

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 2020
Minutes

The regular meeting of the Borough Council was held by teleconference on the above date due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic. The conference call was initiated in the Municipal Office at 214 Main Street, Green Lane, by President Brian Carpenter at 7:02 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT BY CONFERENCE CALL: President Brian Carpenter and Vice President Gerald Godshall and Council Members Jonathan Guntz, Darren Landis and Jack Findley.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

OFFICIALS ABSENT: None.

MOTION ON MINUTES: A motion was made by Gerald Godshall to accept the minutes of the regular monthly Council meeting held on March 12, 2020. Seconded by Darren Landis. Motion passed by roll call vote and so ordered. There were no minutes from April 2020 because that meeting was cancelled due to the COVI-19 pandemic emergency.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- The location for the polling place on election day on June 2, 2020, has been moved by the County Commissioners to the Marlborough Elementary School for all Green Lane, Marlborough, and Upper Hanover Township voters. President Carpenter questioned the authority of the County to move voting out of the jurisdiction of the voters. Councilman Guntz expressed concern that more people will be gathering in one location than would have been otherwise. The Mayor further explained that all County polling locations were being moved into the currently empty public schools that are closed because of the pandemic. Residents would also be permitted to vote by mail.
- Mayor Wolfe asked for a motion to approve a disaster declaration in relation to the corona virus. (See attached.) The declaration would allow the emergency personnel of the Borough to take any measures necessary to respond to the emergency. Councilman Landis made a motion to approve the declaration. Seconded by Councilman Godshall. A roll call vote was held with one dissenting and four approving. The motion carried. Councilman Guntz voted against the action.
- Mayor Wolfe explained that the eligibility for reimbursement for COVID-19 related costs is \$3,300. Administrative and solicitor costs are eligible for reimbursement. Loss of revenue from rentals of the park are not eligible. Solicitor costs are eligible.

- She reported that conference calls are taking place with utility providers, such as PECO, confirming that service continues.
- Park Update:
 - Councilman Godshall was acknowledged for doing cleanup work in the park including power washing the monument, removing overgrown shrubbery and clearing out the fenced-in area of the pond.
 - There are no rentals currently scheduled and paid for the park. Therefore, there is no income.
 - Mowing is being done by Dale Bardman at a cost of \$90 per mow, which includes weed whacking and trimming.
 - A door was replaced on the men's bathroom at a cost of \$400.
 - Mayor Wolfe questioned whether the Fire Company should be asked to pay some of the expenses since it owns half of the park by deed.
 - President Carpenter said another \$1000 was being transferred to the park account from the Borough to cover the costs. He said we would not let the park go "unmowed" this year.
 - Councilman Godshall asked if Industrial Development Authority funds could be used to support the maintenance of the park. Solicitor Dave Comer said it could not. It can only be used for capital improvements.
 - Councilman Godshall said he has talked to a landscaper about renovations to the monument. He was waiting to hear back with details. He also contacted Sen. Mensch asking for support for the project. The Senator's office responded positively to his request.
- Open Burn Complaints:
 - The Mayor has received many complaints about residents burning in the Borough. She asked that the open burning ordinance be posted on the website. Discussion revealed some confusion about the rules for burning and obtaining permits. Solicitor Comer said he would check into this and discuss with the Borough secretary so that clear and concise information can be posted regarding both what is permitted to be burned and when a permit is needed. The Mayor reminded everyone that burn permits must be obtained through the Fire Marshall Craig Wilhelm.
 - President Carpenter said the Solicitor would review the ordinance and make sure that it is clarified for the posting on the website.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS: (police, ambulance and fire reports for March and April were presented and are on file)

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

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

- Municipalities across the state were asked to extend the discount period for the Borough tax payments by residents as a way to help mitigate some of the financial hardship brought on by COVID-19. Act 15 allows the discount rate to be extended until

August 31, 2020, and eliminates the penalty period for the year. Solicitor Comer said a resolution needed to be adopted and provided to the tax collector by May 20, 2020. A motion was made by Councilman Guntz to approve the resolution. Seconded by Councilman Godshall. A roll call vote was held. Motion passed and so ordered.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: Code Enforcement Officer John Membrino said one permit was issued for a shed to Michael and Sherry Lee for a shed at 417 4th Street.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Joe Carlin submitted a written report (on file) prior to the meeting that included the following:

- No update on the PennDOT Multimodal grant application.
- MS4 training materials were posted on website and Facebook pages.
- Chapel property owner asked for forbearance on storm water issues at the site . Solicitor Comer said any further expenses incurred by the Borough in regard to this issue must be paid by the Chapel. President Carpenter said we have been more than lenient with them and they need to fix it. 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.
- Small bridges survey was closed out, but Joe supplied the information to PennDOT about the bridge on 3rd street.
- President Carpenter said he would speak to the Solicitor and Code Enforcement officer about a house on Lumber Street where the roof is falling down.

SEWER AUTHORITY: Councilman Godshall said the Authority is now aggressively doing camera work through the sewer pipes.

ROAD COMMITTEE: Brian Carpenter reported that repairs are needed on Green Street.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Darren Landis made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay all bills. Jonathan Guntz seconded the motion. Motion passed and so ordered. Councilman Godshall voted to approve the report but remarked that he objected to the \$400 paid to replace the door on the restroom in the park.

OLD BUSINESS: The statement of Financial Interest in due to the Borough Secretary by July 25, 2020.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

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