

BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
EXECUTIVE SESSION: 5:30 P.M. and REGULAR SESSION: 6:30 P.M.
November 17, 2020 – MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Borough of Penns Grove Council was called to order by Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas at 6:30 p.m. Due to the Corona Virus outbreak, and subsequent closure of the municipal building, the meeting was conducted via telephone conference using the online platform zoom.

Notice of this meeting was posted on the Borough of Penns Grove Municipal Bulletin Board designed for that purpose. Notice was also posted on the Borough of Penns Grove website: www.pennsgrove-nj.org
Notice was e-mailed to the official newspaper on November 15, 2020.

At this time Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas asked everyone to stand or sit tall for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation was led by Kayla Veltman, Deputy Municipal Clerk.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas gave forth the Open Public Meetings Act Statement: *In accordance with section V of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L 1975, Notice of this meeting was posted on the Borough of Penns Grove Municipal Bulletin Board designed for that purpose. Notice was also posted on the Borough of Penns Grove website: www.pennsgrove-nj.org and was emailed to the official newspaper as provided by Resolution.*

ROLL CALL: Present were: Councilman Mike Bercute, Council-President Carol Mincey, Councilman Louis Pasquale, and Councilwoman Deborah Scott.

Absent Were: Councilman Mark Oliver

Also, present were: Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas, Acting Borough Solicitor Joseph Lento, Chief Municipal Finance Officer Stephen Labb, Deputy Municipal Clerk Kayla Veltman.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

2020-11-150 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b permits a public body to go into a closed session during a public meeting to discuss certain matters as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Penns Grove will go into closed session to discuss the following, in accordance with the aforesaid provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, after which it will reconvene in the public:

1. Matters relating to Notices of Claims received by the Borough Clerk;
2. Matters relating to proposed Autozone;
3. Matters relating to Flameworks v. Penns Grove;
4. Matters relating to Fee Schedules received from David Avedissian;
5. Matters relating to Fee Schedule received from Richard Klineburger, III;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the minutes of the closed session will be made available to the public when the need for privacy no longer exists.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-11-150 was moved by Councilman Mike Bercute, Council-President Carol Mincey seconded the motion. All in favor, Motioned Carried by Madam Mayor Thomas, at 5:35 p.m.

All other participants were moved into the breakroom by Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas.

Motion to enter executive session was moved by Councilman Mike Bercute, Council-President Carol Mincey seconded the motion. All in favor, Motioned Carried by Madam Mayor Thomas, at 5:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present were: Councilman Mike Bercute, Council-President Carol Mincey, Councilman Louis Pasquale, and Councilwoman Deborah Scott.

Absent Were: Councilman Mark Oliver

Also, present were: Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas, Acting Borough Solicitor Joseph Lento, Chief Municipal Finance Officer Stephen Labb, Deputy Municipal Clerk Kayla Veltman.

Motion to close executive Session at 5:50 p.m. was made by Councilman Louis Pasquale, and second by Council-President Carol Mincey. All in favor. Motion Carried by Madam Mayor Thomas at 5:50 p.m.

Madam Mayor Thomas requested a motion for payment of bills and approval of bill list. Motion was made by Councilman Bercute and it was seconded by Council-President Mincey

PAYMENT OF BILLS & APPROVAL OF BILL OF BILL LIST: Motion: Bercute Second: Mincey Voice Vote: Four (4)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a motion to approve August 5, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Motion was moved by Councilwoman Scott and it was second by Councilman Bercute. There being four (4) ayes and no nays, the minutes were approved. Motion carried by Madam Mayor Thomas.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a motion to approve September 11, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Motion was moved by Councilwoman Scott and it was second by Council-President Mincey. There being four (4) ayes and no nays, the minutes were approved. Motion carried by Madam Mayor Thomas

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a motion to approve October 6, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Motion was moved by Council-President Mincey and it was second by Councilman Bercute. There being four (4) ayes and no nays, the minutes were approved. Motion carried by Madam Mayor Thomas

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

This portion of the meeting is provided for comments on Agenda items only. There will be a public portion later in the meeting for general comments. If you have any comments, please state your name and address for the record.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a motion to open to the public for agenda items only:

Motion: Mincey Second: Bercute Voice Vote Four (4)

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a motion to close public portion on agenda items:

Motion: Mincey Second: Bercute Voice Vote Four (4)

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

2020-11-151 – RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87(CHAPTER 159, PL 1948)

2020-11-152 – RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87(CHAPTER 159, PL 1948)

2020-11-154 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HIRING OF POLICE OFFICER

2020-11-155 – AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

2020-11-156 – AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE BOND BOND # B10032269M - LANDBERG CONSTRUCTION, LLC

2020-11-157 – AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER PAYMENTS

2020-11-158 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT FOR SATISFACTION OF MUNICIPAL LIEN NO. 19-00574

2020-11-159 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT FOR SATISFACTION OF MUNICIPAL LIEN NO. 17-000589

2020-11-160 – RESOLUTION RESCINDING TAX EXEMPT STATUS

2020-11-161 – RESOLUTION RESCINDING TAX EXEMPT STATUS

2020-11-162 – AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF PROCUREMENT CARDS TO EMPLOYEES

2020-11-163 – A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS FOR THE AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS WITH THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

2020-11-164 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF VARIOUS PENNS GROVE PROPERTIES

2020-11-165 – RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOOKING CLERK

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a motion to adopt all resolutions placed on November 17, 2020 Agenda.

Motion to adopt by consent: Councilman Mike Bercute Second Council-President Carol Mincey
Roll Call Vote: Four (4)

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE(S):

2020-14 – ORDINANCE CREATING A CITIZENS' POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

Madam Mayor Thomas requested a Motion to open public hearing, Council-President Carol Mincey made the Motion and it was seconded by Councilwoman Deborah Scott.

Mr. Greg Martin requested to see Ordinance No. 2020-14

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas asked Kayla Veltman to share Ordinance 2020-14 on the Zoom Platform Screen.

Ordinance 2020-14 was displayed on the zoom platform.

Mr. Alfred Nicolosi inquired about funding.

Mr. Stephen Labb, CFO stated that funding is not available.

Mr. Alfred Nicolosi requested a copy of Ordinance No. 2020-14

Madam Mayor Thomas asked Mr. Nicolosi to send his e-mail in a private message to Kayla Veltman

Madam Mayor Thomas requested a Motion to close public hearing, Councilman Mike Bercute made the Motion and it was seconded by Councilwoman Deborah Scott.

Madam Mayor Thomas requested a Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-14, Council-President Carol Mincey made the Motion and it was seconded by Councilman Mike Bercute.

Roll Call: Ayes – Mr. Bercute, Ms. Mincey, Ms. Scott

Nays – none

Abstain – Mr. Pasquale

There being three (3) ayes and one (1) Abstain, to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-14.

Motion to adopt Ord. 2020-14 by: Mincey Second: Bercute Roll Call Vote: Four (4)

2020-16 – BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS, IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE, IN THE COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$120,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$114,000 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Madam Mayor Thomas requested a Motion to open public hearing, Council-President Carol Mincey made the Motion and it was seconded by Councilwoman Deborah Scott.

No public Comments

Madam Mayor Thomas requested a Motion to close public hearing, Councilman Mike Bercute made the Motion and it was seconded by Council-President Carol Mincey.

Madam Mayor Thomas requested a Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-16, Councilman Mike Bercute made the Motion and it was seconded by Councilman Louis Pasquale.

Roll Call: Ayes – Mr. Bercute, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Pasquale, Ms. Scott

Nays – none

There being three (4) ayes and zero (0) naves, to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-16.

Motion to adopt Ord. 2020-16 by: Bercute Second: Pasquale Roll Call Vote: Four (4)

2020-17 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 206 – BUILDINGS, UNFIT AND ABANDONED

Madam Mayor Thomas requested a Motion to open public hearing, Councilwoman Deborah Scott made the Motion and it was seconded by Council-President Carol Mincey.

No public Comments

Madam Mayor Thomas requested a Motion to close public hearing, Councilwoman Deborah Scott made the Motion and it was seconded by Councilman Bercute.

Madam Mayor Thomas requested a Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-17, Council-President Carol Mincey made the Motion and it was seconded by Councilman Mike Bercute.

Roll Call: Ayes – Mr. Bercute, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Pasquale, Ms. Scott
Nays – none

There being three (4) ayes and zero (0) nays, to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-17.
Motion to adopt Ord. 2020-16 by: Mincey Second: Bercute Roll Call Vote: Four (4)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds – (Pasquale, Bercute)

Councilman Pasquale gave forth his report.

He stated that he is in the process of closing out his projects prior to his term expiration date.

General Government – (Mincey, Scott)

Council-President Mincey gave forth the Municipal Clerks report for the Month of October, 2020.

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree – (Scott, Pasquale, Mincey)

Councilwoman Scott gave forth the Housing and Zoning report for the Month of October, 2020.

Councilwoman Scott thanked Ed Ramsay for being proactive and responsible of cleaning the center of the Borough.

Parks & Recreation/Board of Health – (Bercute, Oliver, Pasquale)

Councilman Bercute reminded the Public that the Barber Avenue Park is still officially closed.

Councilman Bercute gave forth the Board of Health reports:

Code Enforcement Officer sent 44 Notices in the Month of October 2020

Councilman Bercute also gave forth the Vital Statistics report for the month of October, 2020.

Public Works/Streets & Roads – (Oliver, Scott)

Councilman Oliver was absent; therefore, he did not give a report. Council-President Mincey reported a flooded roadway located at West Main Street. and Franklin St.

Public Safety – (Mincey, Bercute, Scott)

Council-President Mincey reported that she spoke with Lt. Spera about the Tayshon Hayward Ordinance.

She also pointed out certain apartment complexes are not in compliance with the ordinance and they have been a “No Show” to court

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Finance Officer Report: Chief Finance Officer Stephen Labb gave forth the finance report for the month of October, 2020.

Chief of Police Report: Lieutenant Spera gave forth the Month of October 2020 Chief of Police report.

Fire Chief Report: Mr. Adam Hartsough stated that the new fire truck will be here by Christmas.

Ambulance/EMS Captain Report: Ms. Deborah Ashcraft mentioned that a crew member tested positive for COVID-19. Crew member is on workman’s comp from place of employment.

Every member has been tested for COVID- 19 since one of the crew members tested positive.

Ambulance captain will be ordering more gloves.

Mayoral Comment: Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested the public to obey the Governors Executive Order. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas spoke about the 2020 General Election and she

congratulated Mr. John Rambo, Mr. Carter and Ms. Martin. Mayor LaDaena Thomas stated that she is looking forward to working with them in the new coming years ahead.

APPOINTMENTS:

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas appoints Mr. Alfred Nicholosi to be a member of the Penns Grove Planning Board. Madam Mayor Thomas requested a Motion to approve Alfred Nicholosi as a Board member, Councilwoman Deborah Scott made the Motion and it was seconded by Councilman Mike Bercute.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas appoints Ms. Mary Kay James to be a member of the Penns Grove Sewerage Authority. Madam Mayor Thomas requested a Motion to approve Mary Kay James as a member of the Sewerage Authority, Councilwoman Deborah Scott made the Motion and it was seconded by Councilman Mike Bercute.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas appoints Mr. Abasi Moyenda to be a member of the Penns Grove Sewerage Authority. Madam Mayor Thomas requested a Motion to approve Abasi Moyenda as a member of the Sewerage Authority, Councilwoman Deborah Scott made the Motion and it was seconded by Councilman Mike Bercute.

REQUESTS:

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas made a request to approve the application for Blue Emergency Warning light permit for Robert Myers. Councilwoman Scott made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Council-President Mincey.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman Lou Pasquale made a request that they focus on the Verdecchio property as a new pumping station.

NEW BUSINESS:

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas made a request to advertise for the Planning Board Secretary Position. Councilman Bercute made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Councilman Pasquale.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas made a request to advertise for the Janitorial/Handyman Position. Councilwoman Scott made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Councilman Pasquale.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas made a request to advertise for the SLEO II Position. Councilwoman Scott made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Councilman Pasquale.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas made a request to open the Zoom Platform for public comments. Motion to open the public portion of the meeting Scott Second: Bercute Voice Vote Four (4)

Ms. Jennifer Webb, Helmscove lane - made a request to paint "Equality for All" on the blacktop of Smith St.

Council-President Carol Mincey mentioned that Smith St. belongs to the County suggesting that she submits a request with County Freeholders.

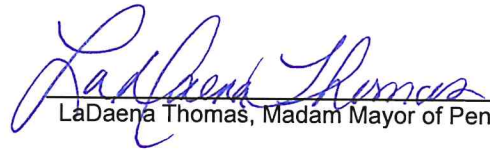
Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested Kayla Veltman to provide the County Freeholders information to Ms. Webb, after the meeting.

Ken James, West Maple Ave – stated that the drain on West Main St is clogged , full of stone and would like to assist with solving the problem.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas made a request to close the Zoom Platform for public comments. Motion to close the public portion of the meeting Mincey Second Bercute Voice Vote Four (4)

ADJOURNMENT:


Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Scott Second Mincey Voice Vote Four (4)
All in favor. Motion carried by Madam Mayor Thomas.


LaDaena Thomas, Madam Mayor of Penns Grove

Submitted: December 8, 2020

Approved: December 8, 2020

Respectfully Submitted by,


Kayla M. Veltman
Deputy Clerk

SINCE THESE MINUTES ARE NOT TO BE A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT, THIS HAS BEEN A
CONDENSED TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEETING. THE OFFICIAL RECORDING IS AVAILABLE DURING
NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS FOR ANY INTERESTED PERSON.

(For additional information, please visit our website at www.pennsgrove-nj.org)