

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

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

Mayor Thomas made gave 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 was also posted on the Borough of Penns Grove website: [www.pennsgrove-nj.org](http://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 July 6, 2021 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 Municipal Clerk, Sharon R. Williams.

ROLL CALL: Carter – present, Giordano – present, Martin – present, Council President Mincey – present, Rambo – absent, Scarpaci – present.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the May 18, 2021 Regular session by Mincey; second Scarpaci. Roll call. All ayes.

PAYMENT OF BILLS & APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: Motion to approve by Mincey; Second Scarpaci. Roll call. Roll Call. All ayes.

PRESENTATION by We Plant The Seed and Mr. Reddick, who addressed the history of the cannabis industry, the consortium of companies involved, equity and economic growth. Mr. Reddick defined an Impact Zone, the employment benefits and the potential revenue for the Borough. Discussion between Council and Mr. Reddick concerning purchase of building and location, security, revenue and the overall impact to the Borough. Mayor suggested public forum to be held for further discussions.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

2021-7-81 – A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE BAN OR LIMITED USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC AND PAPER CARRRYOUT BAGS

2021-7-82 – A TEMPORARY BUDGET RESOLUTION

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-7-81 and 2021-7-82 by consent by Scarpaci; second Mincey. Roll Call. All ayes.

FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION OF ORDIANNCE(S):

2021-19 – SALARY ORDINANCE 2021 FOR NON-CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES  
Motion to adopt by Title Only by Scarpaci; second Mincey. Roll call. All ayes.

2021-20 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE “ADOPT-A-LOT” PROGRAM  
Motion to adopt by Title Only by Martin; second Mincey. Roll call. All ayes.

2021-21 – AN ORDINANCE GOVERNING SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE  
Motion to table until the July 20, 2021 meeting by Mincey; second Giordano. Roll call. All ayes

2021-22 – ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE, AUTHORIZING VACATION OF CERTAIN PORTIONS OF ALLEYS  
Motion to adopt by Title Only by Scarpaci; second Giordano. Roll call. All ayes

2021-23 – AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE, SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF ANY CLASS OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN ITS’ GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES AND AMENDING THE PENNS GROVE MUNICIPAL CODE  
Mayor announced that a Cannabis Committee will be formed to research and provide information to the governing body. Mayor encouraged those willing to serve on the committee to email her directly.

Motion to table until the July 20, 2021 meeting by Martin; second Giordano. Roll call. Carter–yes, Giordano–yes, Martin–yes, Mincey–yes, Scarpaci–no. Motion passes.

SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

2021-13 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A RESTRICTED PARKING ZONE FOR A HANDICAPPED PERSON – 24 SOUTH SMITH AVENUE

No comment from the public.

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

2021-14 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A RESTRICTED PARKING ZONE FOR A HANDICAPPED PERSON – 200 SOUTH SMITH AVENUE, A2-26

No comment from the public.

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

2021-15 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A RESTRICTED PARKING ZONE FOR A HANDICAPPED PERSON – 200 SOUTH SMITH AVENUE, A2-26

No comment from the public.

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

2021-16 – AN ORDINANCE REGULATING SECURITY FOR GASOLINE SERVICE STATIONS

Public Comment: Greg Martin, Spruce Street, Penns Grove, questioned why just the gas stations.

Mr. Martin was advised that the regulation is put in place due to the incidents of vehicle thefts at the location, and only businesses can be regulated.

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

2021-17 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PURCHASE ORDER PROCEDURE

No comment from the public.

Carter questioned the purpose of the Ordinance.

Brown advised that it provides strict guidelines on purchases and provides an electronic process for tracking spending.

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

2021-18 – AN ORDINANCE ADDING JUNETEETH AS A BOROUGH HOLIDAY

Martin stated that there was a great turnout. Mayor expressed appreciation to all those who participated and supported the event. Carter stated that all cultural holidays will be celebrated.

No comment from the public.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds (Martin, Giordano, Rambo): Councilwoman Martin stated the following: Committee met with Brown to discuss plumbing and roofing. Plumber will scope pipes in order to determine issues. Brown is researching contractor for roofing. Four additional trash receptacles put in place at the Riverwalk and Flag in place at the Riverwalk. Expressed appreciation to those who clean up the Riverwalk area.

General Government/Clean Communities/JIF Fund/Finance (Scarpaci, Martin, Giordano): Councilwoman Scarpaci stated/addressed the following: Congratulations to Holy Temple on their Mortgage Burning Ceremony on July 4, 2021. Master Plan recommendations have been presented to the Planning Board. Met with the Engineer, Sean Smith and B.A., Sean Brown regarding flooding. Met with Sean Brown and Penns Grove Gardens regarding the PILOT Agreement. Spoke with Councilwoman Martin regarding the issues at the Barber Avenue Park as outlined by the JIF. \$4900.00 repair to air conditioning, stating that the cooling system needs to be replaced. Purchase of new trash receptacles from the Clean Community funds.

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

Recreation/Board of Health (Carter, Mincey, Martin): Councilman Carter stated/addressed the following: Encouraged monthly 'Car Cruzin' at the Riverwalk from 4:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Public Works/Streets & Roads (Rambo, Mincey, Carter): Councilman Rambo stated/addressed the following: Business Administrator to schedule a meeting with Carney's Point Township officials to discuss the shared services agreement.

Public Safety (Mincey, Martin, Giordano): Council President Mincey stated/addressed the following: She and Councilwoman Martin toured the town to determine the properties in need of demolition.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Business Administrator Report: Sean Brown stated/addressed the following: Updating job descriptions. Hiring of Code Enforcement Officer. Code Enforcement Report for the month of June 2021. Addressed the benefits of the Adopt-a-Lot Program.

Finance Officer Report: Stephen Labb stated/addressed the following: Adopted Emergency Temporary Resolution provides three months to meet financial obligations. Estimated tax bills. Increase in Tax collection rate of 1.53 percent as of July 21, 2021 compared to July 21, 2020.

Police Director Report: Richard Rivera stated/addressed the following: Participation in the Juneteenth celebration. Basketball Tournament was a success. Shoplifting has decreased by 76 percent. 80 percent of shooting victims will not cooperate with the Police Department.

Fire Chief Report: Adam Hartsough stated/addressed the following: Hurricane expected between Thursday and Friday; suggested drain cleaning if needed. Volunteers needed for both EMS and Fire Departments.

Ambulance/EMS Captain Report: Adam Hartsough commended Ambulance Captain for service.

Attorney Report: Robert Tarver, Jr. stated/addressed the following: Council learning new operating rules to bring structure within the Borough.

Mayoral Comment: Mayor Thomas stated/addressed the following: Red Cross's blood drive held in the Davidow Hall, Salem Community College. Mobile food drive held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. Summer Basketball Camp. Expressed appreciation to Jeannette Jackson, Councilman Carter, Greg Martin, Waverly Thomas and all volunteers who participated in the Basketball Camp. Roadway improvements for Lanning Avenue and West Harmony Street.

NEW BUSINESS:

2021-7-83 – A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING HOLY TEMPLE CHURCH OF THE FRESH HARVEST  
Motion to adopt by Mincey; second Martin. Roll call. All ayes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mincey questioned the contingencies in approving Anjanette Scott's request for road closure. Brown stated that he, Rivera, and Officer Frett met to discuss modification for permit, confirmation of insurance, hours of event and security plan.

Mincey questioned if written rules have been provided to Ms. Scott.

Rivera stated written information should be provided to the applicant.

Scarpaci questioned Council's role in decision.

Tarver advised that written updates to be provided to Council.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Anjanette Scott expressed concern regarding process for approving road closure, stating that security has been employed and all other concerns have been addressed.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Carter; second Martin. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon R. Williams, Municipal Clerk