

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
Thursday, August 13, 2020
Minutes

The regular meeting of the Borough Council was held on the above date in the pavilion at the Isaac Smith Park to allow social distancing due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Signage was posted at Borough Hall and on the Borough's website to advise people that the meeting was being held in the pavilion. Borough Council waited five minutes past the 7 p.m. starting time for the meeting to allow people to walk from Borough Hall 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 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, and Engineer Joe Carlin.

OFFICIALS ABSENT: None.

MOTION ON MINUTES: A motion was made by Jack Findley to accept the minutes of the regular monthly Council meeting held on July 9, 2020. Seconded by Jonathan Guntz. Motion passed and so ordered.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Tropical Storm Isaias hit the area August 4, 2020. Although it dropped 9.5 inches of rain on the region and caused the Perkiomen Creek to crest at levels not seen in 106 years, it did less damage to the Borough than the July 11, 2019, flood. The Mayor, who is also the Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator, reported that several residents were rescued from rising water on Lumber Street. She also advised everyone against driving or walking through flood waters.
- Storm clean-up assistance is available through volunteer agencies by calling 1-844-965-1386 through August 28, 2020. Information will be posted on the Borough website and Facebook page.
- A disaster declaration was presented by the Mayor for approval to make it easier for residents and businesses to receive government assistance. Gerald Godshall made a motion to approve and sign the declaration. Jack Findley seconded. Motion approved and so ordered.
- The Mayor performed one wedding since the July meeting.

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

VISITORS: Jennifer Frieze, reporter for the Town & Country newspaper; Green Lane Borough Residents Nancy Harvey, Walt and Kristin Sherzer, and David Whetstone, and Tom Weis, owner of the Perkiomen Valley Brewery at 101 Walnut Street.

- Mr. Whetstone expressed concern about a drainage grate that is in disrepair in the parking lot of an apartment building on Second Street. He said the storm grate has become dislodged and presents a serious safety hazard. President Carpenter reported that a letter was sent to the owner of the property on August 12, 2020, asking him to correct the problem.
- Mr. Sherzer said that he would be removing some trees from the Isaac Smith Park and that he would need to block the road at both Fourth and Third Street when he does.
 - He also asked if repairs are going to be made to Green Street. President Carpenter said the Borough has applied for a grant to do the work, but the Borough may have to do some patches in the meantime.
 - He also asked about the Green House property on Second Street, saying that he had heard the Borough was applying for a grant to turn it into low-income housing. President Carpenter stated that information is incorrect, and the Borough has not had any communication from the property owners since they made an informal presentation to council on November 14, 2019, regarding building 13 townhouses on the property.
 - Mr. Sherzer also asked about the changes to the Air Pollution Prevention/Burn Ordinance. Council Member Guntz explained that there were no significant changes, just that two previous ordinances were being combined into one for clarity. Mr. Sherzer asked if he would still be able to have a fire pit and roast marshmallows. President Carpenter said small fire pits for recreational purposes do not require permits, but you are not allowed to burn any household waste. He added that no leaves or grass clippings are permitted to be burned. "You can't burn anything that causes smoke to leave your property. This hasn't changed," President Carpenter added.
- Mr. Weis had questions about revisions to the Transient Merchant ordinance.

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

- The restated Air Pollution Control Ordinance commonly known as the "burn ordinance" which is a revision of the 2011 ordinance and its amendments, combining them into one document that is more easily understood by residents, was advertised and public notice was provided. The revised Transient Merchant ordinance that incorporates rules regarding annual permits for property owners to host merchants on their property was also advertised. Gerald Godshall made a motion to accept and approve both ordinances as written and advertised. Jonathan Guntz seconded. Motion passed and so ordered.
- Letters were sent to two property owners on Main Street regarding the condition of their sidewalks. Sidewalk repairs were completed at 104 Main Street. No response has been received from the owner of 124 Main Street.
- A title search of the Isaac Smith Park property was completed. It indicates that the property was donated as a park or recreation center to Green Lane Borough and Green

Lane Fire Company, and the parties are prohibited from selling it. The deed did not spell out maintenance responsibilities between the parties, but it did say that the property would be jointly developed and improved by both the Borough and the Fire Company. The Solicitor recommended developing a maintenance agreement with the Fire Company.

- A copy of the sewer ordinance recommended by the Green Lane Marlborough Joint Authority was forwarded to Council members the day before the meeting, but they did not have time to review it. It will be addressed at the September meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

- Code Enforcement Officer John Membrino issued one permit to the owner of 104 Main Street to replace his sidewalk.
- John received a letter from the Goshenhoppen Historians regarding the condition of the Rockwell's Restaurant and Bar property. The Zoning Officer was directed to review the situation and take appropriate action necessary to attempt to have owner clean it up.
- Shellaway motors would like a permit to replace a sign on Main Street.
- Porch was repaired at home on Lumber Street.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Joe Carlin reported the following:

- Green Lane Borough was not awarded a grant through the PennDOT Multimodal program. The Borough had applied for a grant to install sidewalks on Route 29 from Main Street to Green Street at a cost of \$246,000.
- An ARLE application has been submitted for \$16,000 to complete maintenance on the intersection of Route 29 and Route 63.
- A grant application has been submitted to the Montgomery County Transportation Program for repairs to Green Street in the amount of \$247,000, which will require a 20 percent match by the Borough if awarded. Gerald Godshall made a motion to pass the resolution approving the grant submission. Jack Findley seconded the motion. Motion passed and so ordered.

REGIONAL PLANNING: No report.

SEWER AUTHORITY:

- Sewer Authority wants to move forward with grease trap ordinances in both Green Lane and Marlborough.

ROAD COMMITTEE: No Report.

PARK COMMITTEE:

- Councilman Godshall gave an update on efforts to make improvements to the memorial monument. He is currently seeking cost proposals to perform electrical work at the memorial monument.
- The work on the kitchen and bathroom roofing will begin in September.
- An update on activities in the park was provided to Council. (Report on file)

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- A proof of the updated codification project has been received from General Code. Review of the proof by the Borough needs to be completed and returned to General Code by August 24, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

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