

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
October 12, 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, and Council Members Jack Findley and Jonathan Guntz.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice President Gerald Godshall and Council Member Darren Landis.

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Engineer Joe Carlin, Solicitor Loren Szczesny, Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer John Membrino and Secretary/Treasurer Mary T. Garber.

OFFICIALS ABSENT: Solicitor David Comer and Mayor Lynn Bergey.

MOTION ON MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilman Findley to accept the minutes of the September 14, 2023, Council meeting. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Written Report.

- A drill to prepare for a possible emergency at the Limerick Power Generating Station was held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, and facilitated by Mayor Bergey at the Marlborough Township Municipal Building. (Report on file.)
- Councilman Guntz made a motion to approve fire police participation in the event listed below with a second by Councilman Findley. Motion approved.
 - a. Big Bad Bonfire, Spring Mount, previously approved by Council but date was changed.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS: State police report on file.

VISITORS: Borough residents David Whetstone, Kris Malysz, Nancy Harvey and Mike Lee and Evan McAuley of 1070 Magazine Road.

- Mrs. Harvey announced that the tree lighting in Isaac Smith Park at the veteran's memorial would be held on Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 5 p.m.
- Mr. Whetstone asked about the signs he requested to warn about low wires and "no access" for trucks on Fourth Street. President Carpenter said signs have been purchased and will be installed this week. He also asked about progress on violations at the Rockwell's property including eight vehicles parked outside the fence with some on the creek bank. President Carpenter said a notice of violations was sent to the Michael Sheridan on behalf of the property owner, and legal action is proceeding. Mr. Whetstone also thanked Code Enforcement Officer John Membrino the work he does for the Borough.

- Mr. Lee asked for an update on action being taken against his neighbor for bamboo on his property. President Carpenter said the Borough will follow up and check the bamboo located on 413 Fourth Street.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- As a follow-up to the September Council meeting, Mr. Szczesny said the Borough is permitted by state law to enact an ambulance tax up to one-half mil and a fire tax for up to three mils. Any higher amount would require a referendum vote.
- A meeting was held on October 4, 2023, at the Lower Salford municipal building to discuss financial support for Freedom Valley Medical Rescue, which supplies 911 emergency response service to Green Lan Borough. Secretary Garber attended the meeting and reported back to Council regarding the discussion. (Report on file.) Key discussion points from the meeting:
 - The FVMR organization will be asking municipalities to increase giving to the organization, possibly doubling their contributions. The requested amounts will be based on the number of people living in the municipality and number of 911 calls to that municipality.
 - Green Lane currently gives \$5,000 per year.
 - Some will institute an ambulance tax.
 - Limerick and Lower Salford each give more than \$325,000 to FVMR annually.
 - Municipalities are required to provide ambulance service to residents.
 - Problems facing ambulances:
 - Not all municipalities give their "fair" share,
 - Very few emergency workers are volunteers.
 - Only 20 percent of residents contribute.
 - ALS vehicles can cost \$400,000 and need to be replaced every 5-8 years.
 - FVMR is exclusively a 911 response team. It does not provide routine transportation.
 - FVMR only gets reimbursed by insurance companies or Medicare if a patient is transported to a hospital not treated at the scene.
 - If municipalities do not contribute, they will not be served by FVMR. If that happens, Green Lane would have to declare a "primary" emergency response company
 - The county will be conducting a survey to assess the feasibility of a county-wide ambulance service.
 - Franconia Township recommended independent audits for FVMR.
 - FVMR board wants to hire an executive director.
- Correspondence sent to 101 Main Street requiring that property must be cleaned up and made secure or legal action will be taken.

- The owner of Rockwell's was sent another notice of violations. President Carpenter said the owner should continue to be cited.
- 2nd Street Lawyers LLC was cited for safety violations. The owner said they will take care of the problem areas, but nothing has been done to date. President Carpenter said the owner should continue to be cited.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: (Report on file)

- Two notices of violation were prepared and sent by certified mail to McCuskins Properties LLC. One was for the lack of a Use and Occupancy Permit, and one was for failure to obtain a permit before placing a shed on the property. Mr. Membrino said he is waiting for the return of the receipt cards for further enforcement.
- A Notice of Violation was sent to 2963 Real Estate Co. (Rockwell's) on September 16, 2023
- A Citation was filed with the Magisterial District Justice for 2nd St. Lawyers LLC - (Greenhouse Property) for creating a nuisance by owning and failing to maintain an unsafe or dangerous structure. We have been notified by the District Court that the fine has been paid. Mr. Membrino has had two conversations with one of the partners of the ownership group about the need to secure the property.
- The owners of 208 Main St. were contacted about their failure to obtain permits for the installation of a fence and a shed. Permit applications have now been received and fees paid, therefore permits will be issued.
- A letter was sent to the owners of 521 Main St. (Mayer/Shellaway Autos) regarding their failure to do the required items to finalize their building permit application. One of the owners contacted Mr. Membrino and said that the temporary structure is in the process of being removed. It appears that the entire business has re-located.
- Regarding 101 Main St. (Yoder's), Mr. Membrino is waiting for a response from the owners on action they will take to secure property.
- Commercial business use and Occupancy permits were requested for both 107 and 109 Main St.

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 executed agreement for the 2023 grant for pedestrian level streetlights has been received. Gilmore is preparing final light layout prior to electrical design. Several options for lantern-style lamppost heads were presented to Council for discussion (see file).
- Full-depth repairs have been completed on Walnut and Green Streets. Construction continues with curb and inlet repair and surface milling of Walnut, Green and Fifth Streets. Alley repairs will follow.
- A grant application has been submitted to DCED for updating curb ramps throughout Borough to meet ADA compliance rules.

- The Borough is awaiting funding for Post Hurricane Ida disaster assistance projects.
- The Borough will apply for a Green Region grant for \$10,000 match for streetlight grant.
- President Carpenter said PennDOT will be removing the signs from the middle of the sidewalk leading up to the Perkiomen Trailhead.

REGIONAL PLANNING:

- Ambulance funding was discussed.
- Comprehensive plan was approved for public review.

SEWER AUTHORITY:

- GLMJA is using the same contractor as Borough for manhole repairs during road project.

ROAD COMMITTEE:

- The streetlight replacement loan application is progressing.

PARK COMMITTEE:

- A thank you letter will be sent to Rich and Fern Moyer for the book deposit/mini library they donated to the park.
- Damage was done to grass during a recent rental event, and the renters have said they will make repairs.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None:

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