

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
July 13, 2023
Minutes

The Borough Council met on the above date in the Borough Office in the Green Lane Fire Company building. The meeting was called to order by President Brian Carpenter at 7 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Lynn Bergey, Engineer Joe Carlin, Solicitor David Comer, Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer John Membrino and Secretary/Treasurer Mary T. Garber.

OFFICIALS ABSENT: None.

MOTION ON MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilman Godshall to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2023, Council meeting. Second by Councilman Findley. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- St. Luke's Health Network volunteers put in three hours of service doing cleanup work around the Green Lane Fire House.
- A community service volunteer has been painting the entrance to the Borough Office.
- Trash pickup problems are continuing in the area. Residents are encouraged to contact the office of Senator Tracy Pennycuick's and the state attorney general's office if they are having problems with their trash being picked up by their contracted company.
- The Mayor also expressed concern about the blue dumpsters stored at 750 Lumber Street. She said that in a recent heavy rain event the dumpsters were not being moved quickly enough to avoid possible flooding.
- She also said that dumpsters stored on the Rockwell's property are in violation of the recent agreement made with the Borough. Solicitor Comer said the attorney representing the owner has been contacted regarding the issues. He informed Mr. Comer that the property is for sale.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS: State police, fire company and ambulance reports on file.

VISITORS: Mary Kershner, reporting for the Town & Country newspaper; Chief Don Lynch of Freedom Valley Medical Rescue; Borough resident and local business owner Trevor Reed; and Borough residents David Whetstone and Walt and Kristin Sherzer.

- Chief Lynch gave an update on activities at the rescue services agency. He said six full-time EMTs have been hired. He hopes the organization will be fully staffed by the end of August.
- Mr. Reed asked about the status of the greenhouse complaints. President Carpenter said the owners have been notified about the issues at the property and have until August 18, 2023, to address the problems.
- Mr. Whetstone requested that signs be put up warning about low wires and no access for trucks on Fourth Street. He said problems continue with large trucks turning onto the dead-end street.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- A hearing regarding the McCuskins properties was held on June 20, 2023, at the district court. The judge entered a judgment against the property owner in the amount of \$9,392.25. The property owner has 30 days to appeal.
- A letter was sent to the owners of the greenhouse property regarding safety violations and requesting a timeline of when these problems will be corrected.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: (Report on file)

- Permit applications have been received from the property owners at 658 Macoby St. for a fence and a driveway. Mr. Membrino is awaiting receipt of the payments for those permits and well as a review from the road committee on the driveway application.
- An inspection of 413 Fourth St. for violations of Ordinance 2023-01 was performed and the owner has been notified that he is in violation.
- The property owner at 134 and 208 Second St. (greenhouses) appears to have cut the weeds.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: (Report on file)

- PennDOT has issued a permit for the curb and sidewalk project funded by the 2021 Montco 2040 grant. The agreement for the 2023 grant was just executed, and Gilmore & Associates, Inc., is beginning to work on it.
- Bids were opened on July 12, 2023, for the Borough-wide paving project. The apparent low bidder was T. Schiefer Contractors, Inc., with a complete submission in the amount of \$493,236.50. The other remaining bids ranged up to \$624,338.50. Mr. Carlin recommended accepting the low bid. A motion to accept the bid and proceed with the project was made by Councilman Findley. Second by Councilman Godshall. Motion approved and so moved.
- Mr. Carlin explained that it will be necessary to bring 16 curb ramps in the Borough up to ADA requirements after the above paving project is completed. The total cost of updating the ramps is estimated at \$142,133. A grant from DCED through the MTF program will not cover engineering expenses, therefore the Borough will be liable for about \$10,900 of the cost. A motion was made by Councilman Guntz to approve a resolution to apply for a DCED-MTF grant in the amount of \$131,259 to upgrade curb

ramps to meet ADA requirements. Second by Councilman Findley. Motion approved and so ordered.

- Gilmore is preparing the necessary floodplain permits for performing the demolition of structures as part of the Hurricane Ida disaster mitigation program.

REGIONAL PLANNING:

- A Dollar General Market will be built on the corner of Upper Ridge Road and Main Street at the edge of the Borough. Sidewalks will be required.
- A 40-acre site will be developed into 69 residential units in Red Hill. The plot across from the Wal Mart on Route 29 will be developed into 548 age-restricted units.
- The Upper Perkiomen School District teachers' contract was approved. Armed guards will be placed in all facilities.

SEWER AUTHORITY:

- A loan application is in progress for funds to replace the Sumneytown pumping station.

ROAD COMMITTEE:

- One light still needs to be installed to complete the LED streetlight replacement project.
- Council discussed taking out a loan to pay for the LED lights. Councilman Godshall made a motion to apply for financing for the project. Second by Councilman Findley. Motion was approved with Councilman Guntz dissenting.

PARK COMMITTEE:

- Illegal dumping is occurring in Isaac Smith Park. The state police have been contacted. President Carpenter suggested contacting the trash removal vendor for solutions.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Councilman Godshall made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and pay all bills. Second by Councilman Findley. Motion approved.

- Councilman Godshall made a motion to approve the resolution to open a bank account at Harleysville Bank for the FEMA/PEMA home buyout project. Second by Councilman Findley. Motion passed and so ordered.
- The 2022 audit was completed and advertised per requirements.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilman Guntz asked about the Borough contracting with a single trash collection company.

NEW BUSINESS: Material was distributed and discussed regarding changes in the tort laws impacting municipality liability in incidents involving sexual abuse of minors. Adding additional liability insurance would cost the Borough about \$3,000. President Carpenter asked Council to review the materials to prepare for discussion at a future meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. and Mrs. Sherzer made multiple complaints about the activities of neighbors regarding fireworks, water runoff and harassment and about the Borough's response to their issues.

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ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Findley to adjourn. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion passed and so ordered.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Garber, Borough Secretary