

## **WEST GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL –Meeting Notes**

**March 3, 2021**

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The Regular Meeting of the West Grove Borough Council was held on Wednesday March 3, 2021. The meeting took place via Zoom Conference. The President, David Prosser called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. David Prosser, President  
Mrs. Kristin Proto, Vice President  
Mayor Stephen Black  
Mr. Christopher Freese  
Mr. Fred Boyce  
Ms. Karen Beltran  
Mr. Bill Temme  
Ms. Elizabeth Garduno  
Mr. Gregory McCummings, Secretary

### **MINUTES:**

**February 3, 2021:** Mr. Boyce made a motion and Mrs. Proto seconded to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2021 Borough Council.

Motion Passed

### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Mr. Temme made a motion and Mr. Boyce seconded to approve the February Financial Report.

Motion Passed

### **TRANSFERS:**

Mr. Temme made a motion and Mr. Boyce seconded to approve the March Transfers.

Motion Passed

### **BILLS:**

Mr. Temme made a motion and Mr. Boyce seconded to approve the February bills.

Motion Passed

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Lori Schwabenbauer, director of the Avon Grove Library, provided an update on their operations. She is grateful that they have been able to continue to stay open and operate through the ongoing pandemic. They have received several messages of appreciation from patrons and is thankful for the Borough's support in helping keep their operation open and accessible to the community. Mrs. Proto congratulated Lori on the WHYY article recognizing the library's efforts.

### **FINANCE:**

2021 Borough Tax Bills were mailed out on February 23, 2021.

### **ZONING OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT:**

President Prosser observed work being done at a rental property at Evergreen and Maple and inquired about where we stand with the outstanding rental properties in the community. All landlords on the list have responded to our Notices of Violation and are addressing the deficiencies at their properties.

### **PUBLIC WORKS:**

Update was provided on the status of the sewer system. Currently we have one of the two Oxidation Ditch drives down and out of service. Replacement parts are on order and will be installed as soon as possible. We had both pumps fail at the Harmony Hills lift station which caused us to have to bring in Brandywine Septic to pump and haul out of that location until we could get a temporary pump in place that we have on loan from East Marlborough Township. Replacement pumps are ordered and will be installed once they come in.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Chief Simpson indicated that they will be meeting with representatives from the West Grove United Methodist Church to discuss traffic control for their food distribution program that is occurring on Friday afternoons each week. Chief also indicated that he would be meeting with the Black Student Union from Avon Grove High School to discuss the Citizen's Advisory Board initiative. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, the Chief will be meeting with Representative Sappy's committee on social injustice. Chief recently met with representatives from PA Wilderness Search & Rescue in response to the recent tragic events with a missing person just outside of the Borough. We are looking to have a policy discussion regarding SCCRPD's search and rescue efforts and employing their volunteer services should we have a need in the future. This will also involve some internal department training as well. The 2021 National Night Out event in West Grove Borough is still in a pending stage along with other in person initiatives due to the pandemic.

### **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**

Mrs. Proto provided an update that the February meeting with Ed and the design team focused on current and future land use in the Borough. Possible Zoning adjustments were discussed for adaptive reuse of current historical structures while maintaining the historical significance of the structures at the same time. The upcoming March meeting will be on Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup> and the focus will be on environment and energy which include some of the park systems as well. Outreach to stakeholders on each topic of interest will be occurring moving forward.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Several residents with access on Quaker Alley and members of Friends Meeting participated in a discussion about the status of Quaker Alley which is currently signed as

a “Private Alley”. Based on research the Borough does not believe the alley was ever officially made private but was rather signed that way to reduce traffic. Residents believe peoples GPS directions may land them on that stretch of road as they do continue to see it used as a cut through. Friends Meeting’s concern continues to be the upkeep of the alleyway and the maintenance of the road banks themselves and liability associated with access for emergency vehicles.

President Prosser suggested that the Borough take the road back and resume providing road maintenance and winter maintenance as well as road bank maintenance. A discussion took place regarding changing the signage to “No Thru Traffic”. The Borough will look into the cost of the signs and Friends Meeting indicated they have Boy Scouts that they can work with to help maintain the vegetation on the alley.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion took place regarding a 3.4 acre parcel that is adjacent to Harmony Park and has street frontage on North Guernsey Road. The owner approached the Borough to see if we would be interested in the property. The council for the owner agreed that the next step would be an appraisal process and the Brough agreed to pay half of the cost of the appraisal. The Borough requested that the appraisal be done so that it meets the requirements of the DCNR for future grant requests to help support the possible purchase. That was not done, and we asked them to go back and make the changes.

The discussion took place regarding the value of the property for the Borough and how it would benefit the community to expand Harmony Park. It could possibly eliminate the parking challenges we have each fall with the football program. Mr. Temme indicated that he had previous discussions regarding this parcel with members of the Wildcats program and they indicated they would be willing to help support the purchase. President Prosser indicated that if Borough Council is supportive of pursuing the property, we will continue the discussions. Mr. Prosser recommended excluding the highest appraisal and averaging out the other two to come up with a possible offer of \$190K and due the funds earning very little interest at this time it would be more beneficial to reinvest them back into the community by attempting to purchase this property. Borough Council had no opposition to continuing to pursue the property.

Resolution 2021-01 Proclaiming April 2021 as Safe Digging Month in West Grove Borough was presented.

Mr. Temme made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-01 and Mr. Boyce seconded the motion

Motion Passed

Manager McCummings updated Borough Council regarding the request from Chester County Voter Services for the installation of a Ballot Drop Box at the Municipal Building.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None Provided

**MAYORS COMMENTS:**

Mayor Black indicated that the Borough has a very high percentage of the population that has contracted Covid and asked that we all follow the guidelines to help reduce the spread of the virus. Happy Saint Patrick's Day to everyone and Happy Birthday to Davida Black who is a Borough Auditor.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- **Public Safety Commission Meeting** – Thursday 3/11/2021 @ 7:30pm (ZOOM)
- **Community Clean Up Day** – Saturday April 24, 2021 from 9AM to 1PM
- **Primary Election Day** – May 18, 2021
- **Memorial Day Parade** - Postponed

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Temme made a motion and Mr. Boyce seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:36p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory J. McCummings, Secretary