

**BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
EMERGENCY MEETING  
JUNE 24, 2020**

This Emergency Meeting held the Borough Council meeting was held remotely via Zoom platform on the above date, and was called to order by Mayor LaDaena D. Thomas.

Mayor made the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Mayor led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Bercute-present, Mincey-present, Oliver-present, Pasquale-present, Scott-present, Washington, Jr.-present.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**2020-6-95 – RESOLUTION TO HIRE MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Penns Grove is in need of a Municipal Solicitor; and

WHEREAS, Edward H. Hill, Law Office of Louis G. Guzzo, has satisfied the criteria necessary for this position; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Penns Grove that Edward H. Hill, Law Office of Louis G. Guzzo, is hereby appointed as Municipal Solicitor for the Borough of Penns Grove for the term expiring December 31, 2020;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such appointment is subject to approval by the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Borough of Penns Grove and the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk certify a copy of this Resolution and file it on the public record.

Mayor addressed the need to appoint a Municipal Solicitor due to the resignation of Adam Telsey, Esquire.

Motion to adopt by Mincey. Motion not seconded.

**ORDINANCE(S):**

**2020-6 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 47 (CODE OF ETHICS) OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE**

Mayor addressed past corruption within the municipality, stating the need to amend the Borough Code to address the consequences of corruption.

Motion to adopt by Mincey, second Bercute.

Washington, Jr. expressed concern regarding moving forward prior to appointing a Municipal Attorney.

Mayor Thomas suggested revisiting Resolution No. 2020-6-95.

**2020-6-95 – RESOLUTION TO HIRE MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR**

Mayor Thomas introduced Joseph Lento, Esquire, who has been appointed Conflict Attorney for the Borough, is present to provide counsel until a Municipal Attorney is appointed.

Motion to adopt by Mincey; second Bercute. Roll call. Bercute-yes, Mincey-yes, Oliver-no, Pasquale-(not present), Scott-no, Washington, Jr.-no.

Motion to appoint Joseph DiNicolo as Municipal Attorney, by Oliver.

Mayor Thomas reminded all that the nomination is made by the Mayor. Mayor questioned the process should council not consent to her nomination.

Mr. Lento advised that proposals would need to be solicited again.

Motion to table by Oliver; seconded by Washington, Jr.

2020-6 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 47 (CODE OF ETHICS) OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

Mayor Thomas addressed the need to amend the Borough Code to include policy on corruption, due to historical corruption within the Borough.

Oliver opposed, stating that an individual is innocent until proven guilty.

Mayor Thomas stated that the individual would be suspended until the outcome.

Motion to adopt, by Title Only, by Mincey, second Bercute. Roll call. Mincey-yes, Bercute-yes, Oliver-no, Scott-no, Washington, Jr.-no.

2020-7 – AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE POSITION OF BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Thomas read the State Monitor's recommendation on creating the position of Borough Administrator.

Motion to adopt by title only by Bercute; second Mincey. Roll Call. Bercute-yes, Mincey-yes, Oliver-no, Scott-no, Washington-no.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Thomas addressed the urgent need to demolish 37 Pitman Street, and contiguous properties located at 51, 53, and 55 Pitman Street. Mayor Thomas indicated that she has solicited quotes for demolition and will review with Finance Officer upon receipt.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Motion to open meeting to the public by Mincey; second Oliver. Roll call. All ayes.

Motion to close meeting to the public by Mincey; second Washington. Roll call. All ayes.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Washington, second Mincey. Roll call. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon R. Williams, RMC  
Municipal Clerk