

**BOROUGH OF GREEN TREE
COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

Call to Order / Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance

Green Tree Borough Council met on Monday, September 11, 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 matters.

Prior to the moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Tintori made the following statement:

“Today marks the 22nd anniversary of the worst terror attack in our nation’s history. At the World Trade Center, 2,753 people died, including 343 firefighters and 72 police officers. At the Pentagon, 184 people lost their lives, and 40 individuals died outside of Shanksville for a total of 2,977 lives lost. During our moment of silence this evening, I would like for us all to recall those that lost their lives, especially the first responders who sacrificed their lives to save others. Also, in the 22 years since this horrific attack, hundreds of first responders and citizens have succumbed to debilitating illness as a result of the exposure to the harmful substances on that day and the days following the attack. So please also remember them and the families of those affected by this terrible tragedy as we have a moment of silence and then the Pledge of Allegiance.”

Mr. Lindsey stated that the longtime volunteer Fire Chief at Crafton Borough recently passed away. He had served members of this community for many decades. Members of the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company are attending the service and memorial this evening.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

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

Absent:

David Rea

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

August 7, 2023

Motion:

Mr. Romanovich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve the August 7, 2023 minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Cheryl Bakin – 884 Greentree Road

A. Ms. Bakin noted that up until early 2023, residents had been receiving weekly emails from the Borough on Fridays. These emails kept residents up to date on what was going on within the Borough. Ms. Bakin said that the email blast is an effective way of communicating with citizens in 2023. She asked Council why residents were no longer receiving these emails. She stated that if it were a money issue, Council

should communicate to local business owners and allow them the opportunity to fund the program. Ms. Miller explained that the weekly emails were discontinued when the new website was published. All of the information that used to be sent out via email is now on the homepage of the website under "News and Events".

Ms. Miller stated that the Borough is looking into launching a branded mobile app for Green Tree in January. The application would allow residents to sign up to receive notifications about the events happening in the Borough. Ms. Barron said that she had met with the Borough Manager today to discuss this application along with other future options. This application would push notifications in multiple formats at one time, rather than having to duplicate those efforts across each platform. She said that the weekly emails were not discontinued due to budget constraints, but because it was labor intensive for staff.

Ms. Bakin stated that if the greetings had been discontinued, residents should have been notified about the change and told where to find the information that had previously been in these emails. Ms. Miller apologized if this information had not been effectively relayed to the residents.

David Pastorkovich – 1001 Norsis Drive

- A. Mr. Pastorkovich had attended the June Council meeting where he asked Council to consider placing a three-way stop sign at the intersection of Glencoe Avenue and Shiela Drive. There are currently no stop signs from Dale Drive down to Whiskey Hollow, and a lot of cars speed in that section of Glencoe Avenue. There are a lot of children that play in that street, and several neighbors walk their dogs. Mr. Pastorkovich stated that the two additional stop signs would be well worth it to save someone's life. Mr. Panza asked if the acting Chief of Police had contacted Mr. Pastorkovich following the meeting he had attended. Mr. Pastorkovich said that no one had contacted him, but he has seen officers patrolling the area. He is aware that the police officers have a tough job and are very busy. Putting in a three-way stop sign would force vehicles to slow down and stop on that stretch of street, so the police would not need to patrol the area on a regular basis.
- B. Mr. Pastorkovich noted that as he had mentioned at a previous Council meeting, the lower end of Glencoe Avenue past Shiela Drive is very dark and needs another streetlight. He has talked to several residents who have said they will not walk down there at night due to the lack of adequate street lighting.
- C. Mr. Pastorkovich asked if there were any updates on the former Boston Market property. Ms. Miller stated that application development was in progress for that property.
- D. Mr. Pastorkovich stated that the property located behind Einstein's Bagels is a total eyesore. The property is in the gateway of our community. Ms. Miller said that the Borough is aware of the issues with this property. She explained that the company that owns the property is located out of town and has been very difficult and slow to respond. They have been cited by the Borough and it has been a reoccurring situation.

Christine Short – 251 Parkedge Road

- A. Ms. Short stated that she has been hearing complaints from residents in the community about the Borough discontinuing the weekly email blast. There are a lot of older residents that do not use applications on their phones and do not use the website. Ms. Short said that she thinks the new website is a disaster and she has trouble finding anything on there. Ms. Miller asked Ms. Short to send her an email with any issues regarding the website so the issues can be resolved. Mr. Panza stated that he has reached out to the Borough Manager several times regarding complaints about the new website, specifically regarding scaling issues on mobile devices. He said that the old website seemed to be better than the new one. Ms. Barron stated that she did not believe that was accurate.

Ms. Short said that the annual senior picnic was down approximately 40 seniors from the usual number of attendees. Some of these residents had voiced their concerns to the Recreation Director, stating that they were not aware that the picnic was taking place. The Recreation Department is hosting an adult dance at the end of September. Ms. Short stated that these dances normally bring in around 80 to 90 residents, but currently only 16 have signed up. She said she is not sure if the dance is being advertised on the website, but the Borough should consider bringing the email blast back for residents.

- B. Ms. Short gave a shout out to the Recreation Director, her Summer Recreation assistant, the counselors, and the volunteers for their hard work in making the Summer Recreation program such a success. They had over 200 children attend the program. Ms. Short said that she understands that there have been issues with employees under the age of 18 only being able to work a certain number of hours per week, which can make scheduling difficult. Ms. Short also thanked Mayor Schenck for having police officers assist with drop-off and pick-up.

Don Folkmire – 1006 Avacoll Drive

- A. Mr. Folkmire stated that Avacoll Drive is a disaster. He had worked with the Borough Manager back in 2017 and had gotten the residents in that area to sign a petition to take care of the speeding and turn restrictions on Avacoll Drive. Mr. Folkmire said that the speeding and turn restriction issues have been extremely bad this year. He said he understands that the Police department is short-staffed, but he is concerned for the children now that school is back in session. The activity bus drops students off on Greentree Road and then they must walk down Avacoll Drive to their houses. People are speeding and cutting through during restricted times which is causing a danger for these students. Mayor Schenck asked what time the activity bus dropped off students. Mr. Folkmire said that he believes the bus drops students off around 5:15pm. The turn restrictions are in place from 3:00pm until 7:00pm. Mr. Folkmire stated that he is being the voice for his neighbors who are also upset about the traffic and speeding in the area. Mayor Schenck stated that he would speak with the acting Chief of Police regarding Mr. Folkmire's concern.
- B. Mr. Folkmire noted that 1010 Avacoll Drive has not been cutting their grass. The property is currently listed for sale and the property is not being maintained.

COMMUNITY PRIDE PRESENTATION

Mr. Tintori stated that the Medical Rescue Team South Authority Community Pride Presentation would not be taking place at tonight's meeting. The presentation will be rescheduled for a future Council meeting when the family of the individual that was saved is able to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Finance and General Policy – Mr. Turocy

1. **Motion:**

Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Romanovich, to ratify the actions of the Borough Manager in paying the August 2023 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$66,030.61; Farmers Market totaling \$1,786.05; Payroll Account totaling \$389,844.99; Educational Service Agency totaling \$585.32; and Credit Card July 2023 totaling \$4,438.30.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Motion:**

Mr. Turocy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to approve payment of the September 2023 invoices from the General Fund totaling \$172,232.97; Storm Sewer totaling \$38,533.78; Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund totaling \$41,188.78; and Capital Projects totaling \$2,151.18.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Infrastructure – Mr. Romanovich**1. Resolution #1331****Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant****Motion:**

Mr. Romanovich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Turocy, to adopt Resolution #1331, authorizing the Borough Manager to execute all documents and agreements with the Commonwealth Financing Authority to obtain a grant in the amount of \$495,600 under the Multimodal Transportation Fund for the Greentree Road Sidewalk Rehabilitation – Phase II Project.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Public Safety/Public Safety Equipment – Mr. Lindsey**1. Appointments to the Civil Service Commission****Motion:**

Mr. Lindsey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Turocy, to appoint the following to the Civil Service Commission: Robert Treglia for a term to expire on March 22, 2027, and Frank Fingers as an Alternate Member for a term to expire on March 5, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- A. The Civil Service Commission will be meeting on Tuesday, September 19 to discuss the advertising of the vacancies in the Police department.
- B. Mayor Schenck attended the Sportsman's Bash on Saturday. This event is a fundraiser for the Green Tree Fire Company. Mayor Schenck thanked the Fire Company for all the work they put into that fundraiser every year.
- C. Mayor Schenck will be hosting Mayor's office hours on Saturday, September 23 from 9:00am until 11:30am.
- D. The Green Tree Garden Club will be hosting their annual luncheon on Thursday. They have invited the Mayor, along with the Public Works Department and the Administrative staff to attend.
- E. Octoberfest is being held on Saturday, September 16. Russ Barron and the rest of the Octoberfest committee have been putting a lot of time into putting this event together.
- F. Robert Johnson, a retired member of the Public Works department, passed away recently. Mayor Schenck noted that he was always very friendly anytime the Mayor saw him out in public.

Mayor Schenck thanked Mr. Johnson for all that he did, both during his time in the Public Works department and thereafter.

- G. Mayor Schenck noted that it can be difficult to track the number of deer in the community, along with the number of incidents of tick bites. He was, however, able to pull the number of vehicle accidents involving deer within the Borough. He stated that between January and mid-August there were six vehicle incidents that involved deer. Luckily there were no injuries resulting from these accidents and all the cars were drivable.

Mayor Schenck read that the City of Pittsburgh will be archery hunting deer in Frick Park. The park will be closed to the public during these hunts. Ms. Barron noted that any resident of Allegheny County can apply to hunt deer in Frick Park, but only 20 people will be selected.

- H. It has been determined that the vape shop located on Noblestown Road is considered a legal retail use. The Borough is not able to restrict any legal retail use from doing business within borough limits.
- I. Mayor Schenck stated that he depends on emails to keep apprised of things. He hopes that the new modalities to reach Green Tree residents will occur soon. He also hopes that one of the modalities is some form of an email blast for residents.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

A. Finance and General Policy – Mr. Turocy

1. Mr. Turocy reported that budget season is coming up. The Borough Manager will be meeting with the Finance and General Policy committee over the next couple of months and putting the 2024 budget together.
2. The Borough's auditor has recently released the formal report of the latest audit. The results of this audit will be reviewed at a future Finance and General Policy committee meeting.

B. Infrastructure – Mr. Romanovich

1. The infrastructure committee met via Zoom on September 6 to discuss several current and upcoming infrastructure projects.
2. The work on the Rook stairs should be coming to an end soon.
3. Curb work has been started for the 2023 road paving projects. Mr. Romanovich is hoping that this work will be completed over the next several weeks.

C. Planning and Zoning – Mr. Rea

1. Mr. Turocy stated that the Planning Commission has been working very hard on the Comprehensive Plan. Once the Planning Commission finishes their final review, they will be holding a public meeting for residents to attend and review the proposed plan. The information about this public meeting will be posted on the Borough's website once details have been finalized. It is very important to the Borough because it will lay out the anticipated vision for the future of Green Tree.

D. Public Facilities and Equipment – Ms. Barron

1. The final book donation day prior to the Library's annual book sale will be on Saturday, October 7.
2. The Green Tree Public Library book sale will begin on October 12 at 7:00pm with a preview sale. The book sale will continue through Sunday, October 15. If anyone would like to volunteer for this event, they should contact the library. There are a lot of opportunities for volunteers.
3. Ms. Barron will be meeting with the Borough Manager and Library Director to discuss how the Green Tree Public Library can help assist the Historical Society with planning for the future. The Historical Society currently consists of a few very dedicated volunteers who have put countless

hours into preserving Green Tree's history, and they have reached out to the library for assistance in reaching the next level of their work.

4. The Public Facilities and Equipment committee will be meeting later this month to discuss priorities for the Borough's facilities and parks for the 2024 budget.
5. September is Love Your Library month. All donations made to the Green Tree Public Library during the month of September will be matched by the Jack Buncher Foundation.

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

1. The Civil Service Commission will be meeting next week to discuss the hiring process for the Police Department. Mr. Lindsey is hoping that an advertisement for the open positions will be posted for the public before the October Council meeting.

F. Recreation Programming and Community Welfare – Mr. Panza

1. The Recreation Programming and Community Welfare committee will be forming a taskforce with members of the community to discuss how the issues with the deer population should be addressed. The taskforce will be working to determine what steps the Borough should consider taking; whether they should contact other local communities first, host a town hall meeting with residents in the Borough, or if the Borough should try to find a group to help control the deer population. Mr. Panza stated that they are looking for one more member of the community to join this taskforce.
2. Mr. Panza reported that the weather should be nice and sunny for Oktoberfest this coming Saturday.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Mr. Tintori

- A. The Borough is hosting their annual Electronics Recycling event on Saturday, September 23 from 10:30am until 1:00pm.
- B. Mr. Tintori reported that Robert Johnson, a former long-time member of the Public Works department, had recently passed away. Mr. Johnson was also a member of the American Legion. Mr. Tintori noted that Mr. Johnson's son had said that he was very happy that the military had attended the funeral.
- C. Mr. Tintori reminded residents to read the newsletter because it always has a lot of information about Borough events. He also recommended that residents visit the website for information. Any of Green Tree's clubs and organizations are encouraged to send the Borough their information to be included in the newsletters and on the website.
- D. Mr. Tintori noted that extensive sound barrier work is being done on route 28. He asked Mr. Panza if there were any sound barrier updates for the Borough regarding I-376. Mr. Panza stated that under federal law, sound barriers are required with any new highway expansion. He said that during a meeting with PennDOT, Council was informed that a sound barrier is in the plan for I-376. Ms. Miller stated that she had a meeting with PennDOT approximately a month and a half ago to discuss plans for the interchange project. PennDOT indicated that they believe the sound barrier will be an important aspect of the improvement project. PennDOT will host a public meeting in Green Tree prior to any work being done, so the residents of the borough will have an opportunity to discuss the sound barrier with PennDOT. No date has been set for this meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Ms. Miller

- A. Ms. Miller noted that the residents of Green Tree should be grateful for the Borough providing a free electronics recycling event each year. She had recent taken two televisions to be recycled and it cost

her \$120. This free event is tremendous value for the residents and a great opportunity to get rid of old electronics.

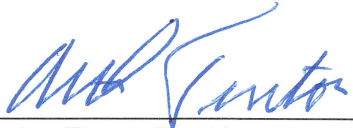
- B. The Zoning Hearing Board currently has a vacancy that they are looking to fill. If any resident is interested in serving on this board, they can fill out a volunteer application on the Borough's website.

ADJOURNMENT

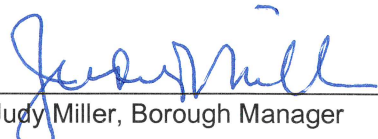
Motion:

Mr. Panza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm.

Motion carried unanimously.



Arthur Tintori, President



Judy Miller, Borough Manager