

Green Lane Borough  
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania  
Borough Council Meeting  
Thursday, August 8, 2019  
Minutes

The regular meeting of the Borough Council was held on the above date in the Municipal Office, 214 Main Street, Green Lane. President Brian Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** President Brian Carpenter, Vice-President Gerald Godshall, Council Members Salam Majeed, Darren Landis, and Jonathan Guntz.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** none

**OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Dave Comer, Mayor Lynne Wolfe, Code Enforcement Officer John Membrino, Engineer Joe Carlin, Fire Company Chief Ryan Crouthamel, and Assistant Secretary Karen Bergey.

**OFFICIALS ABSENT:** Borough Secretary and Treasurer Mary T. Garber

**MOTION ON MINUTES:** Council meeting minutes of July 11, 2019 were reviewed. No changes or corrections were requested. A motion was made by Jonathan Guntz to approve the minutes of July 11. Seconded by Gerald Godshall. Motion passed and so ordered.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Wolfe shared the following items with the Council:

- Four weeks ago on July 11th, we experienced flash flooding on Lumber Street. Many things that the fire company, ambulance and emergency services drill for were tested that night, and things went very well to handle the emergency. She said, "We were very fortunate no lives were lost."
- There are 27 homes in Green Lane and Marlborough Township impacted by flooding. Cleanup continues.
- The next round of cleanup is to work on the creek-bed; there is a car from Lumber Street in the Perkiomen Creek and still a lot of other debris.
- PA Department of Environmental Protection has given the Borough an agenda of what to do. Mayor Wolfe will contact to the Army Corps of Engineers about cleanup.
- Four feet of embankment were lost along the creek and should be built back up.
- The dry hydrant behind the Goschenhoppen Museum building is no longer in the water and needs to be functioning again.
- Residents have mostly cleaned up. There was a water truck from Aqua. A porta potty was provided by the Borough. The Red Cross was present the night of the flood with hotel vouchers for three nights for those affected and also to help residents with making phone calls for assistance.

- Whitetail Disposal donated a dumpster which has been emptied four times and was again full and overflowing at the time of the meeting. People were dumping outside of the dumpster which should be stopped.
- Most people are back in their homes except for the homes closest to the bridge. They cannot return until FEMA gives approval. FEMA said a report would be out on August 6, but the Borough had not received it by the start of the meeting.
- An organization that supports cleanups after disasters came to Green Lane three days after the flood, and, after observing and interviewing three families, decided the cleanup was ahead of the average and their help was not needed.
- The Borough has declared the flooded area a disaster area and is waiting to hear from the state if assistance is forthcoming.
- There is not just damage to homes but also to infrastructure. Brian Carpenter said Lumber Street should be repaired before school starts but, most likely, in the next two weeks. Lumber Street is a PennDOT street. The Borough is not responsible for repairs.
- The Sewer Authority estimated at least \$15,000 of related expenses to date. Montgomery County has been informed of this amount.
- Jerry Godshall and John Membrino asked about the trees and limbs in the waterway. Mayor Wolfe informed us that this is considered “natural debris” that can stay. It was noted that this can restrict the flow in the creeks and streams. Brian Carpenter noted that the Borough is responsible for the waterway but the residents can be responsible for the area on their property and the Borough can make a decision whether to bill residents for waterway cleanup on their properties.
- Brian Carpenter noted that if the state agrees with our disaster declaration they may reimburse costs associated with the cleanup.

**PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS:** (reports on file) The Fire Company report was supplied by the Fire Chief, Ryan Crouthamel. Fire Marshal Craig Wilhelm also submitted a report in advance of the meeting.

**VISITORS:** Nancy Harvey, Joyce Lang, Tom Weiss, Tommy Huguenin and Larry Roeder.

- Resident Tommy Huguenin had a question about a pipe near his property. Brian Carpenter said the pipe was installed by the Fire Company and is on their property. If the Borough were going to do the repair, they would take out the pipe out. There was some question about right-of-way requirements. Brian Carpenter said he will look at it.
- Resident Joyce Lang of Lumber Street wanted to thank Emergency Services, the Borough, and all who helped with the flood. She had a question if there was a release from the Reservoir and if that had an impact on the flooding. Mayor Wolfe confirmed that there was no release by Aqua.
- Tom Weiss, owner of Perkiomen Valley Brewery, asked if it was possible to get a crosswalk and yellow caution sign between Walnut Street and the other side of Rt. 29 and perhaps a lower speed limit. Traffic is heavy with the detour.
  - Brian Carpenter said PennDOT would be reluctant to lower the speed limit.

- Brian Carpenter also noted that previous attempts to use a caution sign in the Borough were unsuccessful. They will look into what would be involved for a crosswalk.
- Engineer Joe Carlin said the grant for a sidewalk may impact this idea.
- Mayor Wolfe expressed gratitude to the Brewery for serving as a hub for donations for flood victims.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Solicitor Dave Comer shared the following items:

- The Borough issued a Declaration of Disaster which the Borough needs to ratify to assist with cleanup and repair work. Gerald Godshall made a motion to ratify the Disaster Declaration of July 11, 2019. Jonathan Guntz seconded the motion. Motion passed and so ordered.
- A resolution was drafted to collect emergency service fees. The resolution was presented to the Fire Company and no changes were suggested. It may be better to have this as a Borough Ordinance rather than a resolution. The proposed ordinance will have to be advertised for consideration at the September 12, 2019, Borough Council Meeting. Gerald Godshall made a motion to approve the advertising of this ordinance. Darren Landis seconded the motion. Motion passed and so ordered.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** Code Enforcement Officer John Membrino shared the following items:

- A permit was issued for a fence at 413 Green Street.
- A permit was issued to Trevor Reed for a large shed to be considered as an accessory building at 104 Green Street.
- A permit was issued for a fence at 401 Walnut Street.
- A formal letter of notice of violation was issued to 608 Main Street where Independence Propane is located. The property owner has hired an attorney and will file an appeal.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Engineer Joe Carlin shared the following items:

- School Alley update: it seems that water is not flowing through the adjacent properties anymore.
- The sidewalk grant application for Route 29 was due on July 31st and was submitted early. Under \$3000 was spent on the application. Joe Carlin expects to hear something about the grant this Fall but no later than April of 2020.
- The culvert behind 3rd and 4th streets needs to be cleaned again due to all the storm activity.
- A resident of Marlborough Township on Hoppenville road was asking about a local emergency notification system.
  - Mayor Wolfe mentioned that anyone can register with [www.ReadyMontco.org](http://www.ReadyMontco.org) which is a reverse 911 system that goes out from the county to the residents.
  - Joe Carlin wanted to know if the reservoir notifies when they have a release. Mayor Wolfe informed us that they notify the Borough and the state when there is a release from the reservoir.

**SEWER AUTHORITY:** Borough Council Vice President Gerald Godshall shared the following:

- The growth in the creek along Meadow Alley behind the greenhouses and a concern for the waterway being restricted. Brian Carpenter said that is not listed as a creek and is private and the responsibility of each property owner.
- The installation of the UV system at the GLMJA plant has been delayed a few months due to the flooding. There was no damage to the sewer plant from the flooding.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- Salaam Majeed made a motion to accept the August 8, 2019, Treasurer's Report and pay all bills. Jonathan Guntz seconded the motion. Motion passed and so ordered.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Council reviewed a letter from the PA DEP concerning the oil release from a tank on Lumber Street during the flood. The Borough will send a letter to the houses in the immediate area with phone numbers to contact DEP with any questions.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- The Borough's website is nearly ready and should be live by the September Council meeting.
- Gerald Godshall asked about the park maintenance and status of the mower. Brian Carpenter said the mower has an oil leak, and he is waiting to hear when it can be repaired. The mower was fixed once but is still having issues. The mower is at least 19 years old, according to Brian Carpenter.
- Jonathan Guntz asked about the status of the retention tank for the Chapel on 5th and Walnut streets. Brian Carpenter said nothing has been done. Joe Carlin will follow up with the chapel.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, a motion was made by Salam Majeed to adjourn and seconded by Darren Landis. Motion passed and so ordered.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Bergey, Assistant Borough Secretary