

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

**February 2, 2022**

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The Regular Meeting of the West Grove Borough Council was held on Wednesday February 2, 2022. The meeting took place in the community room of the Municipal Building located at 117 Rosehill Avenue. The Vice President, Kristin Proto called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. David Prosser, President (Via Phone)  
Mrs. Kristin Proto, Vice President  
Mayor Stephen Black  
Ms. Karen Beltran  
Mr. Fred Boyce  
Ms. Elizabeth Garduno  
Ms. Leandria Hall  
Ms. Lauren McDevitt  
Mr. Gregory McCummings, Secretary

### **MINUTES:**

**January 4, 2022:** Mr. Boyce made a motion and Ms. Hall seconded to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2022, Borough Council Meeting.

Motion Passed

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

Mr. Boyce made a motion and Ms. McDevitt seconded to approve the January Financial Reports.

Motion Passed

### **PAYROLL TRANSFERS:**

Mr. Boyce made a motion and Ms. Hall seconded to approve the February Payroll Transfers.

Motion Passed

### **BILLS:**

Mr. Boyce made a motion and Ms. McDevitt seconded to approve the January bills.

Motion Passed

**VISITORS:** Juan Ortiz, West Grove State Farm Insurance Agent, attended the meeting and discussed State Farm's request to change the signage at his location on Evergreen Street. Mr. Ortiz recently became the State Farm agent in the Borough following Linda Ingenthron's retirement. Corporate for State Farm is pressuring Mr. Ortiz to update the signage to conform with their company standards. Mr. Ortiz replaced Linda's signage with the same style awning with the same color scheme. Mr. Ortiz wanted to inquire about the possible adoption of the new Comprehensive Plan and if Borough Council would support not changing the signage that he has already installed. Council discussed the matter and because Mr. Ortiz's office is housed in a building that is identified as an

historical structure for the Borough that they would be willing to have Manager McCummings pen a letter of support indicating such.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Gianaluca Arenzio from Brothers Pizza expressed concern regarding the parking challenges on Exchange and the surrounding areas. Currently the parking ordinance for the Borough indicates no parking on the east side of Exchange and when vehicles park for more than 2 hours in the spots downtown it creates a challenge for the delivery drivers and folks picking up take out from the restaurant. Lieutenant Ward from the SCCRPD indicated they would place a focus on the 2-hour parking restriction and a second solution of a loading area was discussed as well. Borough Public Works will access the area and identify if a designated loading area would be feasible. If so we will need to discuss with the Borough Solicitor if an ordinance revision would be required.

**FINANCE:**

The financial impact of the pending closure of Jennersville Regional Hospital was discussed. The additional funding request from the Fire Department for EMS works out to be \$11,240 for the Borough.

Ordinance 2022-01 Establishing an Independent Auditor to audit the Borough Financials beginning with the year 2022 was presented and discussed. Borough Council requested that the manager work with the one elected auditor and one previously elected auditor along with Cynthia Quinn to complete this year's audit. The belief is that we would not have enough time to bid the work, receive responses and select a firm in time to meet the deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup> for submission. Adoption of the ordinance will allow time for the Borough to go through the bid process and to select a provider for the audit of 2022 financials in the first quarter of 2023.

Mr. Boyce made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-01 Establishing an Independent Auditor for the Borough of West Grove and Mr. Prosser seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

**ZONING OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT:**

Following the review of the monthly report Ms. McDevitt inquired about what type of historical data the Borough has regarding what locations and or landlords continuously fail their rental inspections. Manager McCummings with work with the Borough Secretary to see what information is available from our system.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

- The new gate has been installed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The mechanical controls are on back order however the gate is installed and operational otherwise.
- Public Works is focused on winter weather and keeping the roads and sidewalks clear during any snow or ice event.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Lieutenant Ward provided an update on the Regional Police operations including two recent incidents that required a use of force by the department.

### **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**

Ed Therekauf from Therekauf Designs gave an overview of the Comprehensive Plan and asked Borough Council to consider adopting the plan.

Mr. Boyce made a motion to adopt the newly updated 10-year Comprehensive Plan for West Grove Borough and Ms. McDevitt seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution 2022-01 indicating the Borough's willingness to participate in Chester County's Preservation Partnership Grant program was presented and discussed. The Resolution is a requirement of the submittal. The grant is being pursued to fund 50% of the purchase price of the 3.4 acres that were purchased to expand Harmony Park.

Mr. Boyce made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-01 as presented and Ms. Hall seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

Resolution 2022-02 establishing a fee schedule for the Borough of West Grove was presented and discussed. The fee schedule revises the cost of recyclable yard waste bags to \$1.50 each up from a \$1.00 each and increases the notary fee from \$2.00 up to \$5.00 per seal. All other fees remain the same.

Mr. Boyce made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-02 as presented and Ms. Garduno seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

Vice President Proto provided an update to Borough Council on the state of the Southern Chester County Trail Study and discussed the Borough's willingness to participate. There will be grant funding available and Borough Council would like to participate with the project and would support applying for the funding available to do so.

**MAYORS COMMENTS:** Mayor Black indicated that Punxsutawney Phil had predicted 6 more weeks of winter earlier in the day and reminded everyone to remember Valentine's Day for your significant others.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- **Public Safety Commission Meeting** – Thursday 2/10/2022 at 7:00pm at the West Grove Municipal Building

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gregory J. McCummings", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gregory J. McCummings, Secretary