

**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 20, 2021 – MEETING 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 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 20, 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 – absent, Council President Mincey – absent, Rambo – present, Scarpaci – present.

PAYMENT OF BILLS & APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: Motion to approve invoices from Atlantic City Electric, Comcast, Constellation New Energy, Woodruff-PHD, J2 Technology, Green Technology, Kyocera, NJ Advanced Media, Parker McCay, Pennsville Electric, Salem County Treasurer, South Jersey Regional Animal, Tele System, Verizon, and Zoll Data Systems, by Scarpaci; Second Giordano.

Discussion: Giordano suggested also paying Sean Brown, \$63.98 (reimbursement for legal expenses) and Councilwoman Mincey of \$704.02 (reimbursement for Juneteenth expenses).

Motion to amend motion to include the two invoices as suggested by Giordano by Scarpaci; second Giordano. Roll call. All ayes.

Brown stated that there are certain vendors who expect to be paid by next week. Brown explained the delay in the submission of the bill list and expressed concerned that the additional vendors who need to be paid will be delayed.

Scarpaci stated that due to the delay in receipt of the Bill List and questions she has for the Chief Finance Officer, she is not prepared to vote on any other invoices.

Giordano also expressed concern in receiving the Bill List on short notice, stating that he is not prepared to vote on any other invoices.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

2021-7-84 – A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GRANT AWARD FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY FOR SFY21 BODY-WORN CAMERA GRANT PROGRAM

2021-7-85 – EMERGENCY TEMPORARY RESOLUTION N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20

2021-7-86 – A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE FOR THE FAMILY OF RICHARD LEE BROKENBAUGH, SR

2021-7-87 – APPROVAL TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS, UNDER STATE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING GUIDELINES, FOR ENGINEERING AND GRANT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PURSUANT TO A FY2021 SMALL CITIES AWARD TO THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE FOR STORM WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AT EAST PITMAN STREET

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-7-84 through 2021-7-87 by consent by Giordano; second Scarpaci. Roll Call. All ayes.

FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

2021-21 – AN ORDINANCE GOVERNING SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

Motion to adopt by title only by Rambo; second Carter. 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

Motion to adopt by title only by Giordano; second Scarpaci. Roll Call. Carter – abstain, Giordano-yes, Rambo-yes, Scarpaci-yes. Motion passes.

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

2021-19 – SALARY ORDINANCE 2021 FOR NON-CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES

Carter questioned definition of “non-contractual”.

Tarver explained that it does not apply to any union or collective bargaining unit.

No public comment

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

2021-20 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE “ADOPT-A-LOT” PROGRAM

No public comment

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

2021-22 – ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE, AUTHORIZING VACATION OF CERTAIN PORTIONS OF ALLEYS

No public comment

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds (Martin, Giordano, Rambo): No report.

General Government/Clean Communities/JIF Fund Commissioner (Scarpaci, Martin, Giordano): Expressed appreciation to Councilwoman Martin and Greg Martin for hosting a movie night. Congratulated Anjannette Scott for hosting a successful car show. Available funds from the Clean Communities grant.

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree (Giordano, Martin, Rambo): Giordano stated/addressed the following: Zoning Report – Two applications for Zoning, Nine Certificate of Occupancy’s issued, One ongoing court matter. Two Ten-Day Notices issued.

Recreation/Board of Health (Carter, Mincey, Martin): Councilman Carter stated/addressed the following: Great turnout for the ‘Car Cruz’.

Public Works/Streets & Roads (Rambo, Mincey, Carter): Successful ‘Car Cruz’. Next ‘Car Cruz’ scheduled for August 4, 2021.

Public Safety (Mincey, Martin, Giordano): Council President Mincey stated/addressed the following: No report.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Business Administrator Report: Sean Brown stated/addressed the following: Interview process for Deputy Clerk. Grass cutting, encouraging all to report any issues.

Finance Officer Report: Ericka Walker stated/addressed the following: Resolutions adopted by Council during this meeting. 2.89 percent increase in Tax Collection.

Police Director Report: Richard Rivera stated/addressed the following: No incidents during the Car Show or Car Cruz. Helmets distributed to children and spoke with parents regarding safety. Abandoned property and abandoned vehicle initiative. Familiarizing new Police Officer with streets and residents. Officer Swearing-In Ceremony to be held at the Salem Community College on July 24, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

Fire Chief Report: Adam Hartsough stated/addressed the following: No report.

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

Attorney Report: Robert Tarver, Jr. stated/addressed the following: Business Administrator has begun research of neglected/abandoned properties, some of which are health issues, and some may involve litigation.

Mayoral Comment: Mayor Thomas stated/addressed the following: Condolences to the Marcus Reddick family. Cannabis Commission met and will present findings to the governing body by August 21, 2021. Successful ‘Movie Night’ hosted by Greg and Councilwoman Martin. Successful Car Show hosted by Aujannette Scott. Hispanic Heritage Month celebration to be held on September 15, 2021. Encourage youth volunteers for the Police Officer ceremony.

Rivera addressed the need for greeters and ushers.

Mayor congratulated Richard Rivera on “Vice” documentary.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Janice Battle, Naylor Avenue, expressed concern regarding to the overgrowth at 32 Naylor Avenue, Conrail's railroad tracks, and litter at the Riverfront pier.

Brown stated that Conrail will be contacted.

Rivera stated that the debris at the pier is often washed upon shore.

Greg Martin, Spruce Street, questioned completion of Virginia Avenue roadway. Mr. Martin also questioned the port-a-pot at the Riverfront.

Rambo advised that the fee for 1 week is the same for 1 month, and therefore, was requested to be returned.

Mr. Martin questioned accessibility to Barber Avenue Park.

Brown stated certain sections are closed.

Mr. Martin expressed concern over property on Pitman Street that his father, who does not own, has been maintaining.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon R. Williams, Municipal Clerk

MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM