

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 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 7:02 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: President Brian Carpenter and Council Members Salam Majeed and Jonathan Guntz.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice-President Gerald Godshall, Council Member Darren Landis

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

OFFICIALS ABSENT: None.

MOTION ON MINUTES: Council meeting minutes of August 8, 2019, were reviewed. Two minor corrections had been noted by Secretary Mary T. Garber. No changes other changes or corrections were requested. A motion was made by Jonathan Guntz to approve the minutes of August 8, 2019. Seconded by Salam Majeed. Motion passed and so ordered.

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

- Lifelong Borough resident Betty Martin passed away on September 4, 2019. She had been very active in the community, serving on the Fire Company Auxiliary and Borough Council among others.
- Small Business Administration is providing low-interest loans for homeowners, businesses and nonprofit organizations that sustained physical damage or economic injury following the July 11, 2019, flood. The application deadlines are November 4 for physical damage and June 3, 2020, for economic injury. Information would be posted on the Borough website, Facebook page and in the Borough office.
- The Green Lane Fire Company has requested a stipend for the volunteer fire company members. President Carpenter and Mayor Wolfe said they would need to contact Marlborough Township officials to see if they were going to approve a stipend for firefighters, as the fire department serves both the Borough and the Township so their policies must agree. Solicitor Dave Comer said he would investigate what actions other municipalities were taking.
- The Mayor also said that the final items that had been collected for the flood victims would be going out to them this week.

President Brian Carpenter asked for a moment of silence in memory of the more than 3,000 people who died on September 11, 2001.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS: (police, ambulance and fire reports on file)

VISITORS: Larry Marks, Michele Fillippo, Kasey Schultz, Tommy Huguenin Jr., Ryan Crouthamel, Kathy Zepp, Nancy Harvey, Jennifer Frieze, and Mary K. Fisher Aman.

- Kathy Zepp, of 405 Walnut Street, voiced concern about needed road repairs on the alley between Walnut and Main Streets and Fourth and Fifth Streets and overgrown trees and shrubs making it difficult to see at intersections in the Borough.
- Green Lane Resident Larry Marks asked why the Borough would consider an ordinance authorizing the fire company to charge fees. Fire Chief Ryan Crouthamel, Solicitor David Comer and President Carpenter explained that fees would not be charged directly to residents but would be collected from insurance companies for fire calls made.
- Chief Crouthamel requested permission to repaint the yellow curbs around the Fire Company driveway. President Carpenter gave permission to paint the curbs. Chief Crouthamel also expressed concern that cars were parking on the driveway apron in front of the firehouse. He reminded Council that there is one handicapped parking space in front of the Borough office, and no cars should ever be parked on the apron in front of the firehouse as that would prevent the trucks from exiting the building to respond to an emergency. He also asked about repairs to the alley behind the firehouse. President Carpenter said he would look into it.
- Michele Fillippo and Kasey Schultz from the Upper Perkiomen Valley Chamber of Commerce thanked the Borough for replacing damaged wayfinding signs and asked the Borough to trim trees and bushes around other signs in the municipality. Fillippo promoted participation by the Borough in the upcoming census and asked that one person from the municipality be on the Upper Perk census team. She also promoted the Chamber activities and the PerkUP program and asked the Borough to support PerkUp financially. Kasey Schultz discussed the upcoming Chamber magazine and explained the history of the Hometown Heroes program and encouraged Green Lane to get involved. The Borough would be required to install and store the banners, which Mayor Wolfe suggested be discussed with the Adornment Committee.

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

- An ordinance was presented to allow collection of fees from insurance companies by the Green Lane Fire Company. The proposed ordinance was advertised in the local newspaper, at the Borough and on the website. Jonathan Guntz made a motion to adopt the ordinance to allow the Fire Company to collect fees from insurance companies. Salam Majeed seconded the motion. Motion passed and so ordered.
- Solicitor Dave Comer said the solicitor from the Green Lane Marlborough Joint Authority is requesting a meeting discuss aligning the sewer ordinances and asked that anyone wanting to connect to the sewer system contact the Authority directly.
- A zoning appeal application has been submitted by the owner of the property at 608 Main Street where Independence Propane is located. There was some discussion about

whether the application was an appeal of a recent violation notice or if it was a request for a variance from the Zoning Ordinance. A Zoning Hearing Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 3, 2019.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: Code Enforcement Officer John Membrino sought guidance from the Council regarding a complaint he received about dumping that was taking place on Meadow Alley near a drainage ditch. An adjacent neighbor said the dumping was contributing to drainage problems in the ditch. After discussion, Council members and the Solicitor said they would need to determine if the Borough has an easement in this area.

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

- Updated council on status of Route 29 Sidewalk grant.
- Discussed the issues surrounding adding a crosswalk to Route 29 at Walnut Street.

SEWER AUTHORITY: Salam Majeed updated Council on remediation efforts since the July 11 flood.

- The Authority will be moving a utility pole that is now in the creek following the July 11, 2019, flood.
- The Authority will provide a tour of the treatment plant and the new UV System. It is scheduled for October 21 at 6 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Salaam Majeed made a motion to accept the September 12, 2019, Treasurer's Report and pay all bills. Jonathan Guntz seconded the motion. Motion passed and so ordered.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The Borough's website is up and running.
- The Highland's Trail program would like to install an informational kiosk at the corner of the Fire Company parking lot on Walnut and Third streets. The Fire Company approved the kiosk at their meeting on Monday September 9. Salam Majeed made the motion to move forward with the project. Jonathan Guntz seconded. Motion passed and so ordered.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Salam Majeed asked if food trucks that had been operating in the Borough applied for permits. President Carpenter said he would look into it.
- Mary K. Fisher Aman of 201 Main Street showed photographs of a pot hole on School Alley and asked when it would be repaired. President Carpenter said he would look at it.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Garber, Borough Secretary