

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
Thursday, October 8, 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 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 recited.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: President Brian Carpenter and Vice President Gerald Godshall and Council Member Jack Findley.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Darren Landis and Jonathan Guntz.

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Lynn 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 September 10, 2020, Council meeting. Seconded by Jack Findley. Motion passed and so ordered.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- A request was received from Pennsburg Borough Mayor Vicki Lightcap to have Green Lane Fire Police assist with road closures and traffic control on Saturday, October 10, during the funeral for Larry Seip, who served the community with the Pennsburg Fire Company for more than 50 years. Gerald Godshall made a motion to approve participation of the Green Lane Fire Police in the funeral so that they would be covered by insurance. Jack Findley seconded. Motion approved and so ordered.
- The Borough will not participate in the Perkiomen Watershed cleanup on October 31 but will plan to participate in the Spring of 2021.
- The Fire Company will not be lighting flares to improve visibility for trick-or-treaters on Halloween due to the cost. Council President Brian Carpenter asked how much it would cost for the flares. Mayor Wolfe checked with the Fire Company and said it would cost \$400. President Carpenter said the flares are needed for safety purposes, so he will make sure the cost is covered.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS: (reports on file)

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

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

- Changes requested at the September Council meeting were incorporated into the updated proposed sewer ordinance and forwarded to Council. Gerald Godshall made a motion to advertise the proposed ordinance to the public and consider it for final approval at the November 12 meeting. Jack Findley seconded. Motion approved and so ordered.
- The Solicitor will contact the owners of 417 Walnut Street and 124 Main Street regarding violations.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (report on file)

- Permits Issued:
 - Mayer Shellaway Motors, 511 Main St., for two new sign faces on existing signs at and a small deck.
 - Maryrose Discipio, 505 Green St., for an accessory building.
 - Pedersen Development on Gravel Pike, for a driveway.
- A permit application was received from 2963 Real Estate/Michael Sheridan for a covered patio at 120 Gravel Pike (Rockwells). The owner was told that he would also need a building permit for the structure. The violations to Ordinance 2017-01 on the property continue. President Brian Carpenter reported that he met with the property owner at the property to express Borough concerns, and also told him that he would need to obtain a building permit through Code Inspections, Inc.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Joe Carlin reported the following: (on file)

- Inspections will be done on sewer outflows in Borough creeks.
- Jack Findley reported that the drainage and culvert between 161 and 183 Gravel Pike is clogged.
- Gerald Godshall reported that the outlet along Main Street near Fifth Street is also clogged.
- No word on ARLE grant application for \$16,000 to complete maintenance at the intersection of Route 29 and Route 63.
- No word on grant application to Montco Transportation Program for Green Street repairs in the amount of \$247,000, which will require a 20 percent match by the Borough.

REGIONAL PLANNING:

- Eric Jarrell requested commission account balances.
- Plans to relocate and pave the Perkiomen Trailhead off Route 29 continue with the County, the property owner, and the Planning Commission.
- A regional zoning change is underway for over-55 communities.
- Highway Materials quarry is requesting approval to expand.
- The owner of the Post Office building in Sumneytown is seeking approval for 3-4 new apartments in the upper level of the building. There will be parking and flood plain issues.

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SEWER AUTHORITY:

- The Authority has been contacted about the Sunday School/Chapel on Main Street being converted into an apartment building. It will depend on availability of EDUs.
- Flows through the sewer plant are down because of the dryer weather. On a normal day, the flow is 110,000 gallons of water, but a heavy rain will send more than a million gallons through. The Authority believes this is primarily due to residential sump pumps hooked to the sanitary sewer system.

ROAD COMMITTEE: Leaf collection in the Borough will be November 16 and December 14.

PARK COMMITTEE: No Report.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- Codification update is in process.
- TCDI Grant activities continue.
- The Open Link distributed 761 meals in Green Lane during the summer months.
- The Upper Perkiomen Valley Library is very busy with online services during the COVID-19 shutdown.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The polling location for the 2020 General Election will be in the banquet hall on the second floor of the Fire Company building.
- Council President Brian Carpenter will circulate a draft of the proposed 2021 Borough budget to Council at the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Maps were received from the Pennsylvania Highlands Trails Network showing the proposed route through Green Lane and other parts of the region.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Garber, Borough Secretary