

Green Lane Borough  
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania  
Borough Council Meeting  
Thursday, March 12, 2020  
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.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** President Brian Carpenter and Vice President Gerald Godshall and Council Members Jonathan Guntz and Jack Findley.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Darren Landis.

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

**OFFICIALS ABSENT:** Engineer Joe Carlin.

**MOTION ON MINUTES:** A motion was made by Jack Findley to accept the minutes of the regular monthly Council meeting on February 13, 2020. Seconded by Gerald Godshall. Motion passed and so ordered.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- A person doing mandatory community service completed 26 hours of work in the Borough office and lobby, including painting, installing racks and a whiteboard, moving furniture, and installing a Ring camera outside the office.
- Reports have been coming in from the Montgomery County office of public safety and the governor's office regarding the COVID-19 novel corona virus pandemic. On this day, Governor Wolf announced the closure of community centers, gyms, and entertainment venues, including sports events, concerts and non-essential retail facilities to be closed. In Montgomery County schools and their transportation systems will be closed. Any mass gathering is also prohibited. Supermarkets, pharmacies and gas stations will remain open. The Mayor said the Borough website and Facebook page would include local updates and direct residents to the Montgomery County website [www.Montcopa.org](http://www.Montcopa.org) for emergency information.

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

**VISITORS:** Jennifer Frieze, reporter for the Town & Country newspaper.

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

- A letter was sent to the Green Lane Group LLC, which owns the old Yoder property at Main Street and Gravel Pike, expressing concerns about the condition of the property and requesting a meeting to discuss what can be done to improve conditions. The Solicitor received a phone call from two of the partners that own the property. They

said they are more than willing to meet and talk about it. The Solicitor and Council President are trying to arrange a meeting.

- The Solicitor contacted the Montgomery County Board of Assessment regarding the two properties in the Borough with the same address of 113 Main Street. The Solicitor will work with the County to have the address of the property that faces Route 29 changed to a Gravel Pike address instead of Main Street. He will also request that the 109 Main Street be officially changed to 109 Gravel Pike.
- Highland Trails sign easement agreement with the Green Lane Fire Company is nearing completion. It has been written by the Borough and is awaiting final approval by the Fire Company. Jonathan Guntz made a motion to approve the sign easement subject to final administrative approval involving Green Lane Fire Company. Second by Gerald Godshall. Motion approved and so ordered.
- The Transient Merchant ordinance was reviewed by the Council President and will be revised to read that the Borough will not require notification by local businesses when hosting different vendors. The local business will be required to apply for one permit each year from the Borough, and then be responsible for each business that they host on their property. The host business owner must supply a certificate of insurance for their business. The Solicitor will update the language and submit it as an amendment to the existing transient merchant ordinance.
- New Covenant Chapel will be discussed next month.
- Marlborough Township is updating their Sewer Ordinance and they want the Borough's ordinance to agree with the township's. The Solicitor forwarded copies of the ordinance to Council members by email. Jonathan Guntz said he is not in favor of Borough or the Authority to do spot checks of sump pumps on individual properties. He said this violates the Fourth Amendment. Discussion followed regarding section 189-13A of the proposed ordinance. Council clarified that the ordinance specifies that the homeowner must give permission for anyone to enter their home. The Solicitor will review the ordinance. Council Member Guntz said he understands why it is being done, but he doesn't think the constitution allows them to enter his home.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** Code Enforcement Officer John Membrino made no report:

- Council President Brian Carpenter asked about the sidewalks on Main Street in need of repair. A letter will be sent by the solicitor to residents that need to make sidewalk repairs.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Engineer Joe Carlin submitted a report (on file) in absentia including the following: (Check report)

- There has been no update on the PennDOT Multimodal grant application.
- The Chapel property owner has not taken any action on storm water issues at the site. The Borough Solicitor will send a letter to the property owner that the Borough has been very patient, but if action is not taken the Borough will proceed to enforcement.

**REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:** Jack Findley and Jonathan Guntz attended the recent meeting and reported the following.

- Jack Findley requested that Brian Carpenter email financial reports to Eric Jarrell with the planning commission.
- The County wants to improve access to the Perkiomen Trail entrance off Route 29 and has determined that the trail that is currently being used is in the wrong location.

**SEWER AUTHORITY:**

- The Authority's Solicitor is now aggressively pursuing nonpayment of funds by residents.
- Work continues on the legalities of taking on management of the Candlewyck Estates Homeowners Association sewage treatment plant.

**ROAD COMMITTEE:** Brian Carpenter reported that repairs were made to a pipe behind the Fire Company.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Gerald Godshall made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay all bills. Jonathan Guntz seconded the motion. Motion passed and so ordered.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- The Borough is applying for a federal TCDI planning grant through the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. Jonathan Guntz made a motion to approve the resolution to submit an application for the TCDI grant. Second by Gerald Godshall. Motion approved and so moved.
- The Mayor said additional volunteers are still needed to assist with the April 4, 2020, creek cleanup.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- A letter was received from the Pennsylvania State Police warning about a scam whereby residents are threatened with arrest if they do not send money to the police.
- A letter was received from the Montgomery County Planning Commission regarding action taken on the easement for the Perkiomen Trail on Gravel Pike between Perkiomen Performance and William Penn Motors.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Garber, Borough Secretary