

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 1, 2023**

Call to Order / Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 7:30 pm in the Sycamore Room of the Green Tree Municipal Center, 10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. Mr. Tintori noted that Council had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters. He asked for a moment of silence in honor of the Memorial Day holiday.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Judy Miller, Borough Manager
Kate Diersen, Esq., Borough Solicitor
Kim Beck, Stenographer

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

April 3, 2023

Motion:

Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Turocy, to approve the April 3, 2023 minutes as presented.

Motion carried 6-0-1, with an abstention from Mr. Romanovich as he had not attended this meeting.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Cheryl Bakin – 884 Greentree Road

Ms. Bakin gave the following statement:

“I came before Council at the April meeting to talk about the fees that were being charged for the Green Tree Park baseball fields. After I listened to Ms. Barron and Ms. Miller, I went back and pulled the last 15 months’ worth of minutes of Council meetings, and also reviewed all the videotape for the minutes that showed that there was a discussion about the fields, the pool, or anything regarding recreation.

What I found was that there were numerous discussions about the pool passes and costs for the pool. Prices were set by Council for the use of the pool, passes, and so on. I did not find any pricing presented or approved by Council in those 15 months’ worth of minutes for the use of the fields. And yet, on March 23, prices were given out to my Green Tree women’s softball team, as if they were cast in stone and had been approved by this Council. According to the minutes that are out there, there was never any formal approval of that pricing for the use of the fields. By that action, you basically have forced a women’s softball team that has existed and used the Green Tree fields for 12 years out of business, and I doubt very much that this group of women will be able to regroup and become a team again in 2024.

I’d like to know by whose authority, since it wasn’t approved by Council, who decided that the prices were to be advertised and given to people as if they were cast in stone, and these were the prices that were effective beginning in 2023, when they had not been approved by Council. I’d like you to note that I have no problem with charging a fee to use the fields. Other municipalities do charge for use of their fields. However, the fees need to be reasonable. It needs to be approved by Council, and it needs to

be published in advance. I'm a supporter of all the sports that occur in Green Tree, but especially women's sports and girls' sports because they always get short-sighted. I would just like to say that this fee schedule, that has not been approved by Council, has left a very negative impression on various people who would normally be coming to Green Tree to use our fields and partake in activities here in Green Tree. Thank you."

Ms. Miller explained that she had spoken with an individual from the softball team on numerous occasions to discuss the progress on the fee schedule. She said she had told her what fees the Public Facilities were considering recommending to Council, but never gave her a final fee. Ms. Miller stated that the individual she had been speaking with did not believe any of the team's members were Green Tree residents. Because of this, they would be charged a higher, non-resident rate. She said that a lot of time had been put into thinking about how to make these fees fair for Green Tree families and groups while still providing some opportunities for outside organizations to use the fields.

Mr. Rea noted that Ms. Bakin had stated that the individual had been quoted a seemingly exorbitant fee and asked if they had been charged that amount in previous years. Ms. Miller explained that there have not previously been fees associated with renting the fields, so they had not been charged in past years. Ms. Miller said she had told this individual what the committee had been considering charging fees, but that nothing had been finalized and that those fees could change before being voted on by Council.

Ms. Barron stated that the field fee schedule was being brought up for vote at tonight's meeting. She said that the Public Facilities committee had discussed the fees and the fee schedule has gone through many different revisions in the process. Ms. Barron said that she felt the committee has done their best to consider all of the individuals who are interested in utilizing the fields, while making sure that Green Tree's community groups, including the Recreation Department, the Green Tree Athletic Association, and the local schools all have the ability to use the fields as well. She apologized if there was any miscommunication during this process.

Elbert Ellis – 1305 Greentree Road

Mr. Ellis stated that after coming to last month's Council meeting to discuss the lawlessness on the roads around McMonagle Avenue, he had a conversation with Lieutenant Chad Rannigan. He said that everything he suggested to Lieutenant Rannigan had been shot down. Mr. Ellis stated that he feels very disappointed.

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 April 2023 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$52,473.48; Payroll Account totaling \$217,511.26; Educational Service Agency totaling \$4,272.62; and Credit Card March 2023 totaling \$6,867.73.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion:

Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the May 2023 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$93,200.44; Storm Sewer totaling \$4,543.80; Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$447,563.34; Capital Projects totaling \$4,783.00; and Bond Fund totaling \$16,420.36.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Infrastructure – Mr. Romanovich

1. 2023 Roads and Sewer Maintenance Contract Bid

Motion:

Mr. Romanovich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to reject all bids for 2023 Roads and Sewer Maintenance Contract in accordance with the Borough Engineer’s recommendation dated April 21, 2023 and the Borough Solicitor’s recommendation dated April 24, 2023.

Mayor Schenck explained that the Borough had only received one bid for this project, which is the reason it is being rejected. The project will be going out for a re-bid, and the company that had proposed the previous bid will be able to resubmit their bid.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lindsey asked for the turnaround time for a new bid to be sent out. Ms. Miller stated that the re-bid has already been advertised and is expected to be placed on the June 5th agenda for Council to vote. She said that there was another company who had been interested in bidding the first time but unfortunately did not submit their bid in time. She is hoping that they are still interested, and that the Borough will receive multiple bids this time.

C. Planning and Zoning – Mr. Rea

1. Ordinance #1884

Updating requirements for sidewalk repair

Mr. Rea explained that this ordinance would address any work that has been done on the sidewalks and to ensure that the sidewalks are rehabbed to a state of acceptability based on the Borough engineer’s criteria.

Motion:

Mr. Rea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Romanovich, to pass Ordinance #1884, updating Article III of Chapter 295 of the Borough’s Code of Ordinances to update requirements for sidewalk repair.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Public Facilities and Equipment – Ms. Barron

1. Field and Facility Rental Policies and Fees

Motion:

Ms. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, to adopt the Fields and Facility Rental Policies and Fees in accordance with the Borough Manager’s correspondence dated April 28, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Acting Police Chief

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Turocy, to appoint Lt. Chad Rannigan as Acting Chief of Police, effective February 26, 2023.

Mr. Rea asked, given the discussion held during the executive session prior to tonight’s meeting, if the title that is listed on the motion will impact anything. Ms. Miller stated that it does not impact anything.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Keystone Oaks School District and Green Tree Police Department Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Lindsey explained that the Green Tree Police Department has a memorandum of understanding with Keystone Oaks School District, which is regularly updated based off of their recommendations.

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Romanovich, to authorize the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Borough of Green Tree and Keystone Oaks School District for the provision of law enforcement support services in accordance with the Lt. Rannigan’s correspondence dated April 26, 2023.

Mr. Rea stated that he believes there might be more opportunity for mutual aid due to the possibility of Keystone Oaks hiring school resource officers for the next school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Recreation Programming/Community Affairs – Mr. Panza

1. Resolution #1326

Establishing fees for the Wilson Park Swimming Pool and Summer Recreation

Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Turocy, to adopt Resolution #1326, establishing fees for the Wilson Park Swimming Pool and the Summer Recreation Program.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Appointments to the Recreation and Community Activities Board

Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Turocy, to appoint Linda Lester and Samantha Salopek to fill the vacant seats on the Recreation and Community Activities Board for a term ending on March 1, 2024.

Ms. Barron asked if the Recreation and Community Activities Board had met with the applicants prior to tonight's meeting. Mr. Panza stated that they had met with both applicants.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Panza noted that Ms. Salopek was in the audience tonight, and thanked her for joining the Recreation Board.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- A. The next primary election is being held on May 16th. Mayor Schenck noted that there are several seats being voted on, including the County Executive, some judges, and some Council positions. He encouraged everyone to vote.
- B. On May 4, Congressman Deluzio has invited the mayors in his district to a breakfast, where he will be giving the mayors an update on what's happening in Washington DC and how it is affecting our local communities.
- C. The Green Tree Police Department is currently short one police officer. Council is working on a plan to fill that vacancy.
- D. The Green Tree Garden Club is hosting their annual Spring Festival on Saturday, May 13. Mayor Schenck asked Mr. Kevin Maurer, Garden Club President, to give a short description of this event.

Mr. Maurer gave the following statement:

This is our second annual event of the Spring Festival. It's going to be held both at the Green Tree Fire Hall and here at the gym in the Municipal Center, as well as in the Municipal Center Park. We have a lot of activities. We have children's activities, a flea market, a craft and vendor show, and we'll be selling lots of annuals and perennials. We want to thank Shannon (Barron) again for donating to our basket raffle. We're hoping it will be a great community event. We're hoping the weather will cooperate.

And while I'm at it, I would also like to thank Council for the shed that is going to be built soon, once the weather cooperates. We appreciate it. Thank you."

- E. Mayor Schenck said that he will have further discussion with Lieutenant Rannigan regarding the speeding concerns at McMonagle Avenue and Greentree Road.
- F. Mayor Schenck and Lieutenant Rannigan have been communicating with each other on a weekly basis to help establish a good working relationship.
- G. The Green Tree Police officers have been walking through the local schools so they can become more familiar with where all the rooms are, and which doors are locked throughout the buildings.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

A. Finance and General Policy – Mr. Turocy

- 1. Mr. Rea asked Ms. Miller for an update on the online payment system on the website. Ms. Miller explained that the Borough currently has a payment system in place, but this system is not compatible with the new website. Revize, the website company, has their own payment system that will need to be utilized. Ms. Miller said that this is something they will need to look into, but she did not want to make the change right now and risk interrupting the Borough's ability to take credit card payments for pool passes this month.

B. Infrastructure – Mr. Romanovich

1. The Infrastructure committee met on April 10 to discuss several infrastructure matters within the Borough.
2. The 2023 road repaving program should be going out to bid later this month.
3. The year 48 ADA ramp replacement project was scheduled to begin on April 24. Mr. Romanovich stated that he has seen some of the yellow warning areas being replaced along Greentree Road.
4. The Borough is in the process of working to get the City Vista pump station transferred from City Vista to the Borough.
5. Mr. Rea asked if the cost of the upcoming structure demolitions will be liened against the properties. Ms. Miller explained that the costs of the demolition that is currently being worked on will be liened against the property. There is a second property that the Borough believes will need to be demolished, and she is hoping to be able to apply for a blight grant in advance. Any additional expense incurred by the Borough will be liened against the property.

C. Planning and Zoning – Mr. Rea

1. A couple of years ago, the Borough hired Hollow Oak Land Trust to make new trails in the Nature Center. At the time, the Borough was informed that there was a grove of oak trees that had oak wilt which was causing the trees to die. Mr. Rea has asked Ms. Miller if the Borough can reengage with Hollow Oak Land Trust to do another assessment of the Nature Center to assess the health of the forest so the Borough can do what they need to ensure the sustainability of the Nature Center.
2. The Planning and Zoning committee is currently reviewing the trash maintenance ordinance to outline some guidance around how the garbage cans are maintained throughout the Borough.
3. Mr. Rea stated that there has recently been a fence installed to enclose the playground located at Aiken Elementary School. Mr. Rea, Ms. Miller, and Ms. Barron have been having a discussion regarding updating the restrictions at the walking track. Ms. Miller is going to be in contact with the principal at Aiken Elementary to determine if the Borough should remove the restrictions or alter them in some way.

D. Public Facilities and Equipment – Ms. Barron

1. The Green Tree Garden Club's storage shed has been purchased. Installation should be completed soon, weather permitting.
2. The Borough has received updated bids for the fence for the Municipal Garden Park. These bids have been sent to the Public Facilities and Equipment committee for review and will be discussed before being brought to Council for consideration at a future meeting.
3. Ms. Barron explained that the Historical Society in Green Tree is a volunteer run organization that has spent the last many years preserving the history of our community. She said that the Historical Society is now at the point where they are looking to build on this work, improve their technology, and really build a long-time plan for support. The Historical Society is working with the Green Tree Library and the Library Director, Ms. Adaena Tray, to write a long-term plan for the continuation and support of the Historical Society. When this plan, which will include updates to their computers,

software, and general operations is complete, it will be presented to the library board and to Council for their consideration.

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

1. Mr. Lindsey stated that he would like to make a motion to accept the proposal given by Mr. Eaborn for the Emergency Management plan. Ms. Diersen explained that since the motion was not advertised on the original agenda, Mr. Lindsey would first need to make a motion to add the motion to the agenda. Once that has been voted on and approved, he could make the motion to accept the proposal. Ms. Diersen said that Council should also open the discussion up to public comment before voting, since it was not on the original agenda to be discussed during the Hearing of the Citizens.

Motion:

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rea, to amend the May 1, 2023 Council Agenda by adding the proposal submitted by Jim Eaborn for the Emergency Management Plan.

Mr. Panza stated that he would like to table this motion for a month to allow time for funding to come in.

Subsidiary Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion to table the amendment to the May 1, 2023 Council Agenda.

There was no second on the motion, so the motion fell to the floor and was not considered by Council at this time.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Lindsey	Yes
Mr. Panza	Yes
Mr. Rea	Yes
Mr. Romanovich	Yes
Mr. Turocy	No
Ms. Barron	No
Mr. Tintori	No

Motion carries, 4-3.

Subsidiary Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Turocy, to table the proposal submitted by Jim Eaborn for the Emergency Management Plan.

Mr. Rea asked if Council had any more information today than they did six months ago when the original motion had been tabled. Mr. Turocy stated that he had obtained information from the County on how to go about the process and the specific documents that would be necessary to complete the process. He had distributed this information to Mr. Panza and Mr. Tintori. Mr. Turocy had been in contact with Mr. Steven Wilharm from the county, who suggested that Council do the updates on their own. Mr. Panza stated that his committee had discussed updating the Emergency Management Plan and decided with a 2-1 vote that they did not feel comfortable rewriting the plan. Mr. Rea asked to see the information that Mr. Turocy distributed to Mr. Panza and Mr. Tintori. Mr. Panza suggested that his committee meet one more time before the June Council meeting to discuss the Emergency Management Plan.

Mr. Rea asked about the possible funding opportunities that had previously been mentioned. Ms. Miller stated that she had received an email regarding opportunities for federal funding for Emergency Preparedness. She said she would like to explore this to see what opportunities may be available to secure funding for the Borough.

Mr. Tintori noted that the Borough currently has a plan they can follow, even though it does need updated. Mr. Rea stated that the Borough does not currently have an Emergency Management coordinator to take charge in the event of an emergency. Mr. Tintori said that Council could vote to reappoint the previous coordinator, who had indicated he would take on the role of assisting the Borough. Mr. Tintori said he believed Council should take more time to discuss the Emergency Management Plan before voting on it but could reappoint the previous coordinator in the meantime.

Mr. Lindsey stated that up until this point, no alternatives to the original proposal have been discussed. If Council did not agree with the proposal, they could vote it down and then find another alternative to update the Emergency Management Plan. Mr. Rea asked who wrote the current Emergency Management Plan. Mr. Panza said it was written by the Public Safety Committee and the Emergency Management coordinator, with assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Mr. Panza noted that Green Tree has not changed much, so a lot of the information in the current plan would not need to change. Mr. Romanovich stated that while the Borough may not have changed, the protocols on handling different emergencies have probably changed. He said he echoed Mr. Lindsey's concern with the lack of a coordinator and updated plan. He asked that the Recreation Programming and Community Welfare committee meet as soon as possible to go over any new information and come back to Council with a recommendation on how to move forward. Mr. Panza said that the Emergency Management Plan does not go into specifics on how to handle every type of emergency, rather the plan outlines who would be contacted in the event of an emergency. Most of the updates for the new plan would involve changing the names of outdated businesses and updating contact information. Mr. Panza stated that part of the mandate includes having a mock drill within a certain period of time after updating the plan.

Mr. Tintori stated that before the Borough could consider hiring someone, they would need to make sure that person is not in arrears in any lienable tax. Ms. Barron noted that before someone was hired, the Borough would do their due diligence and go through the normal hiring process.

Motion carries 5-1-1, with a nay from Mr. Lindsey and an abstention from Mr. Rea.

Ms. Barron referenced the Allegheny County Emergency Plan which describes how the County would assist in the event of a local emergency. She said that she wanted to give a little bit of reassurance that the County would be assisting the Borough in the event of an emergency. Mr. Lindsey stated that the Emergency Management coordinator would be responsible for coordinating resources and acting as a third party to assist the incident commander on scene and to acquire certain resources. He said that it is not all about the resources available, it is also about the plan and having a coordinator to acquire those resources.

2. Mr. Rea asked for an update on lifeguard training for the pool. Ms. Miller stated that the first day of training will be on May 20. Mr. Rea said that he would like to see all the training dates before the Borough opens the pool for the summer. He said that he would also like to ensure that the mock drills for the pool are on the schedule, and that these drills happen.

F. Recreation Programming and Community Welfare – Mr. Panza

1. The Green Tree Farmers Market will begin its season on Thursday, May 18. Mr. Panza read a list of the vendors that will be attending this year's Farmers Market.

- 2. The Green Tree Octoberfest will be holding their first meeting of the year tomorrow at 7:00pm. Mr. Panza welcomed any new volunteers that might be interested in helping to shape up the 25th year of Octoberfest celebrations to attend the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Mr. Tintori

- A. The Summer edition of the newsletter should be coming out soon. There will be a lot of information about what is happening in the Borough this summer.
- B. Information about what is happening in the Borough can also be found on the Borough's website.
- C. Mr. Tintori stated that the Borough has a lot of salt in storage in case it snows tonight.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Ms. Miller

- A. Pool passes will be on sale at the pool on Thursday, May 11, Monday, May 15, and Saturday, May 20.
- B. The Borough will be accepting credit card payments for pool passes this year. Ms. Miller stated that there is a 3% service fee associated with paying with a debit or credit card.

Mr. Rea asked if it was necessary for the Borough to charge a convenience fee and why the Borough could not just absorb the fee. Ms. Miller explained that the fee was discussed. It was brought to her attention that taxpayers should not have to pay for other taxpayers to use their credit card. Ms. Barron suggested that the Borough see how it goes this year and then discuss making any changes to the fee for next year, as this is the first year the Borough has had the ability to accept card payments.

ADJOURNMENT

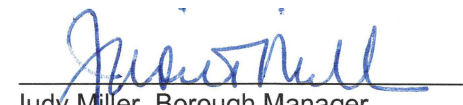
Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm.

Motion carried unanimously.



Arthur Tintori, President



Judy Miller, Borough Manager