

**BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – 6:30 P.M.
VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE (VTC)
March 2, 2021
MINUTES**

Mayor LaDaena D. Thomas led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor LaDaena D. Thomas made the open public meeting statement – 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. Additionally, stating that in response to the state of emergency in New Jersey regarding COVID-19 (“Coronavirus”), this February 16, 2021 Meeting will be held via “Zoom” online meeting platform.

Roll Call: Carter-present, Giordano-present, Martin-present, Mincey-present, Rambo-absent, Scarpaci-present.

Invocation by Sharon Williams, Municipal Clerk.

PAYMENT OF BILLS & APPROVAL OF BILL OF BILL LIST:

Motion to approve payment of bills and approval of bill list by Carter; second Giordano. All in favor.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

2021-3-29 – RENEWAL OF INACTIVE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE RETAIL LICENSE FOR THE 2020-2021 LICENSE TERM

2021-3-30 – AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CONTIGUOUS PROPERTIES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. § 40A:12-13.2 TO RICHARD RIVERA

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-3-29 through 2021-3-30 Mincey; second Martin. Roll Call. All ayes.

FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

2021-8 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 206, BUILDINGS, UNFIT AND ABANDONED, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

Motion to adopt by title only by Mincey; second Carter. Roll Call. All ayes.

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE(S):

2021-7 – AN ORDINANCE EXEMPTING RESIDENCY

Public Comment – none.

Motion to adopt by Mincey; second Martin. Roll Call. All ayes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds (Martin, Giordano, Rambo): Councilwoman Martin stated/addressed the following: Reviewed contract for public works, noted services to include Borough properties.

General Government/Finance/JIF/Clean Communities (Scarpaci, Martin, Giordano): Councilwoman Scarpaci stated/addressed the following: Reminded all to take the Elected Official Seminar as offered by the Tri-Co Joint Insurance Fund. Finance Officer, Labb is currently working on budget.

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree (Giordano, Martin, Rambo): Councilman Giordano stated/addressed the following: Nothing to report.

Recreation/Board of Health (Carter, Mincey, Martin): Councilman Carter stated/addressed the following: Registrar’s Report for the month of January 2021. Barber Avenue Park currently closed, however, Children playing basketball. Stressed the need for a U-lock to prevent entry. Participated in ‘Read Across America’.

Public Works/Streets & Roads (Rambo, Mincey, Carter): Councilman Rambo stated/addressed the following: No report.

Public Safety (Mincey, Martin, Giordano): Council President Mincey stated/addressed the following: Need to appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator due to the retirement of Officer John Boucher, stating that John Ashcraft is willing to accept the responsibility. Trash cans in place at the Riverwalk. Contacted County regarding Community Service workers, however, they are not in place yet. Borough cleanup through the Clean Communities Program.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Finance Officer Report: Walker addressed/stated the following: Finance Officer Labb currently working on Financial Statements, and 2021 Budget.

Officer in Charge: Lieutenant Spera addressed/stated the following: Nothing to report. Councilman Carter questioned the status of missing person Randy "Poppa" Haywood. Lieutenant Spera stated that the Police Department, Sheriff, Office of Emergency Management and the Prosecutor's have dedicated a 1000 hours in the search of the community, woods, the DOD and the Delaware River; and have also reached out to Matt Gray of the South Jersey Times and will also reach out to channel 6 for coverage. Councilwoman Scarpaci questioned the status of staffing in the Police Department. Lieutenant Spera advised that the position for Police Officers has been advertised with a deadline of April 2, 2021 for application submittal.

Fire Chief Report: Adam Hartsough addressed/stated the following: Nothing to report.

Ambulance/EMS Captain Report: Deborah Ashcraft addressed/stated the following: No report.

Mayoral Comment: Mayor Thomas addressed/stated the following: Participated in 'Read Across America' and volunteered to read once per month. Attended vaccine call – 9637 received first dose, 4435 received second dose. Salem County Health Department offering COVID vaccination assistance at 856-935-7510, ext. 8406, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, and also providing transportation. Participated in National Honor Society's Black History month by attending the John Dickson Plantation. Beautification grants, redevelopment for the Borough. Ad Hoc committee meeting regarding the masterplan to be held on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

Attorney Report: Robert Tarver, Jr., Attorney addressed/stated the following: Robert Tarver addressed/stated the following: Reviewing Request for Qualifications for Litigation Counsel, Redevelopment Counsel, Labor Counsel. In flux of Civil Actions. Review of Interlocal Agreement for Public Works. Working on Policy and Procedures. Council training workshop.

APPOINTMENTS:

Motion to appoint Karina K. Hurtado-Trejo to the Penns Grove Ambulance by Mincey; second Giordano. Roll call. All ayes.

Motion to appoint Councilman Giordano as Alternate JIF Fund Commissioner by Mincey; second Carter. Roll call. All ayes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Add on Resolution No. 2021-3-31 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Motion to adopt by Mincey; second Giordano. Roll call. All ayes.

Motion to approve Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield dental contract by Carter; second Martin. Roll call. All ayes.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Jeremiah Carter, 50 North Broad Street, questioned the status of WaWa. Councilwoman Scarpaci advised that the Boards' engineer plans to follow up on the status. Councilman Giordano advised that there should be an update after the Boards' March 8th meeting.

Greg Martin, 46 Spruce Street, questioned the date Randy "Poppa" Haywood went missing. Lieutenant Spera advised the date to be February 20, 2021.

Jeremiah Carter, 50 North Broad Street, questioned the protocols followed in the search for Randy "Poppa" Stewart. Lieutenant Spera advised that the standard protocols are followed.

Aujanette Scott, 20 Mary Street, stressed the importance of communicating with the family of Randy "Poppa" Haywood on a regular basis.

Waverly Thomas, 40 Delaware Avenue, suggested a community search for Randy "Poppa" Haywood.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Mincey; second Carter. Roll call. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Williams
Municipal Clerk

Minutes Are Not Verbatim