

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
Thursday, December 10, 2020
Minutes

The regular meeting of the Borough Council was held on the above date in the Banquet Hall of the Green Lane Fire House to allow social distancing due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Signage was posted at the Borough Office and on the Borough's website to advise people that the meeting was being held in the Banquet Hall. Borough Council waited five minutes past the 7 p.m. starting time to allow people to walk from Borough office to the Banquet Hall. 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 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 November 12, 2020, Council meeting. Seconded by Jack Findley. Motion passed and so ordered.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- The Green Lane Fire Company was thanked for allowing Council to meet in the Banquet Hall at no charge.
- All residents were advised to lock their cars and monitor their packages as there were three thefts in the Borough last month.
- Adornment committee was thanked for decorating and lighting the Christmas tree in the park.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS: (reports on file)

- A motion was made by Gerald Godshall to approve participation by the Green Lane Fire Police in the drive-thru Christmas Market event at the Goschenhoppen Historians on Saturday, December 5, 2020, at Red Men's Hall. Jack Findley seconded. Motion approved and so ordered.

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

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

- Borough Council meeting dates for 2021 will be advertised in the newspaper, on the Borough website and on the Borough office door.

- The annual meeting of the Green Lane Industrial Development Authority will be held at 6:55 p.m. on Thursday, January 14, 2021, just prior to the monthly Borough Council meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (report on file)

- A permit was issued for Montgomery County to pave the path on the Pedersen property leading from Gravel Pike to the Perkiomen Trail.
- Update on Rockwell's Property:
 - There has been no response from 2963 Real Estate/Michael Sheriden regarding the letter sent to him on September 8, 2020 for his failure to obtain a Building Permit for the structure he constructed on his property.
 - Code Inspections, Inc., confirmed that no Building Permits have been issued for the covered porch. Code Inspections was contacted again on December 4, 2020 by email. John Membrino stated in the email that he considered the structure dangerous and unsafe. He requested that they begin enforcement proceedings and have the structure condemned. He received no response prior to the meeting.
 - A sign has been erected on the covered porch at Rockwell's without a sign permit. This is a violation of Ordinance 2009-03. An Enforcement Notice was sent, and it requires that the sign be removed because there is already in excess of the 35-square feet of signage, which is the maximum amount in that Zoning District.
 - The violations to Ordinance 2017-01 continue at Rockwell's, as well as the storage of junk vehicles without obtaining a Junkyard License.
 - A Certified Letter was sent stating that the property was inspected and found to be in violation and that the owner would be cited before the District Magistrate if the property is not brought into compliance within 10 days of receipt of the letter.
 - Council President Brian Carpenter spoke to the property owner prior to the Council meeting and was told by him that the sign was down and that he was also in the process of taking down the roof in question.

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

- There is no update on the ARLE Grant application for repairs at the Main Street and Gravel Pike intersection.
- Stormwater outfall inspections were not previously performed due to weather and scheduling conflicts. The engineer has asked for them to be bumped up in priority.
- Regarding 124 Main Street sidewalk: in response to the Borough's previous letter regarding the need to replace the failed concrete along their Main Street frontage, the owner performed patching of the surface without previously notifying the Borough or the Borough Engineer. An inspection of the work found the following issues:
 - Contrary to the notice given, the existing damaged sidewalk was not removed but patched.
 - A lack of level surface is causing ponding in the newly repaired area which will become an icing hazard.
 - The surface appears to have been finished with a trowel as opposed to floated or rushed treatment required by ordinance leaving highly irregular seams and

striations. This has created ridges and even some simply dropped mounds up to $\frac{3}{4}$ " of an inch in the surface that are distinct trip hazards in excess of the $\frac{1}{4}$ " or $\frac{1}{2}$ " beveled changes in elevation permitted by ADA guidelines.

- The thin layer of repair has already experienced significant cracking.
- It is recommended that the owner be provided with a new notice to remove and replace damaged sections of the sidewalk as previously required.
- Solicitor Comer was asked to follow up with such a letter to the owner.

REGIONAL PLANNING: No Report

SEWER AUTHORITY:

- Rates have increased, and repairs to the sewer lines continue.
- President Carpenter questioned the need to have an outside engineering company run the sewer plant versus hiring a part-time employee. Discussion followed.

ROAD COMMITTEE: Leaf collection in the Borough will be on Monday, 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.

- Gerald Godshall made a motion to approve the 2021 Budget as proposed and advertised. Second by Jack Findley. Motion approved and so ordered.
- A motion to approve a Resolution to set the Borough tax rates for 2021 with no increase over last year was made by Gerald Godshall. Second by Jack Findley. Motion passed and so ordered.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The codification has been completed by General Code. The Solicitor will present details on the process for approving the codification at the January Council meeting, with the intention to approve it at the February meeting.
- TCDI Grant activities continue. The Request for Proposal will be advertised before the January Council meeting.

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 Jack Findley. Motion passed and so ordered.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Garber, Borough Secretary