

**BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 5, 2021**

Mayor Thomas administered the Oath of Allegiance to Charlyn Martin.
Mayor Thomas administered the Oath of Allegiance to Jonathan Carter.
Mayor Thomas administered the Oath of Allegiance to John Rambo.

ROLL CALL: Carter – present, Martin – present, Mincey – present, Rambo – present.

Mayor Thomas led the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Municipal Clerk, Sharon Williams, made the invocation.

Open Public Meeting Statement by Mayor LaDaena D. Thomas – 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.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor addressed the vacant seat of Michael Bercute.

Mayor Thomas administered the Oath of Allegiance to Ronald Giordano to fill the unexpired term of Michael Bercute.

NOMINATION of COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Rambo nominated Carol Mincey as Council President; second by Giordano. Roll Call. All ayes.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Mayor Thomas advised of the Committee Assignments

Buildings & Grounds (Martin, Giordano, Rambo)

General Government/Clean Communities/JIF Fund/Finance (Mincey, Martin, Giordano)

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree (Giordano, Martin, Rambo)

Recreation/Board of Health (Carter, Mincey, Martin)

Public Works/Streets & Roads (Rambo, Mincey, Carter)

Public Safety (Mincey, Martin, Giordano)

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S) FOR FIRST READING:

2021-1 – AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE POSITION OF BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

Motion to adopt by title only by Giordano; second Martin. Roll call. All in favor.

2021-2 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 116, POLICE DEPARTMENT, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

Motion to adopt by title only Giordano; second Mincey. Roll call. All in favor.

2021-3 – ARTICLE IV: OBSTRUCTIONS

Mincey questioned the inclusion of dumpsters.

Mayor stated that the Ordinance applies to dumpsters as well.

Rambo questioned an extension of permit.

Mayor stated that extensions will be permitted as the approval is at the discretion of council.

Motion to adopt by title only Mincey; second Giordano. Roll call. All in favor.

2021-4 – CHAPTER 341 – BUSINESS REGISTRATION

Rambo expressed concern that the Ordinance did not include language that business must also be registered with the State of New Jersey.

Mayor stated that the Ordinance will be amended to include said language.

Motion to adopt by title only, with amendment, by Giordano; second Martin. Roll call. All in favor.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

- 2021-1-1 - Authorizing 2021 Temporary Budget
- 2021-1-2 - Designating Meeting Date and Time
- 2021-1-3 - Designating Newspaper of Record
- 2021-1-4 - Designating Depository
- 2021-1-5 - Refund Recording Fees Paid
- 2021-1-6 - Resolution Authorizing Compensation to the Borough For Delinquent Tax Payments
- 2021-1-7 - Resolution Canceling Tax Overpayments or Delinquent Amounts Less Than \$10.00
- 2021-1-8 - Accepting the Proposal from Sickels & Associates, Inc., for the Penn Street Phase III Reconstruction Project
- 2021-1-9 - Accepting the Bid from Ricky Slade Construction, Inc., for the Liberty Fire Station Parking Lot Reconstruction Project
- 2021-1-10 - A Resolution Reinitiating A Fair And Open Process For The Award of Professional Service Contracts With the Borough of Penns Grove
- 2021-1-10 - Resolution Permitting Free COVID 19 Testing

Motion to adopt by consent by Mincey; second Giordano. Roll call. All in favor.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Finance Officer Report - Labb addressed/stated the following: Rolling over computer systems, Annual Financial Statement, the need to schedule budget meetings for the month of February.

Lieutenant Report – Spera addressed/stated the following: For the year of 2020, officers answered 11011 calls for service, made 346 arrests, 333 being adults and 13 juveniles; issued 482 motor vehicle tickets, issued 397 Borough Ordinances, along with 14 DUI's. For the year 2021, between January 1, 2021 and January 3, 2021, officers responded to 82 calls for service, made 2 arrest, and issued 2 motor vehicle summonses.

Fire Chief Report – Hartsough addressed/stated the following: Reminded all to check smoke detectors and batteries.

Mayoral Comment – Mayor Thomas expressed appreciation to the voters of Penns Grove. Expressed appreciation to those who participated in making the 2nd Annual Toy drive a success.

Attorney Report – Joseph Lento addressed/stated the following: Happy New Year to all. Police contract negotiations underway.

NEW BUSINESS:

Municipal Clerk Williams read letter of resignation as received from Councilwoman Deborah Scott. Mayor expressed appreciation for Councilwoman Scott's hard work; further wishing her the best of luck.

Mayor addressed Housing & Zoning Official, Edward Ramsey's letter of resignation, further advising that the position will be advertised.

Mayor expressed appreciation to Patrick Riley, who retired effective December 31, 2020.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Municipal Clerk Williams read correspondence as received from the Republican Committee.

APPOINTMENT(S):

Motion to appoint Samuel N. Brody to the Penns Grove Ambulance by Mincey; second Giordano. All in favor.

Motion to appoint Donna Secaur as Planning Board Secretary by Martin; second Mincey. All in favor.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Motion to open the public portion of the meeting by Mincey; second Martin. All in favor.

Walter Hudson, Penns Grove, questioned the stats of enforcement of the lighting requirement at the apartment complexes.

Mr. Lento stated he will review and reply.

Lieutenant Spera stated as of today, Penn Village has lighting in place, Penn Gardens is working to put in place, however, Mallard Park has not complied.

Miles Martin, Ohio, expressed congratulations to Charlyn Martin.

Committeeman Marcus Dowe expressed congratulations to Jonathan Carter and to all newly elected.

Leslie Wright, Carneys Point, expressed congratulations to all newly elected.

Greg Martin, Spruce Street, expressed congratulations to newly elected. Mr. Martin questioned the status of the Police Chief.

Mayor Thomas stated that the Chief has retired.

Sean Brown, wished all a Happy New Year and expressed congratulations to newly elected and Ronald Giordano.

Angelina Crispin, Precious Time Childcare, expressed concern regarding the lack of cleanliness of neighboring properties.

Mayor suggested contacting the Borough's Code Enforcement Officer.

Waverly Thomas, Delaware Avenue, expressed congratulations to the newly elected; further noting that Councilman Carter is the youngest elected official to be voted in as Councilman.

Roxanne Johnson, Park Avenue, offered congratulations to the new regime.

Elliot Hernandez, expressed congratulations to all.

Anjanette Scott, Mary Street, expressed congratulations to newly elected and best of luck to Giordano.

Joyce Martin, Franklin Street, expressed congratulations to all. Ms. Martin also expressed appreciation to all those who aided her neighbor with a fallen tree.

Councilman Carter expressed concern regarding Mallard Park apartments failure to comply with lighting ordinance.

Motion to close meeting to the public by Mincey; second Giordano. All in favor.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Martin; second Mincey. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon R. Williams
Municipal Clerk