

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 2009**

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, October 5, 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

September 14, 2009

Motion:

Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Palmer, to approve the minutes of August 3, 2009 with the following correction:

p. 6 (F) - Change, "When asked, Dr. Kirsch said the Borough has the option on this contract for three years," to " When asked, Mr. Montz said the Borough has the option on this contract for three years."

Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Abbato

Mayor Abbato thanked the residents who had supported this year's Octoberfest and made it a great success.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

John Bonassi, 1085 Tomaino Drive

Mr. Bonassi stated that he has been a lifelong Green Tree Borough resident who was elected to Green Tree Borough Council four times, serving as Mayor, President of Council, and Vice President of Council. Mr. Bonassi said that he has also served as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, and Director of the Green Tree Library Board.

Mr. Bonassi said that he had had an encounter last evening with Mayor Abbato while he was taking a box of Octoberfest items to his car. Mr. Bonassi said at that time he had told Mayor Abbato that he would not be reelected by saying "You're going down" and added if he was reelected, he would be recalled. Mr. Bonassi said that Mayor Abbato then asked him if he wanted to take this matter someplace else. Mr. Bonassi said he told Mayor Abbato that if he couldn't take the heat, he should get out of the kitchen and he was a disgrace to the community

and was pulling Green Tree Borough through the dirt. Mr. Bonassi stated that Mayor Abbato challenged Mr. Bonassi again to take the matter someplace else and pushed his chest against Bonassi's. Mr. Bonassi said that he told the Mayor that he felt that the community has had enough of Abbato's lies, cover-ups, fights in his pizza parking lot and pushing his weight around. Mr. Bonassi said he told the Mayor that he felt he was a disgrace and he was saying it to his face. Mr. Bonassi said that the Mayor attempted to challenge him again, but Mr. Bonassi said that he stepped aside and indicated to those who were nearby that this was how the Mayor of Green Tree acts. Mr. Bonassi asked that the Solicitor explain "official oppression" to the Mayor, which is an attempt to intimidate for the purpose of censorship another individual's first amendment freedom of speech rights.

Helen Calaiaro, 20 Warriors Road

Mrs. Calaiaro thanked the Borough for their quick response in cleaning up and rerouting traffic on Warriors when an accident occurred last week. Mrs. Calaiaro asked about the status of the sewer project on Warriors Road.

Mr. Montz replied that the Borough has secured the necessary funding for the sewer project on Warriors and the Borough Engineer is working on the preliminary designs, but would like to wait to proceed until the foliage is completely off of the trees so he can better examine the physical layout of the land to determine where the sewer line should be installed. Mr. Montz recommended that Council send a letter to the Warriors Road residents updating them of the status of this project. He suggested that a meeting be held with the Warriors Road residents sometime in late November when more details have been determined.

Mr. Montz said that he tentatively hoped to have all of the sewer plans prepared for Council's review in January or February and the sewer lines installed during the spring or summer of 2010. When asked, Mr. Montz said that most of the sewer lines would be installed in the rear of the properties. He detailed some of the preliminary work that will have to be done prior to the sewer lines being installed. Mr. Schenck explained the history of the proposed installation of sewer lines along Warriors and two other locations in the Borough that are not currently connected to the public sewer system.

Marilyn Albitz, 1061 Greenlawn Drive

Mrs. Albitz asked that those candidates running for reelection must get their information to her by Thursday for the Green Tree Woman's Civic Club's Meet the Candidates night.

Mrs. Albitz updated Council on the status of plans for Green Tree's 125th Anniversary Celebration next year. She said that the telephone directory is almost completed. There will be a pictorial history book of Green Tree and the Historical Society is preparing a PowerPoint presentation. Plans are underway for the anniversary dinner on July 17, 2010 at the Radisson Ballroom. There will be a school program in April, the historical society presentation in May, concerts in the park during June, July and August, and the community dinner on July 17. A family picnic is planned for August, along with plans for a church program, fireworks, clowns and other events. In September there will be a community day where Borough organizations will have exhibits at the fire hall, followed by an adult wine and cheese party. Mrs. Albitz said she is working on the dates for many of these events.

REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. 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 September 2009 General Fund EFT Payments totaling \$21,669.29, Payroll Account totaling \$272,533.35, Capital Projects Fund totaling \$47,598.05, Health Care Fund totaling \$1,625.35, Educational Service Agency totaling \$5,704.16, and other bills on the bill sheet totaling \$115,544.10.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to approve payment of the October 2009 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$89,054.36, 2002 Sanitary Sewer Bond totaling \$16,592.73, and Capital Projects totaling \$83,967.55.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Appointment to Tax Collection Committee for the Allegheny Southwest Tax Collection District

Mr. Behanna said that the County Solicitor had requested the appointment of a Green Tree representative for the new earned income tax collection process.

Motion:

Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to appoint Mr. W. David Montz as Green Tree's representative to the newly formed Earned Income Tax Committee for the Allegheny Southwest Tax Collection District.

Mr. Sampogna explained that the method of collection for earned income tax will be changing in 2011 with local earned income tax deducted from employees' wages and sent to the appropriate tax collection district. Each municipality and school district appoints one representative to the tax collection committee in each of the districts.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Resolution #1121 Contributions for 2010 by participants of the Borough of Green Tree Police Pension Plan at 5% of total compensation, based upon the actuarial soundness of the plan as stated in a letter dated September 10, 2008 by the plan's actuary, Hallet Associates, Inc.

Motion:

Mr. Behanna made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to adopt Resolution #1121 by title only.

Mr. Molinaro read Resolution #1121 by title only.

Roll Call Vote

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

4. Mr. Panza reported that Halloween in Green Tree would be held on Saturday, October 31 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

D. PLANNING & ZONING - Mr. Schenck

1. **Southstar Development Partners of PA, LLC requesting a one year extension of their tentative approval of a Planned Residential Development, known as City Vista.**

Mr. Schenck said that this PRD had been tentatively approved in October 2008 for the development of high-end apartments or condominiums in the location of the former golf driving range. He introduced Ms. Lynn DeLorenzo from Southstar Development who said that this development will cover both Green Tree and the City of Pittsburgh. The development was initially approved by the Pittsburgh Planning Commission, but has experienced multiple delays at the City Council level culminating with the developers withdrawing the plans from the City of Pittsburgh in May 2009. Discussions with the city have been continuing, but the timeframe is uncertain. Therefore, Southstar is requesting an extension so they may continue talks with the city for the development.

Mr. Schenck said that Green Tree must still give final approval of the plans. The ordinance states that this must be obtained within one year of the date of tentative approval that was given in October 2008, unless otherwise extended by Council.

Motion:

Mr. Schenck made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to extend the tentative approval of a Planned Residential Development, known as City Vista, to Southstar Development Partners of PA, LLC, for a one-year period.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Molinaro suggested that Council follow up with a written letter to Southstar indicating that they have formally approved a one-year extension for this project. Mr. Montz said that the original approval was on October 15, 2008; therefore, the extension will run from October 15, 2009 to October 15, 2010.

2. **Comprehensive Plan**

Mr. Schenck said that a meeting to get public input on the proposed comprehensive plan will be held on Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sycamore Room.

E. STREETS & PUBLIC HEALTH - Dr. Kirsch

Dr. Kirsch had nothing to report at this time.

F. PUBLIC PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT - Mr. Tintori

1. **Resolution #1123**

A resolution certifying that Green Tree Borough is willing to participate in an energy audit as part of Allegheny County's Energy Program for Municipalities financed by a block grant through the U.S. Department of Energy.

Mr. Tintori reported that Allegheny County has received stimulus money from the federal government with part of those funds are coming from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to adopt Resolution #1123 by title only.

Mr. Molinaro read Resolution #1123 by title only.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Resolution #1124

Authorizing the disposition of public records

Motion:

Mr. Tintori made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, to adopt Resolution #1124 by title only.

Mr. Molinaro read Resolution #1124 by title only.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Environmental Award

Mr. Tintori reported that the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission recently notified Green Tree that it had won governmental environmental award for municipalities. The award was presented to the Borough on October 1, 2009 at the 8th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration by Stream Restoration, Inc.

Mr. Tintori read the following that had been presented to Green Tree at this celebration:

"Green Tree Borough has been extremely proactive in making the municipality environmentally friendly and energy efficient. Some of the proactive steps that Green Tree has taken include turning 100% of their traffic signals to LED, a savings of 60-80% in electrical costs, not to mention the cost savings on maintenance. Green Tree also retrofitted all of the lighting in the municipal building to energy efficient lighting. Green Tree has a comprehensive recycling program for its residents, which include a drop-off center, leaf pick up and tree pick up. Their Public Works Department also recycles scrap metal and oil. Green Tree also coordinates with outside organizations for advertise local, free drop-off programs for recycling unwanted appliances and computers for area residents. Green Tree is also a founding member of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Hazardous Household Waste Task Force. These programs help protect the environment through the responsible recycling or reuse of various items and equipment. It also provides residents a convenient opportunity to support local charities."

Mr. Sampogna said that awards were given in four different categories: municipalities, universities, small businesses and large businesses. The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission includes nine counties and Green Tree was proud to have received this award.

LIAISON REPORTS

1. MRTSA - Mr. Montz

Mr. Montz said that MRTSA is in the middle of its budget process. The proposed budget does not increase the allocation from municipalities, but provides for some capital improvements. The subscription rate has not been increased either. MRTSA will be adding an on-line payment service for subscriptions.

2. CharWest COG - Mr. Behanna

Mr. Behanna stated that Carnegie will be adding a 1 mill tax to support their fire department. He noted that Crafton and McKees Rocks are also seeking to fill full-time police positions and Rosslyn Farms is seeking to fill a part-time police position.

3. Green Tree Library - Mr. Sampogna

Mr. Sampogna reported that the Allegheny County Regional Asset District (RAD) decided to reject the Allegheny County Library Association's formula for distribution of RAD funding to libraries. Had the RAD Board accepted this formula, it would have resulted in a loss of approximately 30% of the Green Tree Library's funding from the Regional Asset District. He listed two items the RAD Board would like to be considered in determining RAD funding distribution:

- 1) Consideration for the funding and support provided by local government.
- 2) Determining a "phase-in" approach to changes in RAD funding distribution.

Mr. Sampogna said that the ACLA Board will be meeting tomorrow evening to discuss this issue. Meanwhile, libraries will continue to be funded under the existing RAD formula. Mr. Sampogna said that the Green Tree Library is moving ahead and making plans for fundraising to help the library with any shortfalls that may occur.

4. Junior Council Person's Report - Mr. Helt

Mr. Helt had nothing to report at this time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. Sampogna

1. RADical Days

Mr. Sampogna noted that the Regional Asset District is currently holding its "RADical Days," where current events and assets that RAD supports are offering special prices or free admission for a limited time. RADical Days will continue through October 11 with information available on the Borough's website and the RAD Calendar of Events.

2. Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Award

Mr. Sampogna said that Green Tree had recently received the 2009 Community Greening Award from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for the flowering pinwheel design at the Parkway cloverleaf. The Pennsylvania Conservancy runs the garden with the assistance of local volunteers and the Green Tree Public Works Department. Green Tree's garden was selected for this award from 80 sites considered. Green Tree started sponsorship of this garden in 1996. Mr. Sampogna said that, on behalf of Council, he wanted to extend thanks to those who contributed to its beauty throughout the years.

3. Keystone Oaks Facilities' Usage Report

Mr. Schenck asked about the recent recommendations made at the Keystone Oaks School Board meeting regarding its facilities usage study. Dr. Kirsch replied that the school district will receive a hard copy of the report, which is over 400 pages long, and it will also be placed on the school district's website. Dr. Kirsch said he had suggested that a hard copy also be provided to each community's library.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Mr. Molinaro

Mr. Molinaro had nothing to report at this time.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Montz

1. 2010 Proposed Budget

Mr. Montz said that the proposed budget will be distributed to Council on November 15 and he asked for Council to hold a budget review meeting on Monday, November 16. Mr. Montz said that he has a call in State Rep. Matt Smith to try and find out what type of state funding might be available next year for libraries even through the state budget has not yet been passed. Mr. Montz assured Council that the Borough's budget will continue to provide adequate funding for the library since it is a viable asset for the community.

2. Mr. Montz said the Streetscape Project is proceeding. Landscaping should be done by the end of the week. Mayor Abbato added that the Borough has started working towards obtaining funding for Phase II of the Streetscape Project.
3. Mr. Montz reported that paving of Parkedge Road should begin in a week.
4. Mr. Montz said the roofing contract for the Municipal Center has been completed and work should begin in a week or two.
5. Mr. Montz said that work will begin on the open drain near the swimming pool. This drain accepts rainwater and is in violation of the court decree. Additionally, a bypass valve will have to be installed for the pool for rainwater drainage to the storm sewer system during those months when the pool is empty.
6. Light installation along Mansfield Avenue is anticipated to begin within the week.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Sampogna, President

W. David Montz, Manager