

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 6, 2023**

Call to Order / Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 7:30 pm in the Sycamore Room of the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. Mr. Panza noted that Council had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Edward Schenck, Mayor
Shannon Barron
Rino Lindsey
Ron Panza
David Rea
Craig Romanovich
James Turocy

Also Present:

Kate Diersen, Esq., Borough Solicitor
Kim Beck, Stenographer

Absent:

Arthur Tintori, President
Judy Miller, Borough Manager

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

February 6, 2023

Motion:

Mr. Romanovich made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barron, to approve the February 6, 2023 minutes as presented.

Motion carried 5-0-1, with an abstention from Mr. Rea as he had not attended this meeting.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Christine Short – 251 Parkedge Road

Ms. Short stated that she was sad to see that Chief Colin Cleary had resigned from the Green Tree Police Department after six years. She said she hoped the next chief would stay in the Borough longer than six years.

Jesse Robinson-Evans – 24 Leon Road

Mr. Robinson-Evans noted that the new Borough website looks great.

Mr. Robinson-Evans said that he was glad to see that residents can now recycle glass in their curbside recycling bin. Making the process easier will probably mean more residents will be recycling their glass.

Mr. Robinson-Evans stated that he believed he was the candidate on tonight's agenda for the Planning Commission appointment. He thanked Council and said he was happy to serve the Borough.

Kevin Maurer, Green Tree Garden Club (GTGC) President

Mr. Maurer indicated that he was joined by several members of GTGC, including vice-president and chair of the Planning and Development committee, Ms. Karen Maurer, Treasurer Ms. Dorothy Voith, Secretary Ms. Cheryl Kocay, and chair of the Municipal Garden committee, Mr. Gary Baranowski. Mr. Maurer then gave the following statement:

“Our purpose of being here this evening is for your consideration to the proposal for the upgrades to the Green Tree Municipal Park garden. I know that Mayor Schenck has provided you with a copy of that proposal. This came about in the summer of 2022, when we met with Ms. Judy Miller and president Art Tintori. We were inquiring as to the procedure to address our needs and concerns with the state of the Municipal Garden Park. We met on August 16, and we were advised to put together a detailed proposal with the necessary requests. As you can see, it is complete with drawings, a timeline, and estimates. It was also suggested to us that we have a capital campaign to supplement the costs. And we have done so, though we need Council approval to go public, and permission to move forward with our plans. We were told that this proposal was due by October 15th and would be presented to Council and eventually a line item in the budget would be added. It was presented with several copies in a timely manner on October 3rd. Unfortunately, we did not receive a response, positive or negative, from anyone regarding our proposal.

We would like Council to consider our proposal and give us the green light to move forward with our plans, which will benefit the entire community for years to come. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to meeting with Ms. Barron and the Park and Public Facilities committee on Monday, March 20 for further discussion. We also welcome any questions that you may have regarding this proposal. Thank you.”

Mayor Schenck asked how the capital funding was progressing. Ms. Mauer stated that the GTGC has extended the fundraising to the members of the club, along with various local businesses, and has received a substantial amount of donations to contribute to the plan, including a generous \$1,000 donation given by a member of the club. The GTGC would like to be able to branch out with their fundraising and move forward with some of the expenses that they know will be incurred. Ms. Maurer noted that the issue is time-sensitive, as the estimates were originally received in September and October, and it is very likely that costs have increased since then.

Mr. Panza thanked Mr. Maurer and the GTGC for their efforts in this project. He stated that Council is now aware of the project, and everything is on the right track to move forward.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Finance and General Policy – Mr. Turocy

1. Motion:

Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to ratify the actions of the Borough Manager in paying the February 2023 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$58,885.89; Payroll Account totaling \$205,952.42; and Educational Service Agency totaling \$4,810.35.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Romanovich, to approve payment of the March 2023 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$130,027.21; Storm Sewer totaling \$9,876.33; Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$3,243.76; Capital Projects totaling \$1,907.94; Bond Fund totaling \$11,316.09; and Health Care Fund totaling \$418.72.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Planning and Zoning – Mr. Rea

1. Appointment to the Planning Commission Board

Motion:

Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Turocy, to appoint Jesse Robinson-Evans to fill the unexpired term of Nathan Pazzint for a term to expire on December 21, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Public Safety – Mr. Lindsey

**1. Ordinance # 1882
Tax Credit to Qualifying Active Volunteers of the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company**

HEARING OF CITIZENS

There was no one present who wished to be heard.

Mr. Lindsey explained that he introduced this legislation several months ago, when he became aware that there had been a change to the act that had been adopted by the Borough in 2018. This ordinance would match the maximum tax credit allowable by the state, which had increased in 2020. This tax credit is available to qualifying members of the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company and would be retroactive to the 2022 tax year.

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barron, to pass Ordinance #1882, amending Chapter 310, Article IX of the Borough’s Code of Ordinances to increase the tax credit available to qualified volunteers of the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company.

Mayor Schenck noted that there were four members of the Volunteer Fire Company in attendance at tonight’s meeting and asked for a moment of recognition to thank them for their service.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Romanovich	Yes
Mr. Turocy	Yes
Ms. Barron	Yes
Mr. Panza	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Ordinance #1883
Setting Salary and benefits for Colin Cleary as Chief of Police**

Mr. Lindsey explained that Council typically gives pay raises to Borough employees, effective January 1. Passing this ordinance would ensure that Chief Colin Cleary would be able to receive this back pay, even though he is no longer employed with the Borough. Mr. Turocy noted that the termination date would be February 24th, the date of Chief Cleary’s resignation.

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, to pass Ordinance #1883, setting the salary and benefits of Colin Cleary as Chief of Police.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Romanovich	Yes
Mr. Turocy	Yes
Ms. Barron	Yes
Mr. Panza	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- A. Mayor Schenck will be attending the Public Employer Labor Relations Advisory Service (PELRAS) conference March 15th-17th at Penn State, along with Mr. Rea, Mr. Lindsey, Mr. Romanovich, and Ms. Miller. He explained that this conference deals with employment in municipal law.
- B. Five Green Tree Borough police officers participated in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge on Saturday, February 25th. The officers were able to raise \$5,600 for the Special Olympics. Mayor Schenck thanked the officers who participated in this fundraiser.
- C. Mayor Schenck said that Chief Colin Cleary had resigned after seven years with the Green Tree Police Department. He thanked Chief Cleary for his service and noted that he was a very community-oriented chief. Lieutenant Rannigan will be running the Police Department until a new chief is hired.
- D. The Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company hosted their annual Fireman's Ball on Saturday, February 18th. Mayor Schenck noted that Ms. Miller and all members of Council were in attendance.
- E. Mayor Schenck stated that he is not going to give up on the Borough's Emergency Management plan. Accidents do happen, and it is necessary for the Borough to have a hazardous response set in place.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**A. Finance and General Policy – Mr. Turocy**

- 1. Mr. Turocy had nothing to report at this time.

B. Infrastructure – Mr. Romanovich

- 1. The demolition of the Rook stairs should be completed within the next month or two.
- 2. Mr. Romanovich reminded residents to keep an eye out for the Public Works Department as they are out maintaining the Borough.
- 3. The Infrastructure committee will be meeting to discuss the Borough's 2023 road paving program.

C. Planning and Zoning – Mr. Rea

- 1. The Planning Commission is still in the process of updating the Borough's Comprehensive Plan.
- 2. Mr. Rea recently sent an email to Council regarding the increasing deer population in the Borough. He believes it is an issue that Council should consider researching. While there may not be many vehicular accidents due to deer in the Borough, there are other safety concerns, including Lyme disease and destruction of natural vegetation, which can affect honeybees.
- 3. Mr. Rea congratulated Mr. Robinson-Evans on his appointment to the Planning Commission.

D. Public Facilities and Equipment – Ms. Barron

- 1. Ms. Barron thanked the Green Tree Garden Club (GTGC) for attending tonight's meeting. She said that the GTGC has put forth a lot of effort in their detailed plans for the Borough. Ms. Barron apologized on behalf of Council for the silence that they experienced regarding their proposal. The Public Facilities and Equipment committee will be meeting with Mr. Maurer and the GTGC on March 20th to discuss this proposal.

2. The Public Facilities and Equipment committee met with Ms. Miller in February to discuss field usage. Ms. Barron stated that the committee is finalizing a procedure for residents and non-residents to reserve Hemlock 1, Hemlock 2, Aiken 1, Aiken 2, the Wilson baseball field, and the concession stand. She explained that the Borough, Keystone Oaks School District, Guardian Angel Academy, and the Green Tree Athletic Association (GAA) would have priority with scheduling the fields. Beginning April 15th, the fields calendar will be open for residents and non-residents to reserve the available fields for a fee. Ms. Barron outlined some of the fees that would be charged to rent the fields, and stated that there would be special consideration given to tournaments that charge entrance fees. The fields calendar will be available on the Borough's website, so residents will be able to see which fields are available to reserve on a specific date. Ms. Barron explained that the Borough is establishing this fee schedule because there is a cost for the Borough to maintain the fields throughout the year.

Mayor Schenck noted that there is an agreement between Keystone Oaks School District and the Borough regarding the school's field use and asked if the Public Facilities and Equipment committee had reviewed the specific language in this agreement. Ms. Barron stated that they had not reviewed the specific language in the agreement but explained that the school district would have priority in scheduling the fields. There will be no changes to any current Borough ordinance. These procedures will help the Borough build some transparency regarding who is using the fields and when. Mayor Schenck recommended that the committee review the language in the agreement before finalizing these new procedures.

3. The Green Tree Public Library is hosting a Tiny Art Show for the community. Supplies for this art show are available in the library.
4. The Green Tree Public Library has begun an ESL conversation group that will be meeting monthly at the Green Tree Borough building. The next meeting will be held on March 18. This group is open to anyone in the community who is interested in practicing the English language and learning about Pittsburgh and different cultures. This monthly program is funded through the Nasri grant money that is received by the library every year.

E. Public Safety/Public Safety Equipment – Mr. Lindsey

1. The Public Safety and Public Safety Equipment committee will be meeting to discuss the next steps involved with filling the Chief of Police position. He noted that the Green Tree Police Department is still short a police patrolman position as well.

F. Recreation Programming and Community Welfare – Mr. Panza

1. Mr. Panza asked if any Council members knew who was responsible for inspecting the railroad bridge over the Parkway West. Mr. Lindsey stated that the railroad bridge is Federal property. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the bridge is located in Scott Township, not within Green Tree Borough limits.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Mr. Tintori

- A. In Mr. Tintori's absence, there was no President's report this evening.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Ms. Miller

- A. In Ms. Miller's absence, there was no Manager's report this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm.

Motion carried unanimously.



Arthur Tintori, President



Judy Miller, Borough Manager