

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2009**

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, September 14, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sampogna reported that Council had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Roll Call

Members Present:

Vincent J. Abbato, Mayor
Mark Sampogna, President
Daniel Behanna
Paul Kirsch
Janine Palmer
Ron Panza
Edward Schenck
Arthur Tintori

Also Present:

W. David Montz, Borough Manager
Peter Molinaro, Jr., Borough Solicitor
Brendan Helt, Jr. Council Person
Deborah N. Gawryla, Stenographer

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

August 3, 2009

Motion:

Dr. Kirsch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Palmer, to approve the minutes of August 3, 2009 as presented.

Motion carried, with Mr. Behanna abstaining because he had not attended this meeting.

August 31, 2009

Motion:

Dr. Kirsch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Palmer, to approve the minutes of August 31, 2009 as presented.

Motion carried, with Mr. Tintori abstaining because he had not attended this meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Abbato

Mayor Abbato related a story about a couple whose GPS and garage door opener were stolen from their car in a parking lot while they were attending a football game. The GPS had directions to their home and their house was ransacked while they were at the game. A cell phone with pin number for their ATM was also stolen and used. Mayor Abbato recommended that those with GPS systems in their vehicles not include direction to their homes and to remove the GPS system from their dashboards when parking their cars.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

John Bonassi, 1085 Tomaino Drive

Mr. Bonassi asked where the police vehicles were currently receiving general maintenance and how long this type of servicing generally takes. Chief Lisiecki, who was in the audience, stated that the department is currently taking the police cars to Pro Tire on Route 88. Requests for

maintenance costs have been sent to three different auto repairs shops to try and find the best price for routine service. Chief Lisiecki detailed some of the services that Pro Tire had saved the department in maintenance and repairs.

The Chief said that when the three requested estimates for routine maintenance are received, Council would review them and make a decision regarding where the vehicles will be serviced. When asked, he said that the three businesses providing these estimates are Greentree Auto Body, Pro Tire and Ruffing Automotive.

Mr. Bonassi asked the procedure used for routine maintenance of police vehicles. The Chief said that two officers travel in two vehicles to the service center, the car needing service is left at the shop, and both officers return in the other vehicle. Mr. Bonassi said he was concerned about the need for two officers to have to travel so far out of the Borough for routine service at Pro Tire on Route 88 in the event that they are needed on a call. He was concerned about a potential lawsuit if an emergency occurred that they could not respond to in time.

Chief Lisiecki replied that routine service is not done unless there are at least three officers on duty so that there is at least one officer remaining in the Borough to respond to calls. The Borough is never uncovered. Mr. Bonassi said that there would not be another officer available for back up while a car is being serviced. The Chief said that with the SHACOG and Char West COG communities, back up is always available. Green Tree also provides back up for the other neighboring communities if needed as well.

Chief Lisiecki replied that there is only one officer in the Borough when another officer must appear in criminal court. Mr. Bonassi said that when an officer appears in court he does not have a choice about where he must appear, but when a vehicle is serviced there are other service centers that are closer to Green Tree than on Route 88. Chief Lisiecki said that when the automotive service prices are received they will be reviewed and a decision will be made.

Mr. Schenck thanked Mr. Bonassi for raising concerns about this issue. However, he did not feel that this was the proper venue to conduct a question-and-answer discussion at this time. Mr. Schenck said that Council will look into this issue further. Mr. Bonassi and Chief Lisiecki agreed that they would also discuss this issue further at a different time.

Denise Edeburn, 108 McMonagle

Ms. Edeburn said she hoped to gain more information regarding what would be happening with the Greentree Cemetery. She said that she would be glad to help with this issue if needed. Mr. Sampogna said that there would be additional discussion about the status of the cemetery later in the meeting.

Marilyn Albitz, 1061 Greenlawn

Mrs. Albitz thanked Council for the wonderful Seniors' Picnic at the Municipal Center Park several weeks ago. She said that everyone who attended had a great time.

Mrs. Albitz said that the Green Tree Woman's Civic Club is holding a "Meet the Candidates" night on October 22 at 7:00 p.m. It was noted in the most recent Green Tree newsletter and anyone running for office in November will be invited to participate. Letters will be sent out to candidates shortly.

REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**A. PUBLIC PROPERTY - Mr. Tintori****1. Request by the West End United Church of Christ for Green Tree to assume ownership of the Green Tree Cemetery.**

Mr. Tintori said that Council had received a request from the West End United Church of Christ asking the Borough to assume ownership of their cemetery. He asked the representatives from the church to come forward and provide some background information.

Ms. Vicky Walker, Attorney, and Mr. Joe Ball, church member, introduced themselves as the church's representatives. Ms. Walker said the church has funds that could be used towards the maintenance of the cemetery, but the church's membership has dwindled in recent years and the church will be dissolving. The Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office will be contacted regarding the dissolution of the church's property and funds.

Mr. Ball said that the church has been in existence since 1874, but currently only has about 8-9 members. The building is 50 years old and has a lot of maintenance concerns that has forced the membership to sell the physical building. Funds from the sale will be distributed to other ecclesiastical groups as part of the church's by-laws. The only possession that still remains is the cemetery on Greentree Road. It requires minimal upkeep. Water consumption has averaged about \$10 a month. Maintenance includes grass cutting and snow removal. Grass cutting has cost the church approximately \$3,000 per year and snow removal has been contracted on an "as-needed" basis. He detailed the finances that are available for cemetery maintenance and said there are no plots for sale, but there are existing family plots.

Mr. Behanna asked how many open plots still exist in the cemetery. Mr. Ball replied that there are approximately 50-100 plots still open, but sold. In the front part of the cemetery there are approximately 250-300 plots and more gravesites over the hill for a total of about 500-750 plots within the cemetery. Mr. Schenck said that annual grass cutting costs approximately \$3,000 per year, snow removal costs are approximately \$600, Veterans' Day flags and flowers cost about \$500, and water costs are about \$120 per year. Mr. Ball said there might also be a need for the occasional tree removal and other unexpected costs. Mr. Schenck said he would like information about the records for the remaining plots that are owned or deeded.

Mr. Molinaro stated that there is a legal basis for assuming control of the cemetery if Council is interested. He outlined how it is detailed in the Borough code.

Mr. Montz said that Mr. John Bryan, from the Buffalo Olmsted Conservancy, has done a lot of work with cemeteries needing new ownership and has reviewed the information on the Greentree Cemetery. Mr. Bryan said that he was pleased with the funding sources the church is willing to transfer to the Borough for its maintenance and he saw a potential for a historic cemetery that could be connected to the Nature Center. A citizen subcommittee could be established that would report back to the Borough regarding maintenance and enhancement from a cultural and historical standpoint. Additionally, because of the monies the church has offered to provide, the Borough would not be an immediate position to put a lot of funding into the cemetery. Mr. Bryan said there is also the potential for the creation of columbariums for cremated remains as an income-producing possibility for the Borough. Other possibilities might include guided tours of the cemetery or fundraisers. Planning grants from the Department of Community &

Economic Development are possible for cemeteries as grants were obtained for cemeteries in some eastern communities in the state.

Mr. Behanna asked if the Public Works employees could cut and grass and remove the snow at the cemetery. Mr. Montz replied that there are limitations under the law regarding what the Borough's workforce is permitted to do and what can be spent, but the fund from the church could reimburse the Borough for some of the maintenance.

Mr. Montz noted that if Council should decide not to accept responsibility for the cemetery and the church walks away from it, the courts could force the Borough to take over maintenance of the cemetery with no funding. With the funding the church is offering, along with the assistance others have expressed, the cemetery could be maintained with the proposed monies for many years.

Mr. Bryan said that there are number of other sources that might be interested in offering assistance in maintaining the cemetery if contacted, such as the Masters Gardeners Program at Penn State. Discussion continued regarding various possibilities.

Mr. Bryan said that if Council decided to accept the maintenance of the cemetery he would be willing to work with the Borough on a master plan. He said he has a five-step framework for such a plan: money, management, marketing, master planning, and maintenance. He would look at the elements that should be considered by the Borough for cemetery maintenance and make recommendations on how to address them.

2. Bid Award - Municipal Center Roof

Mr. Tintori said that there were six (6) bids for the repair of the Municipal Center roof. The low bid was from G&W Roofing in Eighty-Four, Pennsylvania for \$27,175.36. Mr. Montz said that the roof suffered damage during some storms over the summer months and the insurance for this damage will cover up to \$30,000. The base bid was for items that must be replaced. However, other parts of the roof are of the age that they would need to be replaced shortly and he suggested that the entire roof be replaced and not just the damaged portions. Additionally, he recommended that Council consider an architectural shingle, which is a 40-year shingle, instead of a 30-year shingle for the roof's replacement. Taking these items into consideration, total cost of the roof replacement would be \$69,896.96. The work would be done before the end of the year.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to award the bid for the replacement of the entire roof of the Municipal Center, using architectural 40-year shingles, to G&W Roofing & Construction, in the total amount of \$69,896.96.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Ordinance #1628

Amending Section 1068.07 and 1068.10 of Chapter 1068, Recreation Areas.

Mr. Montz said that this ordinance helped clarify the use of fires in recreation areas, including the use of grills at sporting events. This would help prevent damage to the new automatic sprinkler system in the soccer fields and help protect the grass.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Mr. Behanna, to place Ordinance #1628 on first and final reading by title only.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Molinaro read Ordinance #1628 by title only.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to pass Ordinance #1628 by title only.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Tintori	Yes
Ms. Palmer	Yes
Dr. Kirsch	Yes
Mr. Behanna	Yes
Mr. Schenck	Yes
Mr. Panza	Yes
Mr. Sampogna	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to authorize the proper officers to sign Ordinance #1628 and that it be advertised according to law.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. FINANCE - Mr. Behanna

1. Motion:

Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to ratify the actions of the Borough Manager in paying the August 2009 General Fund EFT payments totaling \$29,183.25, Payroll Account totaling \$194,181.33, Public Works Department Equipment Fund totaling \$85,602.13, Educational Service Agency totaling \$638.17, and other bills on the bill sheet totaling \$53,240.64.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to approve payment of the September 2009 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$197,917.33, 2002 Sanitary Sewer Bond totaling \$51,554.94 and Capital Projects totaling \$289,162.45.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Mr. Behanna stated that the collection of earned income and business privilege taxes have been going quite well this year despite the downturn in the economy.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY - Ms. Palmer

1. G20 Summit

Ms. Palmer asked the Chief to update residents on the status of safety during the upcoming G20 Summit. Chief Lisiecki said that the police department has been

receiving updates, are gearing up and will be prepared for the event. Mr. Montz said there will be a meeting tomorrow with all of the public safety entities and emergency management teams for the Borough for last minute pre-planning for the G20.

D. RECREATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - Mr. Panza

1. Mr. Panza said that plans for this year's Octoberfest, scheduled for October 3-4, are coming along nicely. The layout of the event will be somewhat different this year and he encouraged everyone to attend.

E. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Schenck

1. Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Schenck said that the steering committee for the comprehensive plan will meet on September 17 and a public meeting regarding the comprehensive plan will be held on October 8 at 7:00 p.m. The comprehensive plan will help Green Tree project its planning direction in years to come. Changes to the zoning ordinances will also be forthcoming.

2. Mr. Schenck stated that the Keystone Oaks School Board meeting to present the options from the facilities usage study would be on September 17 at 7:30 p.m. Items such as the physical conditions of the buildings, demographics, etc., will be presented. There will no public input at this time and no final decisions will be made.

F. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Dr. Kirsch

1. Motion:

Dr. Kirsch made a motion, seconded by Mr. Behanna, to authorize the Borough Manager to enter into a salt contract for 2009-2010 through Cargill, Inc., under the SHACOG Purchasing Alliance at a primary bid amount of \$52.75/ton.

When asked, Dr. Kirsch said the Borough has the option on this contract for three years. Mr. Panza asked how much the cost of salt had increased since last year. Mr. Montz replied that it had cost about \$48/ton last year and had fluctuated somewhat because of changing fuel costs. Mr. Sampogna said that this will only be half of the Borough's salt for the year with the other half purchased through a state contract.

Mr. Panza asked how the salt mixed with beet juice that the Borough had been testing last year had worked. Mr. Montz replied that it had not worked as well as expected. Mr. Montz said that had been considered because of the high cost of salt last year. Since the price has come down since then, it probably will not be used this winter.

Motion carried unanimously.

LIAISON REPORTS

1. MRTSA - Mr. Montz

Mr. Montz said that MRTSA is attempting to maximize its collections. The Finance Committee will be meeting tomorrow to discuss a new collection agency. He detailed some of the problems that ambulance services have been having with billing.

2. Char West COG - Mr. Behanna

Mr. Behanna had nothing to report. He said the next COG meeting would be on Thursday.

3. Library - Mr. Sampogna

Mr. Sampogna said the library had held a stakeholders' meeting to review the possible cuts to the library's budget. There were a number of fundraising ideas presented and there would be follow-ups to these ideas. The RAD Board will meet later this month to decide whether to accept the proposed ACLA formula.

4. Junior Council Person - Mr. Helt

Mr. Helt had nothing to report at this time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna

1. Mr. Sampogna said that Alcosan will be holding its annual open house this Saturday. He said it is a very interesting event to attend.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Mr. Molinaro

Mr. Molinaro had left earlier, so there was no report at this time.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Montz

1. Mr. Montz reported that the new public works truck had arrived. The previous truck had lasted over 20 years and he hoped this one would last as long.
2. Mr. Montz said he has been working with PennDOT in an attempt to have the fence on the Parkway overpass replaced. He had recently received a call saying that the fence will be replaced sometime in the next few months.
3. Mr. Montz reported that the Director of Public Works had contacted a materials company and was able to obtain free concrete piping for the additional storm sewer outlet that is needed at the end of Sheldon and Parkedge. This will save the Borough over \$1400.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Mr. Schenck made a motion, seconded by Mr. Panza, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Sampogna, President

W. David Montz, Manager