

**BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING- 6:30 P.M.
COURTROOM/ VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE3 (VTC)
March 2, 2022-MINUTES**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and called to order by Mayor LaDaena D. Thomas

Mayor Thomas made the Open Public Meeting 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 as also posted on the Borough Penns Grove website: www.pennsgrove-nj.org and was emailed to the official newspaper as provided by Resolution. Additionally, in response to the state of emergency in New Jersey regarding COVID 1-19 ("Coronavirus"), this March 2, 2022 meeting was held in the Courtroom of Borough Hall, 1 State Street, Penns Grove, NJ and via "Zoom" online meeting platform.

Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation by Deputy Clerk, Mandy Renner

ROLL CALL: Carter-present, Worley- present, Martin-present, Mincey-present, Scarpaci-present.

Also, present were: Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas, Borough Solicitor, Stephen Labb, CFO, Sean Brown, Business Administrator, and Richard Rivera, Police Director.

PAYMENT OF BILLS & APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: Motion was moved by Councilwoman Martin, Councilwoman Worley seconded the motion.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR COSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

2022-3-50 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION TO THE NJ CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-3-50 by consent Worley; second Carter. Roll Call. All aye.

2022-3-51 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROPOSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR TRIAD ASSOCITATES

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-3-51 by consent Worley; second Carter. Roll Call. All aye.

2022-3-52 – EMERGENCY TEMPORARY BUDGET RESOLUTION

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-3-52 by consent Carter; second Martin. Roll Call. All aye.

2022-3-53 – A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE TWIN BRIDGES

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-3-53 by consent Worley; second Carter. Roll Call. All aye.

2022-3-54 – A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MARCH AS WOMENS'S HISTORY MONTH IN THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-3-54 by consent Worley; second Carter. Roll Call. All aye.

2022-3-56 – RESOLUTION ADOPTING MISSION STATEMENT

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-3-56 by consent Worley; second Carter. Roll Call. All aye.

2022-3-57 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HIRING POLICE OFFICER (Justin Smith)

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-3-57 by consent Worley; second Carter. Roll Call. All aye.

2022-3-58 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF SENIOR OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR (Tracy Thompson)

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-3-58 by consent Worley; second Carter. Roll Call. All aye.

FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

2022-2 – AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, THE DIVISION OF POLICE, THE DIVISION OF FIRE AND THE DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND THE TITLE AND THE POSITION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR

Motion to adopt by Title Only by Martin; second Mincey. Roll call. All aye.

2022-3 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 85 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

Motion to adopt by Title Only by Worley; second Carter. Roll call. All aye.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building and Grounds (Worley, Martin, Scarpaci) Councilwoman Worley stated/addressed the following: Expressed appreciation to all that were involved in the cleanup at the Fire Hall.

General Government (Martin, Carter, Worley) Councilwoman Martin stated/addressed the following: At this time we are still in the process of hiring an Administrative Clerk as well as working on current employee evaluations.

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree (Rambo, Scarpaci, Martin) Councilman Rambo stated/addressed the following: The Auction dates for the Borough properties has been moved to the 15th through the 17th of March.

Recreation/ Board of Health (Carter, Rambo, Mincey) Councilmen Carter stated/addressed the following: The committee will me meeting this Friday 3/4/2022 regarding a food drive on March 19th as well as an Easter egg hunt.

Public Works/Streets & Roads (Scarpaci, Mincey, Rambo) Councilwoman Scarpaci stated/addressed the following: Expressed concern on the deadlines of the Agenda. The Committee meeting was held on January 6, 2022 and discussed the Public Works contract. A snow removal Ordinance is currently being drafted.

Public Safety (Mincey, Worley, Carter) Councilwoman Mincey stated/addressed the following: At this time the Red Cross will be installing free smoke alarms. A flyer will be displayed in the Borough hall for more details. At this time we are looking into CPR classes for the residents. More information will come once the dates are set.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Business Administrator Report: Sean Brown stated/addressed the following: We have hired a new Housing Official that will be starting this Monday, March 7, 2022. The construction office will now be in the Borough every Thursday in the court room from 1pm-3pm.

Finance Officer Report: Stephen Labb stated/addressed the following: Emergency Temporary budget Resolution adds additional Budget Appropriations for operations. As of 2/28/22 collection percentage increase .52% vs last year's collection. Working on Budget Spreadsheet for 2022. Budget has to be introduced by March 31st and the Transitional Aid Application has to be completed by April 1st. State monitor is going to meet on either the 15th or 17th for an initial review on budget items/matters.

Police Director Report: Richard Rivera stated/addressed the following: At this time we are focusing on recruitment for new Police officers. Currently we have ads posted on Policeapp.com and indeed.

Fire Chief Report: Nothing to report.

Ambulance/EMS Captain Report: Nothing to report.

Attorney Report: At this time we are taking a comprehensive look at our fee structure and doing a revaluation of our fees. A draft sample of our Public works contract will be distributed to all council members for review.

Mayoral Comments: Mayor Thomas stated/addressed the following: Expressed her concern with an anonymous letter that was mailed to registered voters of Penns Grove.

APPOINTMENT(S): Catrina M. Connolly- Penns Grove Ambulance

NEW BUSINESS:

2022-3-59- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HIRING OF HOUSING INSPECTOR AND ZONING OFFICIAL

Motion to adopt by Carter; second Martin. Roll call. All ayes.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Linda Fowler, Penns Grove, announced that a Vaccination Clinic will be held at PRAC building on March 14th, from 3-6 pm. Also, a fundraiser will be held in honor of Women's History Month on March 26th, 9am-1 pm at the Silver Run Community Building, with Mayor Thomas being the guest speaker.

Wade Thomas, Delaware Ave, Penns Grove, expressed concern regarding a letter that sent out. The disrespect in the community needs to stop.

Russell Dodge, 38 Pennsville Auburn Rd., Pedricktown, questioned when the demo on Cumberland Ave. will start? Worley stated they are still working with Mr. Smith on those details and will call him when she has more information. Mr. Dodge suggested a different registration process for landlords.

Ron Giordano, 7 Sack Ave., Penns Grove, questioned the definition of the Ordinance Amending Section 85 of the Code of the Borough of Penns Grove? Mayor Thomas explained that this Ordinance will be changing the Zoning application fees from to \$10 to \$25.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Carter; second Worley.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mandy Renner
Deputy Clerk