

Green Lane Borough
Green Lane, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
December 14, 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 Jack Findley, Jonathan Guntz and Darren Landis.

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: Councilman Findley made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 9, 2023, Council meeting. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- James H. Murphy of the Green Lane-Marlboro Lions Club was presented with a proclamation (on file) recognizing the organization for its 75th anniversary serving the local community and supporting the visually impaired.
- The Christmas tree lighting in Isaac Smith Park at the veteran's memorial was held on Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 5 p.m. There was a nice turnout in the drizzle.
- Wreaths Around American will be placing wreaths on veterans' graves at Frieden's Church in Sumneytown on December 16, 2023.
- The Mayor shared historic photographs that she was given at the Goschenhoppen Historians annual Christmas Market held December 2 and 3, 2023.
- The Mayor stated her concern about the condition of the Rockwells property owned by 2963 Real Estate Co, which was clearly seen by the hundreds of people visiting the Christmas market. She presented photographs taken from the top of the steps going into the Goschenhoppen museum. She said she is very upset by the image it presents to those visiting the community, and that she hopes action will be taken in 2024 to correct the eyesores at this property and the 2nd Street Lawyers LLC property (greenhouses) and the Green Lane Group LLC property (Yoders) in 2024.
- The Mayor also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanuka.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY REPORTS: Police and fire company reports on file.

VISITORS: James H. Murphy, Lions Club; Frank Platt, representing The Green Lane Group, LLC owner of 101 Main Street (formerly Yoders); Scott Miller, attorney for Mr. Platt; Borough residents Rick Stamper and Mike and Sherri Lee, and Town & Country reporter Mary Gibbs Kershner.

- Mr. Platt shared some history of his entity's ownership of the old Yoder's Market, including a rendering of a remodel of the old building into apartments on the second floor and retail space on the first. He said none of the ideas for developing the property have been financially feasible. He said taxes and sewer bills are part of what makes the ideas unprofitable, and they would ask for abatements on payments of both to develop the property. Mr. Miller said the owners want to bring the property back to a welcoming and usable format.
- Mr. and Mrs. Lee asked for an update on action against their neighbor for bamboo on his property. President Carpenter said there is a hearing set for Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at district court regarding the citation.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- Councilman Godshall made a motion to adopt the proposed 2024 budget as advertised. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion approved and so ordered.
- Councilman Findley made a motion to approve a resolution stating that the Borough's real estate tax will remain at 2.5 mils in 2024, and all other taxes will also remain the same for 2024. The Earned Income Tax remains at 1%, and the per capita tax remains \$5 for all residents of the Borough 18 years or older. Second by Councilman Guntz. Motion approved. (Note: A typo was corrected by hand on the printed resolution changing the date of the year from 2022 to 2024.)
- Councilman Guntz made a motion to authorize publication of notice of Borough meetings for 2024. Second by Councilman Godshall. Motion passed. As required by law, the biannual reorganization meeting for Borough Council will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. The annual meeting of the Industrial Development Authority will be at 6:50 p.m., and Borough Council's regular January meeting will be at 7 p.m., all on the same date and at the same location.
- Two hearings will be held in district court on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 10 a.m., one regarding a violation of the bamboo ordinance and one regarding a nuisance violation.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: (Report on file)

- A permit was issued to Phillip A. Munson, 408 Main St., for a shed.
- The previously filed citations with the Magisterial District Justice against 2963 Real Estate Co. (Rockwell's) have been withdrawn, because the specific violations were corrected.

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 & Associates is preparing final light layout prior to electrical design. Anticipated bid by early March 2024.
- Work has been completed on the Borough-wide paving project, but the Borough has not received a request for final payment as of December 14, 2023.

- A grant application has been submitted to DCED for updating curb ramps throughout the Borough to meet ADA compliance rules.
- The Borough has received the fully executed agreement for the PEMA/FEMA Post Hurricane Ida disaster assistance projects. Gilmore & Associates will initiate demolition permit requests.

REGIONAL PLANNING:

- The Blue Dumpster company has moved to Marlborough Township.
- The UPVRPC is seeking additional members.

SEWER AUTHORITY:

- Councilman Godshall distributed copies of the Authority's operating and capital improvement budgets. He also said sewer rates will increase 2% in 2024.

ROAD COMMITTEE: None.

PARK COMMITTEE: Mr. Godshall announced that he has a buyer for the park committee's zero turn mower.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Councilman Findley made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and pay all bills. Second by Councilman Godshall. Motion approved.
- President Carpenter recommended a 5% percent increase in the Borough Secretary's salary. He said it would be considered at the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The Borough Council has applied for a \$10,000 PECO Green Region Grant to be used as matching funds for the streetlights on Gravel Pike.
- The Borough Secretary presented proofs of the kiosk panels for the Highland Trails and asked Council to make comments. She also asked about using the logo from the TCDI project on the kiosk.
- The Secretary gave an update on the Green Lane Park Master Plan project.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Garber, Borough Secretary