

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
October 14, 2021
Minutes

The Borough Council met on the above date in the pavilion of the Isaac Smith Park. Signage was posted at the Borough Office and on the Borough's website to advise people that the meeting was being held in the Park Pavilion. Borough Council waited five minutes past the 7 p.m. starting time to allow people to walk from the 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: Solicitor Dave Comer, Secretary/Treasurer Mary T. Garber, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer John Membrino, and Engineer Joe Carlin.

OFFICIALS ABSENT: Mayor Lynn Wolfe.

MOTION ON MINUTES: A motion was made by Gerald Godshall to accept the minutes of the September 9, 2021, Council meeting. Seconded by Jack Findley. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor was not in attendance but she submitted a written report. (on file). Highlights of her report were read by President Carpenter.

- October being Code Enforcement Appreciation Month, John Membrino was thanked for his work as Borough Code Enforcement Officer.
- In response to questions about a dam release following the recent flood event on September 1, 2021, the Mayor contacted the dam's owner and operator AQUA. A spokesperson said that there is a constant outflow from the dam and not a "release." One valve is set to release 11.5 million gallons per day, and the other valve is set to release 15 million gallons per day. It does not change. The reservoir levels for Green Lane during Tropical Storm Ida went up 4.1 feet above the normal pool and quickly went back down just as fast. The chart is on file.
- A meeting was held with Lumber Street residents impacted by the recent flooding. State Rep. Tracy Pennycuick and Borough officials attended along with representatives from PennDOT, Montgomery County and PEMA. Options were discussed regarding mitigation efforts. Rep. Pennycuick said she will be working with DEP to investigate ways to prevent future flooding. Hazard mitigation grants were discussed which would provide funding, 75% from the Federal Government and 25% from the State, to purchase homes in flood-prone areas and demolish them. If it is a twin, both owners must agree.

- The Mayor has been in contact with the Borough Engineer regarding those affected by TS IDA. The Borough and EMC have completed what is needed for FEMA to proceed at this point.
- PECO will be working on the natural gas main and service line installation on Route 63 for the next 30 weeks.

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

VISITORS: Borough residents Rick Stamper, 100 Green St.; Kelly Weiss, owner Perkiomen Valley Brewery, 101 Walnut St.; David Whetstone, 401 Main St.; Scott Bergey, 500 Main St.; and Mary Young, Board member of Project LIVE.

- Ms. Young gave an update on the drug and alcohol abuse prevention program targeted at youth. She passed out several publications and announced the upcoming fundraising run for the organization.
- Ms. Weiss asked Councilman Godshall, who is the representative from the Borough to the Green Lane Marlborough Joint Authority, if the Authority was going to take action to prevent water from backing up into their laterals during storm events. They discussed the problem for several minutes. President Carpenter asked the Borough Solicitor to contact the Authority's Solicitor to see what can be done to address Ms. Weiss's concerns.
- Mr. Whetstone shared photographs of large rocks that have been placed by PennDOT on the culvert near his property that he is concerned about being pushed into Route 63. President Carpenter said he will contact PennDOT about the issue.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- Attorney David Comer said the cost of trying to obtain an injunction against the owner of 417 Walnut St., regarding their failure to comply with stormwater management corrections on the property, would be approximately \$10,000. He was concerned that if the Borough sought monetary damages, the problem would still exist. He recommended possibly filing an action for violation of the applicable ordinance and researching the best course of action. Councilman Jonathan Guntz made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to research the best course of action and file action against the owner to cite them for violation of the ordinance for not complying with stormwater management requirements. Councilman Findley seconded the motion. So moved.
- Councilman Godshall made a motion to approve participation of the Green Lane Fire Company in additional activities, including the WMGK bonfire on October 23; Trunk or Treat at St. John's Church on October 24; Upper Perk Parade on October 24; Bally Parade on October 25; Schwenksville Parade on October 28, and Trick or Treating in Green Lane on October 31, 2021. Second by Councilman Findley. Motion approved and so ordered. (Event information on file.)

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (report on file)

- Permits were issued to the following:

- Scott Gehman, owner of Back Home Butcher Shop, at 520 Main St., for a shed.
- PECO Gas for street excavation on Fourth Street between Main and Walnut
- A letter was sent to the owner of 770 Lumber St. on September 27 regarding two junk cars that remain on the property.
- There have been no changes to the conditions of the 2963 Real Estate property at 120 Gravel Pike/Rockwell's. Citations were prepared, and they were sent out by the District Magistrate's office. The Defendant had not entered a plea as of October 4. Further action may be needed to compel him to enter a plea.
- Regarding McCuskin Properties – 740 Lumber St.: A letter was submitted a letter to the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor, but it was deemed deficient due to the absence of a plan.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: (on file)

- Regarding post Tropical Storm Ida flooding efforts:
 - The engineer has met with nine of the affected property owners for initial assessments. Three assessments are outstanding.
- Montco 2040 Grant Application- Route 29 Sidewalk:
 - The ADA design for the intersections is outstanding to PennDOT. Full submission is anticipated the week of October 17, 2021.
- The 2021 CTP Grant for Green Street Repaving and the ARLE Grant for Route 29 and Main Street Signal Maintenance and Upgrades have been submitted. No awards have been announced.

REGIONAL PLANNING:

- Councilman Jack Findley reported that the commission continues to work on a survey.
- Regional Planning wants to increase the amount each municipality pays into the commission. President Carpenter said he wants to see the increase justified before Council votes on it.

SEWER AUTHORITY:

- The Authority engineers will be lining pipes on Gerryville Pike and Main Street.
- Sewer service will be installed at 301 Main St.
- The Authority is considering borrowing money to make a variety of necessary repairs to the entire sanitary sewer system.

ROAD COMMITTEE: Road repairs are under consideration.

PARK COMMITTEE:

- There continues to be issues with the mowers.
- Architect Rick Stamper said repairs need to be made to the pavilion, and he will be looking into what needs to be done.
- The Park account is getting very low on funds.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Liquid fuels allocation for 2022 will be \$14,467.
- Regarding the Treasurer's report, checks 927 and 928 are not expenses. They were transfers needed to complete the transition of accounts to Harleysville Bank from Uninvest.
- Councilman Godshall made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay all bills. Second by Councilman Findley. Motion passed and so ordered.

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter was received from the Green Lane Fire Company asking for consideration for funding as the Borough determines how to spend the ARPA grants it is receiving from the federal government. President Carpenter said that Council is waiting to disperse the funds until after the Borough receives final guidelines.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Garber, Borough Secretary