

BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 3, 2019

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 mailed to the official newspaper as provided by Resolution adopted on January 2, 2019

2019-12-173 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CLOSED 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:

- I. **Matters Relating to Attorney/Client Privilege and Litigation:** Discussion regarding Flameworks LLC and Scattered Sites vs. Borough of Penns Grove pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7).
 - II. **Matters Relating to the Employment Relationship:** Discussion regarding employment requests from employee Sharon R. Williams, Municipal Clerk, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(8).
- 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 2019-12-173 was moved by Councilman Washington, Jr., Council-President Poindexter seconded the motion. All in favor, Motioned Carried by Mayor Washington, Sr.

Motion to open Regular Session at 7:17 p.m. was made by Council-President Poindexter, and second by Councilman Oliver. All in favor. Motion Carried by Mayor Washington, Sr.

The Regular Session of the regular meeting for the Borough of Penns Grove Council was called to order by Mayor John A. Washington, Sr., at 7:28 p.m. The meeting was held in the Court Room of the Borough Hall Municipal Building at 1 State Street, Penns Grove, New Jersey, 08069

Mayor John A. Washington, Sr., delivered the following speech:

“Good evening everyone, what a wonderful way to end my career as the Mayor of Penns Grove; with all these wonderful folks, outstanding people from Salem County, Sheriff’s Department, State Senator; all came to witness a celebration of an appointment. I would like to thank everyone for coming out to be a part of this great night. As we continue to move this Borough forward, we will be appointing a new Chief of Police and we would like to thank Chief Stranahan, for all that he has done, along with moving the Police Department forward. It is also nice to have two Police Departments working close together, backing each-other up, which is the greatest thing in the world. We also want to acknowledge the help we receive by the County; they’ve been very supportive in the past”

At this time Mayor John A. Washington asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone participated in the flag salute.

Invocation was led by Deputy Clerk at 7:29 p.m.

Present were: Mayor Washington, Sr., Councilman Lou Pasquale, Council-President Clifford Poindexter, Councilman Mark Oliver, Councilwoman Deborah Scott, Councilman Carl J. Washington, Jr. Also, present were: Borough Attorney Adam Telsey, Deputy Clerk Kayla Veltman and Assistant Treasurer Ericka Walker.

Absent Were: None.

Mayor John A. Washington, Sr., honored the presence of Kenneth H. Brown, Mayor of Carneys Point and Carneys Point Chief of Police, Gerald A. Krivda.

John A. Washington, Sr., Invited Penns Grove Chief of Police, John T. Stranahan, Sr., to speak.

John T. Stranahan reported the following update:

“At the request of the Police Committee I posted a Promotional Announcement for Chief of Police to all senior members of the department. To be consistent with the Rules and Policies of this agency, that were

passed in 2002, I noted in the announcement the educational and leadership requirements for the position.

I accepted one letter for the position of Chief of Police and after verifying that this candidate met the requirements set for in the Rules and Policies forwarded same to Riley Sr. He was interviewed by the Police Committee and then the appropriate authority.

Since my promotion, Lt. Riley has been very supportive in my endeavor to restructure the department. We have seen the hard work pay off by completing my five-year plan in less than three years. Many people have commented on the impressive changes that our department has made. In fact, the Salem County Prosecutor has called the Penns Grove Police Department a professionally run organization and a leader that other departments should follow“

John T. Stranahan, Sr., delivered the following speech:

“During the past two years Lt. Riley has, on his own, obtained training and guidance to prepare himself for the next step. The definition of a leader is one that makes a difference in their current position, not sitting back and saying I will do it if you give me a new title. Pat has proven to be a leader in the department and has been key in the restructuring of the department.

The Chief of Police is extremely valuable, not only to the department but also to the community. The Chief must have integrity, leadership and a desire to do the right thing for the community. Knowing the importance of this position first hand, I have spent the past two years conducting an evaluation of our personnel. I do not give my recommendation for Chief of Police lightly. After careful consideration and evaluation, I believe Lieutenant Riley is the only candidate to be the next Chief of Police. I recommend, based on y full evaluation of available personnel that the Borough Council should promote Lieutenant Patrick J. Riley, Sr., to the position of Chief“

RESOLUTION(S):

2019-12-175 – RESOLUTION APPOINTING CHIEF OF POLICE

WHEREAS, Chief John Stranahan, who currently serves as Chief of Police of the Borough of Penns Grove, has requested his retirement on or before December 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Chief Stranahan’s retirement, the Borough of Penns Grove has a need to fill the vacancy of Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Penns Grove has carefully vetted a candidate for the position of Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, after careful review, the Borough of Penns Grove has made its decision with regard to the next Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, all of the requirements of Borough Code Section 116-2(A) have been satisfied with respect to hiring a new Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, this appointment shall be effective December 31, 2019;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Penns Grove, that Patrick J. Riley Sr is hereby appointed as Chief of Police of the Borough of Penns Grove, subject to approval of the Department of Community Affairs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Patrick J. Riley, Sr.’s salary as Chief of Police shall be \$112,000 per year.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an employment contract shall be entered into between Patrick J. Riley, Sr. and the Borough of Penns Grove, subject to the approval of the Mayor and Council, as well as the Department of Community Affairs; and

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

Motion to adopt resolution 2019-12-175 was moved by Councilman Washington, Jr., Council-President Poindexter seconded the motion. All in favor, Motioned Carried by Mayor Washington, Sr.

Assemblyman John Burzichelli let it be known that it’s been an honor to be in Mayor John A. Washington, Sr., presence during the swearing in ceremony. Mr. Burzichelli mentioned that John A. Washington, Sr., has served Penns Grove honorably as well as mentioning that Mayor Washington, Sr., has always

conducted himself in a way where people would want to help, because he made the case honestly, serving without controversy or scandal.

Oath of Allegiance was administered by Assemblymen John Burzichelli. Patrick J. Riley, Sr., placed his left hand on his Bible and raised his right hand in recite of the Oath of Allegiance, while standing with his Wife and Two children.

The Governing-body along with the Penns Grove employees, family, friends and community partners congratulated Patrick J. Riley, Sr.

Comment(s):

Ptl. Paul Psensky - Read a Biblical Scripture Exodus 22:21, he also wished Chief Stranahan a successful Journey as well as wishing new chief Patrick Riley a wonderful Journey.

Chief Patrick Riley Thanked everyone for coming out to night, he was emotional during his speech. He thanked his Wife first, along with expressing his love for his son and daughter. He mentioned that this journey was a gift from God. He thanked the Borough Council for the support that was given to him, Patrick Riley thanked Chief Stranahan. Patrick Riley went into details and explained highlights of his career as well as mentioning goals he has accomplished.

Mayor John A. Washington, Sr. asked Pastor Jeff Hill to give Prayer and Blessings for Chief Patrick J. Riley, Sr.

Mayor John A. Washington, Sr. called for a short Recess at 7:57 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SOLICITORS REPORT

FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT

FIRE CHIEF REPORTS

2019-12-176 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTIAL PAYMENT

WHEREAS, the Borough of Penns Grove awarded a contract to Landberg Construction, LLC for the Penn Street Phase II Roadway Improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Contractor has requested a partial payment in the amount of \$37,362.59 for the hot mix asphalt milling, 3" or more, the tack coat, the hot mix asphalt, 9.5M64, surface course, 2" thick, the hot mix asphalt, 19M64, base course, 2" thick and the sawing and sealing of joints in hot mix asphalt, as well as traffic markings, thermoplastic, the reset of a manhole casting, new casting, the curb piece and the bicycle safe grate; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has reviewed this matter and by letter dated November 26, 2019 recommends the partial payment of \$37,362.59; and

WHEREAS, the Borough agrees with the Engineer's evaluation of this matter.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Penns Grove that a partial payment shall be made to Landberg Construction, LLC in the amount of \$37,362.59 as set forth in the engineer's November 26, 2019 letter.

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

1. ORDINANCE(S):

2019-14 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE REGULATING SECURITY FOR APARTMENT COMPLEXES (The Tayshon Hayward Ordinance)

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2019 the Borough of Penns Grove approved an ordinance regulating security apartment complexes, also known as the Tayshon Hayward Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, §359-20(b) of the Ordinance requires apartment complexes to retain video footage for 180 days; and

WHEREAS, after further review of this matter it has been determined that the 180 days retainage requirement is unreasonable because the amount of data to be stored is costly and not realistic; and

WHEREAS, the Borough would therefore like to amend §359-20(b) so that the retention time is 60 days instead of 180 days in order to alleviate the financial and practical burden on the Apartment Complexes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Penns Grove that §359-20(b) of the Code of the Borough of Penns Grove be amended read as follows:

§359-20 Security Cameras

- b. The security camera systems used in connection with this ordinance shall be capable of storing and maintaining all footage for a period of 60 days. After the passage of 60 days from the date the footage was obtained, the apartment complex may delete the footage, unless otherwise instructed by law enforcement, in which case, the apartment complex must maintain the footage to the extent instructed by law enforcement.

THIS ORDINANCE shall take effect according to law. All other Ordinances or part of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

2. REQUEST:

3. OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

- Property located at 5 Trumble Avenue, aka Block 84, Lot 1.

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

5. PUBLIC SESSION

6. ADJOURNMENT.