

BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 19, 2019
MINUTES

This meeting of the Penns Grove Borough Council was called to order by Mayor John A. Washington, Sr., in the courtroom of the Borough Hall, 1 State Street, Penns Grove, New Jersey. Mayor Washington gave the Open Public Meetings Statement Act.

Invocation was made by Sharon R. Williams, Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL: Oliver-absent, Pasquale-present, Poindexter-present, Scott-present, Washington, Jr.-present.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mayor Washington announced the death of the Doctor Reverend, expressing condolences to the Spence and Dorn family.

Williams read the following: Invite for all to attend the 'Lucille and Son 9th Annual Thanksgiving Open House "Feeding Our Community Free"; Thank you card as received from Megan Meiler, Penns Grove High School; letter of invitation from the Salem County of Local Government Association December 12th dinner meeting; Williams read Letter of Retirement/Resignation as received from Chief of Police, Theodore J. Stranahan. Poindexter expressed regrets.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation/Board of Health: Washington, Jr. addressed/stated the following: Nothing to report.

Public Safety: Poindexter addressed/stated the following: Commended Police, Fire and Ambulance departments.

General Government: Pasquale addressed/stated the following: \$20,000.00 savings after the installation of new telephone system. Researching Clean Energy grants for Borough Hall, Fire and Ambulance buildings.

Construction/Housing/Zoning & Shade Tree: Scott addressed/stated the following: Nothing to report.

Solicitors Report: Telsey stated/addressed the following: Nothing to report.

Finance Officers Report: Walker stated/addressed the following: Nothing to report.

Chief of Police Report: Stranahan stated/addressed the following: Expressed appreciation to governing body and Police Committee.

Fire Chief Report: Hartsough stated/addressed the following: Reminder to test smoke detectors.

Ambulance Captain: Ashcraft stated/addressed the following: Expressed appreciation to the Public Safety Committee.

Mayoral Report: Mayor Washington stated/addressed the following: Community Heart & Soul grant meeting to be held on Thursday, May 21st at 6:00 p.m., with Bruce and Noreen Garrity, and Melissa Guida to provide presentation.

Mayor advised that property owner adjacent to 67-69 is interested in purchasing 67-69 for \$50.00.

Telsey advised that no public bid is needed as lot is undersized. Confirmation that other adjacent owner's have no interest.

RESOLUTIONS:

2019-11-169 – 2019 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to expend for certain purposes specified in the 2019 budget amounts of the respective sums appropriated therefore; and

WHEREAS, there is an excess in one or more appropriations over and above the amounts deemed necessary to satisfy the purposes of such appropriations; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides for the transfers of such excess amounts in appropriations to those appropriations which are insufficient.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Penns Grove, County of Salem, State of New Jersey that the following transfers are hereby authorized to be made by and between the 2019 budget appropriations:

TRANSFERS TO:	<u>TO:</u>	<u>FROM:</u>
OTHER EXPENSES		
Revenue Administration	500.00	
Economic Development Agencies	3,000.00	
Police Department	5,000.00	
Aid to Ambulance	1,000.00	
TRANSFER FROM:		
OTHER EXPENSES		
Municipal Clerk		5,000.00
Planning Board		2,000.00
Other Insurance Plans		1,500.00
Health Insurance Waiver		1,000.00
Total Transfers	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 9,500.00

Motion to adopt by Washington, Jr.; second Poindexter. All in favor.

2019-11-170 – RESOLUTION APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Director of the Division of Local Government Services (the "Director") has determined that the Borough of Penns Grove ("Penns Grove") is in serious fiscal distress and an award of \$550,000.00 of Transitional Aid is appropriate, all in accordance with the criteria set forth in P.L. 2014, c.14 (the "State Budget") and after reviewing an application submitted by Penns Grove; and

WHEREAS, the State Budget conditions Transitional Aid on such requirements, orders, and oversight as the Director deems necessary including the implementation of government, administrative, and operational efficiency and oversight measures necessary for the fiscal recovery of Penns Grove; and

WHEREAS, the attached Memorandum of Understanding (the "Memorandum") sets forth the minimum conditions, requirements, orders, and oversight required as a condition of receiving Transition Aid; and

WHEREAS, Penns Grove shall comply with the conditions set forth below in addition to all laws, regulations, Local Finance Notices, and any government, administrative and operational efficiency, and oversight measures necessary for the fiscal recovery of Penns Grove as the Director may order from time to time pursuant to the State Budget or any other law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Penns Grove that the attached Memorandum is approved and that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the Memorandum on behalf of Penns Grove

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

Motion to adopt by Washington, Jr.; second Pasquale. All in favor.

2019-11-171 – A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS FOR THE AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS WITH THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

WHEREAS, The Borough of Penns Grove requires the services of certain professionals; and

WHEREAS, retaining the services of qualified professionals for such positions has long been exempt from "public bidding" by N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(a) due to the important policy consideration of allowing a body of elected officials to appoint candidates they deem to be most qualified and advantageous to the needs and goals of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20-7 permits municipalities to establish a "fair and open process" that allows for public solicitation of qualifications of persons interested in providing such services when the total contract amount exceeds \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has determined that establishing such a process protects its right to appoint the most qualified candidates while making the process more open and competitive;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Penns Grove in the County of Salem and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The qualifications evaluation criteria for certain professionals attached hereto as Exhibit "A" are adopted in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20-7.

2. The Borough Clerk shall advertise a notice of solicitation of qualifications for such positions in a form substantially similar to Exhibit "B" attached hereto. The Borough Clerk shall publish said notice at least 10 calendar days in advance of the date set forth therein as the deadline to submit proposals.

3. The Borough Clerk shall make the necessary arrangements to publicly open and announce all proposals received. The Borough Clerk shall forthwith thereafter review all proposals received and transmit them to the Borough Council with a report and recommendation.

4. Award of any contracts based on the submissions received shall be made by Resolution of the Borough of Penns Grove, after receipt of the materials from the Borough Clerk at an open public meeting. In addition, the award of any contracts shall be conditioned upon the approval by the State of New Jersey Department of Consumer Affairs, Director of Local Government Services.
Motion to adopt by Poindexter; second Washington, Jr. All in favor.

2019-11-172 – RESOLUTION ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF CHIEF JOHN STRANAHAN AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF SICK AND VACATION TIME

WHEREAS, John Stranahan currently serves as Chief of Police of the Borough of Penns Grove; and WHEREAS, by letter dated November 18, 2019, Chief Stranahan submitted a letter of resignation, effective December 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Chief Stranahan has accumulated unused sick time of approximately 180 days and vacation time of 30 days; and

WHEREAS, Chief Stranahan shall be paid for 60 days of accumulated sick time and 30 days of vacation time, thereby forfeiting approximately 120 hours of accumulated sick time;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Penns Grove, that:

1. Chief Stranahan's resignation is hereby accepted, effective December 31, 2019.
2. Chief Stranahan shall be paid for 60 days of accumulated unused sick time and 30 days of accumulated unused vacation time.

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

Motion to adopt by Poindexter; second Washington, Jr. All in favor.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: Motion to pay all bills signed and audited by Poindexter; second Scott. All in favor.

PUBLIC SESSION: Motion to open meeting to the public by Washington, Jr.; second Pasquale. All in favor.

Eleanor Washington, Sandy Ridge Apartments, Carneys Point, New Jersey, stated her desire to publicly apologize to Councilman Washington for blaming his for the uncleanliness of the town.

Michael Bercute, council-elect, expressed appreciation to Mayor Washington for his willingness to assist the new administration.

Motion to close meeting to the public by Washington, Jr.; second Poindexter. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Washington, Jr.; second Poindexter. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon R. Williams, RMC
Municipal Clerk