

**BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – 6:30 P.M.
VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE (VTC)
June 1, 2021 MINUTES**

Mayor Thomas gave the following 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, in response to the state of emergency in New Jersey regarding COVID-19 (“Coronavirus”), this June 1, 2021 meeting is held in the courtroom of Borough Hall, 1 State Street, Penns Grove, NJ via “Zoom” online meeting platform.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor LaDaena D. Thomas.

Invocation by Clerk, Sharon R. Williams.

ROLL CALL: Carter-absent, Giordano-present, Martin-present, Mincey-present, Rambo-absent, Scarpaci-present

MINUTES: Motion to adopt the May 4, 2021 Regular Session minutes by Mincey; second Giordano. Roll call. All ayes.

PAYMENT OF BILLS & APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: Motion to adopt by Scarpaci; second Mincey. Roll call. Giordano-abstain,

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

2021-6-76 - RESOLUTION REQUESTING TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF COUNTY ROADS

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

FIRST READING & INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

2021-13 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A RESTRICTED PARKING ZONE FOR A HANDICAPPED PERSON – 24 East Griffith Street

Motion to adopt by title only by Martin; second Mincey. Roll call. All ayes.

2021-14 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A RESTRICTED PARKING ZONE FOR A HANDICAPPED PERSON – 200 South Smith Avenue, A2-26

Motion to adopt by title only by Martin; second Mincey. Roll call. All ayes.

2021-15 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A RESTRICTED PARKING ZONE FOR A HANDICAPPED PERSON – 200 South Smith Avenue, A2-26

Motion to adopt by title only by Mincey; second Martin. Roll call. All ayes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds (Martin, Giordano, Rambo): Councilwoman Martin reported the following: Weeds removed/cleared from the Memorial Park and in observance of Memorial Day, flags were hung in the park.

General Government/Clean Communities/JIF Fund/Finance (Scarpaci, Martin, Giordano): Councilwoman Scarpaci reported the following: Commended six organizations who participated in the third cleanup – Holy Temple Church, Hopewell Baptist Church, Ortego Nuevo, B Flat A Sharp Music Foundation, Shooting Stars Social Club and Field Street School. Encourage all to keep their areas clean.

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree (Giordano, Martin, Rambo): Nothing to report.

Recreation/Board of Health (Carter, Mincey, Martin): Councilwoman Martin reported the following: Car Cruzin to be held on June 2, 2021 on Railroad Avenue. Juneteenth Festival to be held on June 19, 2021 at the Riverfront.

Mayor Thomas announced that a Recreation meeting will be held on Friday at 5:00 p.m., encouraging volunteer participation.

Public Works/Streets & Roads (Rambo, Mincey, Carter): No report.

Public Safety (Mincey, Martin, Giordano): Council President Mincey reported the following: Will meet with first responders, John Ashcraft, Adam Hartsough and Debbie Ashcraft to discuss preparations for the upcoming hurricane season.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Business Administrator Report: Sean Brown reported the following: He and the Finance department are in the process of implementing controls to control spending. Expressed appreciation to Councilwoman Scarpaci for her support. In the process of hiring a custodian so that Borough Hall can reopen. Code Enforcement Officer has sent out approximately 30 ten-day notices. Encouraged residents to maintain property. Expressed appreciation to Council President Mincey, Councilman Giordano and Councilwoman Martin, who joined the interview process for Police Officers. Friday cleanup for Borough Hall employees. Explained the challenges faced with the grass cutting of Borough owned properties. Working with Tyrone Jervey, Code Enforcement Officer, on a complaint system, which will be posted to the website. Expressed appreciation to Mr. Jervey for saving the Borough approximately \$8,000.00. Encouraged Council to submit recommendations for appointment to the Economic Development Board.

Finance Officer Report: Stephen F. Labb, CMFO reported the following: Tax collection rate as of May 31, 2020 was 75.10 percent and 77.99 percent as of May 31, 2021. Estimated tax bills to be mailed shortly.

Municipal Clerk Report: Sharon R. Williams, RMC reported the following: Reminded all of Primary Election to be held on the June 8, 2021. Location of polling places for the June 2021 Election. District 2 to be held at the River Church on South Broad Street and districts 1 and 3 to be held at the Liberty One Fire Hall located on East Harmony Street.

Police Director Report: Richard Rivera, Police Director reported the following: No report.

Fire Chief Report: Adam Harstough reported the following: Nothing to report at this time.

Ambulance/EMS Captain Report: On behalf of Ambulance Captain, Debbie Ashcraft, Council President Mincey reported the following: 90 calls taken during the month of May 2021. Will submit a site observation on the great teamwork conducted while assisting in evacuating a resident from their home.

Attorney Report: Robert L. Tarver, Jr. reported the following: Matters for executive session.

Mayoral Comment: Mayor LaDaena D. Thomas reported/commented on the following: NFL Flag Football Team cannot be sponsored by the Borough. A private non-profit organization has to be created in order to proceed with the NFL Flag Football Youth Team. Mayor stated that because of this setback, the league would conflict with the tackle football league, therefore, the NFL Flag Football will be postpone until Spring of 2022. The Basketball league, will run from June 28th through August 12th, Monday through Thursday from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

APPOINTMENT(S):

Motion to appoint Sean Brown as Fund Commissioner to the Southern Coastal HIF by Giordano; second Martin. Roll call. All ayes.

Motion to appoint Madeline Melle to the Penns Grove Ambulance by Mincey; second Martin. Roll call. All ayes.

PUBLIC PORTION: No public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

2021-6-77 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to adopt by Scarpaci; second by Mincey. All aye.

Motion to reopen regular meeting by Giordano; second Mincey. All in favor.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Williams, RMC
Municipal Clerk