against bamboo.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- An amendment to the "Trees, Shrubs and Weeds" section of the Borough Property Maintenance ordinance was discussed at the September meeting, and a follow-up email of containing the proposed changes was sent to Council on September 26. Notice of the proposed change was also published in the Town & Country on September 29. The ordinance required clearance of at least 15 feet above any street or alley and a clearance of at least eight feet over any sidewalk. The changes also allow the Borough office to send out violation letters. Gerald Godshall made the motion to approve the ordinance. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion approved and so ordered.
- Solicitor Dave Comer and Engineer Joe Carlin finalized a legal description of the Borough's empty lot on Main Street, and public notice for invitations to bid on the property will appear in the Town & Country on October 20, 2022. Assuming bids are received, they will be opened at 3 p.m. on November 10, which is the same day as the Council meeting. If there is a bid that can be accepted, the Borough can approve it at the meeting that night.
- Act 57, signed into law by the state legislature on July 11, makes changes to the local tax collection law to allow tax collector to waive penalties, interest and other charges if the

property owners can establish they did not receive a tax bill in the first year after purchase. All local governments that impose real estate taxes are required to adopt a resolution approving the change on or before January 7, 2023. Gerald Godshall made a motion to approve the Resolution. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion approved.

- Mr. Comer will put together a resolution confirming appointment of an independent auditor for consideration at the November Council meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: (Report on file)

- One zoning permit was issued for the office trailer at Mayer's used car lot. The business owner was instructed to apply for a building permit from Code Inspections, Inc. President Carpenter said he did not the deck was ADA compliant, and he would follow up with Code Inspection and Mr. Mayer. He was also concerned that a zoning permit was approved before the building permit. Mr. Comer advised that typically a municipality issues a zoning permit, and the property owner has so many days to obtain a building permit. This time period would be indicated on the zoning permit.
- McCuskins Properties, LLC, was issued a new enforcement notice for failure to get a permit for the dumpsters being stored at 750 Lumber Street. He also noted that the couch is still in the front yard, and items are outside of dumpster at the apartment building owned by McCuskins.
- Brian advised that the apartments on Second Street were sold for \$2.5 million.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: (Report submitted by email in absence of engineer)

- Post Ida efforts: There has been no word on the Hazard Mitigation Program Grant Application that was submitted by the Borough in January.
- MS4 Exemption: Gilmore is working on having the Borough exempted from MS4 requirements due to its size. This would not negate the Borough's ordinance, but it would remove the Borough from the county-wide general permit and annual reporting and inspection requirements, which could save the Borough thousands of dollars annually. Exemption appears to be likely with no negative impact. Now that prior year's reporting is finalized Gilmore will pursue.
- Montco 2040 Grant - Route 29 Sidewalk: All acknowledgements from property owners have been received. Plans have been re-uploaded to PennDOT for review. Grant opportunities to fund pedestrian level street lighting as part of project are being pursued.
- There are no updates on the Green Street Repaving - DCED (Horse Development and Gaming Act) Local Share Account Grant.
- No updates have been received on the DCED-MTF Grant Application.

REGIONAL PLANNING:

- The Comprehensive Plan was reviewed and discussed.

- Brian advised that the County Planning Department and others went through town and got to see where the sidewalks were going and made a stop at the Perkiomen Brewery for a tour and history of how they began their small business.

SEWER AUTHORITY:

- Gerald Godshall made a motion to appoint Bedder Majeed to fill Salam Majeed's term through December 31, 2022. Second by Darren Landis. Motion approved. Gerald Godshall was asked to have Bedder email his contact information to the Borough.
- Michelle Steele has resigned from the engineering firm that operates the sewer plant.

ROAD COMMITTEE:

- President Carpenter discussed the metal plates that have been installed at the intersection of Routes 29 and 63. He said that sink holes have formed because of two storm water pipes below the road surface that have deteriorated, and the Borough is responsible for making the repairs even though these are both state roadways. Mr. Carpenter met with PennDOT, and the state will do the road repairs if the Borough fixes the pipes. He said the cost to the Borough to fix one of the pipes will be about \$31,000 through a vendor approved through Costars. He has not received the estimate for the second pipe. He said both pipes would be repaired by relining them not replacing them similar to the method that the sewer authority had been using. Following the repair, PennDOT will come in and repair the road. The repairs should last 40-50 years.

PARK COMMITTEE:

- Gerald Godshall reported that the kitchen in Isaac Smith Park needs a new water heater. President Carpenter said he will ask around for one.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS: Part of the fence has gone up at Rockwell's. Jack Findley said it looks nice, but questioned why they would put it in contact with the ground. Gerald Godshall said it looks a lot better, but a car and box truck are still there. The property owner's attorney indicated that one is for storage and the others will be moved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Wolfe advised that PSAB has a conference this weekend regarding funding transportation, water and sewer needs through the "infrastructure and jobs act" through PennDOT and PennVEST. She will reach out to ask them if a power point presentation will be made available so that we can obtain knowledge for new funding programs to our community.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Green Lane Borough Council Special Meeting
Thursday, October 13, 2022

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Garber, Borough Secretary