

BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – 6:30 P.M.
VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE (VTC)
February 2, 2021 – REGULAR SESSION 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 video teleconference using the online platform zoom.

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:
Section V, 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 Notice was e-mailed to the official newspaper on January 27, 2021.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL:

Present were: Councilman Jonathan Carter, Councilman Ronald Giordano, Councilwoman Charlyn Martin, Council-President Carol Mincey and Councilman John Rambo.

Absent Were: None.

VACANCY:

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas brought to the mind that former Councilwoman Deborah Scott resigned as of January 5, 2021.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas explained to the community that the Democratic Committee met and selected three (3) candidates to be considered to fill the vacant seat for the unexpired term of former Councilwoman Deborah Scott.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas further explained to the community that the Borough Council received three (3) names for consideration, in which was submitted by the Democratic Party. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas revealed the names of the selected candidates:
Carl J. Washington, Jr., Louis Pasquale, and Irene Scarpaci.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas made the announcement that “Mayor and Council” decided to appoint Irene Scarpaci, to fill the vacant seat of the unexpired term.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a motion to appoint Irene Scarpaci to the unexpired term. Councilman Jonathan Carter made the motion to appoint Irene Scarpaci and it was seconded by Councilman John Rambo. All in favor, motion carried by Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call, for a voice vote to appoint Irene Scarpaci:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo

Nay – None.

Abstain – None.

There being five (5) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE:

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas administered the Oath of Allegiance via zoom. She requested Irene Scarpaci to place her left hand on the Bible, while raising her right hand to be sworn into the Oaths of office for the appointment of the unexpired term as Councilwoman for the Borough of Penns Grove.

Everyone congratulated Councilwoman Irene Scarpaci for taking office as a new council member for the Borough of Penns Grove.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas asked Councilwoman Scarpaci if she would like to share comments.

Councilwoman Irene Scarpaci thanked everyone for their vote of confidence, she also stated that she is looking forward to a good year.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas thanked Councilwoman Irene Scarpaci for her comments. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas shared with the community that she believes Irene Scarpaci is a wonderful addition, to Borough Council. She also appreciates the achievements of what Irene Scarpaci has accomplished. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas stated that Councilwoman Irene Scarpaci is a former School Board member and a Business owner within this Community. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas further mentioned, that she is looking forward to work with Councilwoman Irene Scarpaci.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas thanked all the councilmembers for their support of the appointment for Councilwoman Irene Scarpaci.

PAYMENT OF BILLS & APPROVAL OF BILL LIST:

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a motion for payment of bills and approval of bill list. Motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and it was seconded by Councilman Jonathan Carter. Motion carried by Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call, for a voice vote to approve Payment of Bills and Approval of Bill list:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo

Nay – None.

Abstain – Mrs. Scarpaci

There being five (5) ayes, zero nays and one (1) Abstain.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

December 8, 2020 (Regular session)

December 8, 2020 (Executive session)

January 5, 2021 (Re-Org session)

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas mentioned that they have not currently appointed a solicitor. She politely asked Council members to postpone voting on the Minutes, placed on the Agenda.

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas announced that this portion of the meeting is provided for comments on Agenda items only. She also mentioned that there will be a public portion later in the meeting for general comments. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas further mentioned to the public that they must state their name, address for the record.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a motion to open the Zoom platform for public comments on agenda items only.

Councilman Jonathan Carter made a motion to open the zoom platform for public comments, and it was second by Councilwoman Charlyn Martin. All in favor, motion carried by Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call, for a voice vote to open for public comments:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci

Nay – None.

Abstain – None.

There being Six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

At 6:50 p.m. The February 2, 2021 Agenda was displayed via zoom platform.

Gregory Martin – 46 Spruce St. Penns Grove, NJ. - Mr. Gregory Martin made a request for the full content of each Ordinances and Resolutions to be displayed for the public's view prior to Borough Council meetings.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas thought that it was a great suggestion to Display Resolutions and Ordinances on the Borough's website.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a Motion to OPEN the Zoom platform for public comments on Ordinance No. 2021-1. Councilman Jonathan Carter made the Motion and it was seconded by Councilwoman Charlyn Martin. All in Favor, Motion carried by Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call, for a voice vote to Hear Public comments on Ordinance No. 2021-1:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci

Nay – None.

Abstain – None.

There being Six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

Gregory Martin – 46 Spruce St. Penns Grove, NJ. - Mr. Gregory Martin questioned if a Salary Ordinance have been established for the Business Administrator position. Mr. Martin also asked “who does the Business Administrator report to”

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas gave a response and told Mr. Martin that an Ordinance to create a salary for the position as Business Administrator, is on the Agenda as “Title only”. The salary has not yet been established for the Business Administrator. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas told Mr. Martin that the Business Administrator will serve at the pleasure of Mayor and Council. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas explained that the Business Administrator is responsible to run the daily operations of the Borough.

Mr. Gregory Martin asked “how often will the Business Administrator get evaluated” He also asked the security of the position.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas mentioned that she will need to check the Personnel handbook to answer Mr. Gregory Martin’s question about the employee evaluation. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas stated that “Mayor and Council can remove the Business Administrator at their own leisure, and it’s written in the Ordinance” she also explained that a Business Administrator can be removed with 2/3 votes of the Councilmembers. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas enunciated that the Business Administrator will be working alongside of the State Monitor.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a Motion to CLOSE the Zoom platform for public comments on Ordinance No. 2021-1. Council President Carol Mincey made a Motion to close public Comments for Ordinance 2021-1, it was seconded by Councilwoman Charlyn Martin.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call for a voice vote, to close public Comments on Ordinance No. 2021-1:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci

Nay – None.

Abstain – None.

There being Six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-1, Council President Carol Mincey made the Motion, and it was seconded by Councilman Ronald Giordano.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call for a voice vote, to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-1:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci

Nay – None.

Abstain – None.

There being Six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S) FOR FIRST READING:

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas announced that this portion of the meeting is the first reading and introduction. She further explained that the public hearing for these ordinances will be on the upcoming Agenda, scheduled for February 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Madam Mayor Thomas requested a Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-2 by Title only. Council President Carol Mincey made the Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-2 by Title only. It was seconded by Councilman Ronald Giordano.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a motion to close the Zoom platform for public comments on agenda items only.

Council President Carol Mincey made a motion to close the Zoom platform for public comments, and it was second by Councilman Ronald Giordano. All in favor, motion carried by Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call for a voice vote, to close for public comments:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci

Nay – None.

Abstain – None.

There being Six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

2021-2-12 – RESOLUTION TO HIRE MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR

2021-2-13 – RESOLUTION TO HIRE CONFLICT ATTORNEY

2021-2-14 – RESOLUTION TO HIRE MUNICIPAL AUDITOR

2021-2-15 – RESOLUTION TO HIRE MUNICIPAL ENGINEER

2021-2-16 – RESOLUTION TO HIRE BOND COUNSEL

2021-2-17 – RESOLUTION TO HIRE GRANT CONSULTANT

2021-2-18 – RESOLUTION TO HIRE SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY FOR TAX APPEALS

2021-2-19 – RESOLUTION TO HIRE MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY FOR IN REM TAX SALE FORECLOSURES

2021-2-20 – RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFERS OF THE 2020 BUDGET APPROPRIATION RESERVES

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a motion to adopt all resolutions from 2021-2-12 through 2021-2-20 by consent.

Council President Carol Mincey made a motion to adopt all Resolutions by consent, and it was second by Councilwoman Irene Scarpaci. All in favor, motion carried by Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call, for a voice vote to adopt resolutions by consent:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci

Nay – None.

Abstain – None.

There being Six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas thanked all councilmembers for voting on the Resolutions. She further continued and welcomed the new Borough Solicitor on Board. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas asked Mr. Robert Tarver for legal guidance in regards to the preliminary Minutes on tonight's Agenda. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas asked if it would be appropriate for new council members to vote on Meeting Minutes that previously took place prior to their official seats as Councilmembers.

Mr. Tarver thought that it was an interesting question and further stated that "Ordinarily members who have not been privy to or part of prior sessions are not necessarily permitted to do that" Mr. Tarver asked if minutes could be tabled until next meeting, so that he could get a chance to review a resolution for the Minutes.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a motion to Table Minutes until next meeting. Motion was made by Councilman Ronald Giordano and it was seconded by Council President Carol Mincey. All in favor, motion carried by Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call, for a voice vote to Table Minutes:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci

Nay – None.

Abstain – None.

There being Six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE(S):

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas announced that this portion of the meeting is provided for public comments on Ordinance 2021-1.

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

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call, for a voice vote to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-2 by Title only:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci
Nay – None.
Abstain – None.

There being Six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

2021-3 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR SALARY

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-3 by Title only. Council President Carol Mincey made the Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-3 by Title only. It was seconded by Councilwoman Irene Scarpaci.

Councilman Ronald Giordano raised concerns, questioning Ordinance 2021-3. He stated that the Ordinance does not pertain to the salary of a Business Administrator. Councilman Ronald Giordano continued to say that Ordinance 2021-3 is *“to Amend Chapter 395 Article IV § 395-27 obstruction temporary placement of storage containers and §395-28 temporary placement of dumpsters and roll-off containers.”*

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas asked to receive clarification from Deputy Clerk Kayla Veltman.

Deputy Clerk Kayla Veltman stated that she received a revised final Agenda from her supervisor prior to the meeting at 4:20 p.m... She also explained that the email was forwarded to all Councilmembers around that time.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas and Councilman Jonathan Carter checked their e-mails during the meeting and confirmed the time stamp of when the revised Agenda was received.

Councilman Jonathan Carter stated that the revised Agenda was received today at 4:40 p.m.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-3 by Title only. Council President Carol Mincey made the Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-3 by Title only. It was seconded by Councilman Jonathan Carter.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call, for a voice vote to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-3 by Title only:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci
Nay – None.
Abstain – Mr. Giordano

There being Six (5) ayes, zero nays and One (1) Abstain.

2021-4 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR SALARY

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-4 by Title only. Councilman Jonathan Carter made the Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-4 by Title only. It was seconded by Council President Carol Mincey.

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci
Nay – None.
Abstain – None.

There being Six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds (Martin, Giordano, and Rambo): Councilwoman Charlyn Martin gave forth the Committee report and reported that most of the Borough owned properties have been boarded up. She also reported that a window has been shattered on the property of 186 South Broad Street. Councilwoman Charlyn Martin has made several calls to Carneys Point Public Works Department in regards to Maintaining the cleanliness of the Barber Avenue Park. Councilwoman Charlyn Martin stated that the Gate was left unlocked and she made attempts to resolve the issue.

Councilwoman Charlyn Martin stated that the Borough of Penns Grove was sanitized for COVID-19 exposure. Councilwoman Charlyn Martin mentioned that the first Building and Grounds meeting was held on January 19th, 2021.

General Government/Clean Communities/JIF Fund/Finance (Mincey, Martin, Giordano):
Council President Carol Mincey gave forth the Clerks Report for the Month of November, 2020. Three (3) Zoning Applications, One (1) Zoning Application for solar, Two (2) yard Sale Permits. Council President Carol Mincey confirmed that a Property Sale deposit was in the amount of Ten thousand, Nine Hundred and Eight dollars (\$10,908)

Council President Carol Mincey gave forth the Clerks report for the Month of December 2020. Fourteen (14) Zoning Application - Four Hundred and Forty dollars (\$440) and Property Sale Deposit in the amount of Fifty-Seven Thousand, Three Hundred, Thirty dollars (\$57,330)

Council President Carol Mincey mentioned that the Clerks report was prepared and submitted by Sharon Williams, Municipal Clerk.

Council President Carol Mincey mentioned that she spoke with Councilwoman Charlyn Martin about making a joint effort with getting the Barber Avenue Park in order.

Council President Carol Mincey made comments about community Service and pointed out that the County has not authorized Community workers at this time.

Council President Carol Mincey also spoke about progress being made by the Finance Department, as it relates to setting up Direct Deposit for Borough Employees.

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree (Giordano, Martin, Rambo): Councilman Giordano reported That Kasey Carmer has only been an employee of the Borough for two weeks in the Housing Inspector/Housing Office. He further mentioned that Kasey has received six (6) Applications and he also mentioned that the Housing Computer has been down for four (4) years.

Recreation/Board of Health (Carter, Mincey, Martin):
Councilman Jonathan Carter reported, that he briefly spoke with Councilman John Rambo; in terms of setting up a meeting to discuss a recreation event "car club cruising" by the river front.

Councilman Jonathan Carter gave forth the Board of Health Reports:
Councilman Jonathan Carter gave forth the Vital Statistics report for the Month of November, 2020: Twenty-one (21) Request for Death certificates, three (3) Marriage applications was processed and Four (4) Marriage Certificates was issued.
Councilman Jonathan Carter gave forth the Vital Statistics report for the Month of December, 2020: Fifteen (15) Request for Death certificates, Four (4) Marriage Applications was processed, Two (2) Marriage Certificate was issued.

Councilman Jonathan Carter mentioned that the two reports were submitted by the Municipal Clerk Sharon Williams.

Councilman Jonathan Carter reported that the website was updated in the Month of January 2021. He stated that nineteen (19) different forms are available to the public from the Boroughs website at www.pennsgrove-nj.org He explained that it's within the application section for vital statistics on the website. He mentioned that the public should be able to find: Entering into Marriage or Civil Union Brochure, Registration of Domestic Partnership, Application for Marriage/Remarriage/Civil Union/Civil Union Reaffirmation, Notice of Rights and Obligations of Domestic Partners, Application for non-Genealogical vital record, application for Genealogical record, Certificate of Parentage, Delegation of Authority to receive Certified Copy of Birth or Death record, Delegation of Authority to receive certified copy of Marriage or Civil Union Record. All of those applications are in Korean, Russian, English and Spanish literature.
Councilman Jonathan Carter mentioned that the report was submitted by Kayla Veltman.

Councilman Jonathan Carter gave forth the Animal Registrar report for the Month of January, 2021. He reported that the Boroughs website was updated and two items was recently added to the application section, for Animal registration. The public has access to: certificate of exemption from Rabies Vaccination Form and the updated pet license application.
Councilman Jonathan Carter also reported: Six (6) Dogs were registered on Delaware Avenue, one (1) Dog was registered on South Broad Street, Two (2) Dogs were registered on Morris Avenue, Two (2)

Dogs were registered on Mill Street, One (1) Dog was registered on Woods Avenue, One (1) cat was registered on Delaware Avenue, Six (6) cats were registered on Woods Avenue.

Councilman Jonathan Carter further reported that the Gloucester County Animal Shelter called to confirm if the Borough of Penns Grove was zoned for pigs.

He reported that a family in Penns Grove was looking to adopt a pig. The application was denied by Gloucester County Animal Shelter (GCAS) due to **Chapter 181 Article II § 181-9 Prohibited Acts. (No person, firm or corporation shall keep pigs, hogs or chicken within the limits of the Borough)**

In completion of the report: One-Hundred, fifty-three dollars (\$153) was collected for dog registration in the Month of January 2021. Ninety-six dollars (\$96) was collected for cat registration in the month of January 2021. Three-Hundred, fifty two (352) letters were sent to citizens residing in Voting District 1. Councilman Jonathan Carter mentioned that the report was submitted by Kayla Veltman.

Public Works/Streets & Roads (Rambo, Mincey, Carter): Councilman John Rambo reported that a pedestrian crossing sign was knocked over on the corner of Virginia Avenue and Main Street. He stated that It was brought to the attention of lieutenant Spera and within forty-eight (48) hours it was repaired. Councilman John Rambo also reported lack of signage on Maryland Avenue, Miller Avenue, and Marsden Avenue. Councilman John Rambo is looking to receive a clear map that will outline the Borough of Penns Grove. Councilman John Rambo stated that he has received complaints about the increase of potholes.

Public Safety (Mincey, Martin, Giordano): Council President Mincey reported that Lieutenant Spera is in attendance and he will give forth the report.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Finance Officer Report: Mr. Stephen Labb reported that he is in process of finalizing the update of the Budget work sheet for 2021. He explained the process for the preparation of preliminary appropriation for 2021. He would like to include suggestions from the State Monitor Concerning the Master Plan and other financial adjustment. He also stated that he would like to have a budget meeting for Mayor and Council to design any other items to be included in the Budget.

Chief of Police Report: Lieutenant Jason Spera gave forth the January 2021 Chief of Police Report. The Penns Grove Police Department received seven hundred, thirty-six (736) calls for service, issued fifty-eight (58) Motor vehicle summonses, thirteen (13) Borough Ordinances, twenty-three (23) arrest including one (1) Juvenile arrest, and preformed One Hundred fifty-four (154) Business check. Lieutenant Spera announced that the Penns Grove Police Department operated with seventy five percent (75%) of Manpower in the month of January. One officer has returned from workman's comp. Which increased the amount of manpower to Eighty-one-point twenty five percent (81.25 %) he explained the shortage of manpower. Lieutenant Spera also explained that the PGPD needs Two (2) Booking Clerks. Lieutenant Spera also reported that the shortage of manpower has resorted in nine (9) shifts in approximate of one hundred-eight hours (108 Hrs.) Lieutenant Spera stated that he has been moving around with the detectives to cover shortage. Lieutenant Spera mentioned that investigation has been finalized with law enforcement from multiple jurisdictions. Lieutenant Spera mentioned that it was his first time out of twenty (20) years witnessing the enforcement of Gang Implicit charge. Lieutenant Spera also gave recognition to Officer Paul Psensky for donating his professional BMX bike, to a juvenile of this community.

Councilwoman Irene Scarpaci asked if advertisement has been advertised for the vacant position in the PGPD.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas redirected the question to Lieutenant Jason Spera.

Lieutenant Jason Spera clarified that the position has previously advertised but has not received approval from Mayor and Council.

Councilwoman Irene Scarpaci asked Mayor and Council if they were waiting on approval from the State monitor to hire officers.

Lieutenant Jason Spera explained that anything that is monetary he would only need to advise Mayor and Council which is through a quick e-mail.

Stephen Labb chimed in and explained the process of sending a waiver to the State Monitor.

Lieutenant Jason Spera said that he has Fifteen (15) employee applications on his desk.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas suggested for the Police committee to meet to move the process along.

Fire Chief Report: Adam Hartsough had nothing to report at this time.

Attorney Report: Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas asked the new Borough Solicitor to share his professional background. Mr. Robert Tarver informed every one of his accomplishments, and stated that he has conducted training in all functions of Government for a lot of Mayors and Council members in regards to Title 40, Ethics, and other functions. He also mentioned that he has provided training for other Municipalities, and for the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

Mr. Robert Tarver declared publicly that he's a thirty-five (35) year practitioner. He also explained that he's been involved in all forms of Municipal Government, in a lot of different areas of New Jersey.

Mr. Robert Tarver is looking forward to bring his experience to Penn Grove with the intentions of moving forward as a Borough. Mr. Robert Tarver values the Borough Council members for their vote in confidence and he thanked Mayor and Council for appointing him as the Borough Solicitor.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas thanked Mr. Robert Tarver for his introduction.

Mayoral Comment:

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas spoke about one of her duties as the Mayor of Penns Grove. Which is to appoint people to Boards and commissions, by recommendation of Borough Council. She appreciates the services of other people, that served the Borough of Penns Grove. She also clarified that she might appoint new people from time to time, to help move Penn Grove to a better future.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas took her time, to speak about the horrific memory of a homicide and Suicide case. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas mentioned that this tragic moment happened around this time last year. A mother was murdered alongside of her two beautiful children; by the man who left the crime scene to commit suicide in the woods of Carneys Point. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas asked that "we all" work together to end violence in this community.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas acknowledges that it is Black History month. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas mentioned that she is the first Black female Mayor in Salem County. She asked everyone to remember the last contributions that were made, despite adversity. She also invites people of this community to send stories of their success. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas encourages everyone to love one and another.

Ambulance/EMS Captain Report:

Debby Aschcraft gave for the Month of December reported receiving Nine Hundred, thirty-nine (939) Alarms. Debby let it be known that they are the busiest Volunteer squad in Salem County. She was also happy to announce that none of the volunteers caught COVID-19 while being on duty.

APPOINTMENTS:

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a motion to appoint Abasi Moyenda to the Sewerage Authority.

Councilwoman Charlyn Martin asked for clarification of what a Sewerage Authority does.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas referred Councilwoman Charlyn Martin's question to Councilwoman Irene Scarpaci.

Councilwoman Irene Scarpaci explained that the Borough of Penns Grove has Two Authorities, and each board sets policy, etc.,

Councilman John Rambo asked about the level of experience of the current Sewerage Authority members.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas mentioned that we all are new, and she would hope that the current board members would help expedited the transition of bringing new members on board.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas made a requested for a motion to appoint Abasi Moyenda to the Penns Grove sewerage Authority.

Councilman President Carol Mincey made the motion to appoint Mr. Abasi Moyenda and it was seconded by Councilman Ronal Giordano. All in favor, motion carried by Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call, for a voice vote to appoint Abasi Moyenda:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci.

Nay – None.

Abstain – None.

There being six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas made a requested for a motion to appoint Ronald Giordano to be a Class III member of the Penns Grove Planning Board.

Councilwoman Irene Scarpaci made the motion to appoint Mr. Ronald Giordano and it was seconded by Councilwoman Charlyn Martin. All in favor, motion carried by Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call, for a voice vote to appoint Ronald Giordano:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci.

Nay – None.

Abstain – None.

There being six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas made a requested for a motion to appoint Yadiel Mendez to the Liberty One Fire Department.

Councilman President Carol Mincey made the motion to appoint Yadiel Mendez and it was seconded by Councilwoman Irene Scarpaci. All in favor, motion carried by Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call, for a voice vote to appoint Yadiel Mendez:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci.

Nay – None.

Abstain – None.

There being six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas made a requested for a motion to re-appoint Karen Wright to the Penns Grove Housing Authority.

Councilman Jonathan Carter made the motion to appoint Karen Wright and it was seconded by Councilwoman Irene Scarpaci. All in favor, motion carried by Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call, for a voice vote to appoint Karen Wright:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci.

Nay – None.

Abstain – None.

There being six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas made a requested for a motion to re-appoint Hersell Smith to the Penns Grove Housing Authority.

Councilman Jonathan Carter made the motion to appoint Hersell Smith and it was seconded by Councilwoman Charlyn Martin. All in favor, motion carried by Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call, for a voice vote to appoint Harsell Smith:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci.

Nay – None.

Abstain – None.

There being six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

OLD BUSINESS:

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas mentioned that Borough employees and elective officials have recently received new technology upgrade. Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas will facilitate the training session scheduled February 9, 2021 from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business was discussed.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a Motion to OPEN the Zoom platform for public portion of the meeting.

Council President Carol Mincey made the Motion, and it was seconded by Councilwoman Charlyn Martin. All in Favor, Motion carried by Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call, for a voice vote to open public portion of the meeting:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci
Nay – None.
Abstain – None.

There being Six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

Jeremiah Carter – 50 North Broad St. Penns Grove, NJ. - Mr. Carter asked if any cameras are active on Broad Street and Main Street. He also asked about the flood issue on Main Street.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas referred his question to Lieutenant Spera.
Lieutenant Spera stated that cameras are owned by private owners.
Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas explained to Mr. Carter that the drainage system is one of the top priorities for the new engineer.

Gregory Martin – 46 Spruce St. Asked Councilman Jonathan Carter who receives a report if citizens are housing chickens.

Councilman Jonathan Carter asked for complaints to be directed to him.

Jeremiah Carter – 50 North Broad St. Asked Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas of the top three (3) priorities to be accomplished this year.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas said that the Master Plan, flooding issues along with establishing the Business Administrator and economic development position are the top priorities to be accomplished for Penns Grove.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a Motion to CLOSE the public portion on the Zoom platform: Council President Carol Mincey made a Motion to close public portion it was seconded by Councilman Roald Giordano.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call for a voice vote, to close public portion:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci
Nay – None.
Abstain – None.

There being Six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

ADJOURNMENT:

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.
Council President Carol Mincey made a Motion to close public portion it was seconded by Councilman Roald Giordano.

Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas requested a roll call for a voice vote, to close public portion:

Roll Call: Aye – Mr. Carter, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Mincey, Mr. Rambo, Mrs. Scarpaci
Nay – None.
Abstain – None.

There being Six (6) ayes, zero nays and zero Abstain.

LaDaena Thomas, Madam Mayor of Penns Grove

Submitted: February 26, 2021

Respectfully Submitted by,

Approved: _____

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.

*NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 16, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.
(For additional information, please visit our website at www.pennsgrove-nj.org)*