

WEST GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL –Meeting Notes

October 4, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the West Grove Borough Council was held on Wednesday October 4, 2023. The meeting took place in the community room of the Municipal Building located at 117 Rosehill Avenue. 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
Ms. Lauren McDevitt
Ms. Karen Beltran
Ms. Leandria Hall
Mr. Gregory McCummings, Secretary

MINUTES:

September 6, 2023: Ms. McDevitt made a motion to approve the minutes from September 6, 2023, and Ms. Beltran seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Ms. McDevitt made a motion to approve the financial reports from September 2023 and Ms. Beltran seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

PAYROLL TRANSFERS:

Mrs. Proto made a motion to approve the October payroll transfers and Ms. McDevitt seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

BILLS:

Ms. McDevitt made a motion to approve the payment of the September invoices and Ms. Hall seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

VISITORS:

Members of the West Grove Fire Company presented their 2024 budget which equates to a 5% increase on the 2023 budget. Contributing factors include the need for increased EMS staffing to cover lost time due to the hospital closure and increasing operational costs.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Resident Carol Black inquired about the possibility of adding sidewalks to Summit Avenue. Currently there are no sidewalks in many sections of Summit Avenue and many children live and travel the street. Manager McCummings explained some of the process

of how street scape planning, and projects are accomplished in the Borough. The first step in planning for this level of a project is to have our engineering firm create plans for the project. Those plans are then used to apply for grant funding for the project. Future discussion will need to take place to move the concept to the planning stages. Ms. Black also asked about the condition of 244 West Summit, the code official will be asked to review. Resident Molly Wood inquired about lead paint ordinances due to the age of the homes in the Borough. Research will need to be done.

FINANCE:

The 2024 proposed budget was discussed. Budgeting for connection fees for the Habitat Development and collection of Local Service Tax by Keystone were discussed. Borough Council agreed to meet for a Budget work session on Wednesday October 18, 2023.

4th Quarter Water/Sewer Bills were mailed out to the community the week of September 25th.

ZONING OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT:

No comments were made regarding the Zoning Officer's September Report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Two of the telephone poles have been removed from the Willow Street parking area. The last one needs underground conduit removed before it can come out.
- The streetlight at the corner of South Hills Drive and Guernsey Road was knocked down by a motorist. The LED fixture is fine and once a replacement pole comes in it will go back up.
- Vehicle damage at Harmony Park is being repaired including replacement of the bench on the walking trail.
- Interviews of Public Works Candidates are ongoing with the last one scheduled for Monday 10/9/2023.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Lieutenant Joseph Versagli provided an update on the September police activity including parking and traffic violations. The Homecoming parade was discussed along with the upcoming Trick or Treating event. Lt. Versagli assured those in attendance that the PD will have flares in place prior to the event starting this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning Revision Project Update:

COMPLETED:

- Introduction Meeting took place on May 1, 2023. The committee has been assembled and the project is underway.
- Work Session #1 took place on Monday June 5, 2023
- Work Session #2 took place on Monday July 10, 2023
- Work Session #3 took place on Monday July 31, 2023
- Work Session #4 took place on Monday August 21, 2023

- Work Session #5 took place on Monday September 11, 2023
- Work Session #6 took place on Monday October 2, 2023

SCHEDULED:

- Work Session #7 – 11/6/2023 @ Noon

Park Master Planning Project Update:

COMPLETED:

- Introduction Meeting took place on May 2, 2023. The committee has been assembled and the project is also underway.
- Site visit completed 5/12/2023, during which time we visited both parks with Focus Group 1. Focus Group 1 included the Borough Manager, Trisha and the Public Works team.
- Focus Group 2 includes leadership from local sports organizations, including the adult soccer league, Wildcats Football and Avon Grove Area Little League.
- Focus Group 2 met on 6/13/2023.
- Public meeting 1 was held on 6/26/2023 at Blondes and Brewnettes to gather public input.
- Focus Group Meeting 3 took place 8/3/2023 and the results of the public meeting were discussed.
- Focus Group Meeting 4 took place 8/21/2023 and preliminary designs were presented for discussion.
- Public meeting 2 was held on 9/5/2023 at Blondes and Brewnettes to present the preliminary designs and gain public input.

SCHEDULED:

- Focus Group Meeting 5 scheduled for Tuesday 10/10/2023 to review the results of the survey of the two conceptual plans for each park.

A Proclamation for the Recognition of Meritorious Service for Curtis Mason, Sr. for 26 years of service to Penn Township was read aloud and presented to Council who agreed to support it.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business was discussed.

MAYORS COMMENTS:

Mayor Black was out of town but provided the following message to add to the minutes: “Halloween will take place on October 31st! Please be mindful driving and take extra precautions, we don’t want anyone to get hurt.”

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Public Safety Commission Meeting** – Thursday October 12, 2023 at 7:00pm at the West Grove Borough Municipal Building
- **Community Trick or Treating** – Tuesday October 31, 2023 (6-8PM)


- **Chester County Urban Centers Forum** – Thursday November 2, 2023 (4-6PM) to register for the event go to the Chester County Planning Commission website and registration is available under “Upcoming Fall Events”. There are both in person and Zoom options available.
 - Downingtown S.T.E.M. Academy
 - 335 Manor Avenue Downingtown, PA 19335
- **General Election** – November 7, 2023, poles open from 7AM to 8PM

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Proto made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13PM and Ms. McDevitt seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

Respectfully submitted,


Gregory J. McCummings, Secretary