

**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)
December 7, 2021-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 December 7, 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 Deputy Clerk, Mandy L. Renner

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

Also, present were: Madam Mayor, LaDaena Thomas, Robert Tarver Acting Borough Solicitor, Ericka Walker, Assistant Treasurer, Sharon Williams, Municipal Clerk, Mandy Renner, Deputy Municipal Clerk.

MINUTES:

July 6, 2021- Regular Session

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

July 20, 2021- Regular Session

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

November 9, 2021- Regular Session

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS & APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: Motion was moved by Councilwomen Scarpaci, Councilwomen Mincey seconded the motion. Roll Call. All ayes.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR COSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

2021-12-131 – A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS FOR THE AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS WITH THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022

2021-12-132 – A RESOULTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE TO ENTER INTO A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF CARNEY’S POINT FOR MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTION

2021-12-133 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE TO ENTER INTO A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF CARNEYS POINT FOR MUNICIPAL PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES

2021-11-134 – A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS FOR THE AWARD OF DEMOLITION CONTRACT WITH THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022

2021-11-135 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR LIBERTY FIRE STATION PARKING LOT RECONSTRUCTION

2021-11-136 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTIAL PAYMENT FOR THE LIBERTY FIRE STATION

2021-1-137 – RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION TO THE MUNICIPAL CLERK

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-12-131 and 2021-12-137 by consent Carter; second Martin. Roll Call. All ayes.

FIRST READING AND INTRODUCCION OF ORDINANCE(S):

2021-25 – AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE TABLE OF USE REGULATIONS AND SECTION 450-14 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

Motion to adopt by Title Only by Carter; second Rambo. Roll call. Carter-yes, Giordano-no, Martin-yes, Mincey-no, Rambo-yes, Scarpaci-no, Mayor Thomas-yes. Motion passes.

2021-26 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE AMENDING CHAPTER 410 REGULATING TAXATION WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE.

Motion to adopt by Title Only by Carter; second Martin. Roll call. Roll call. Carter-, Giordano-no, Martin-yes, Mincey-yes, Rambo-yes, Scarpaci-yes. Motion passes.

2021-27 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 141 SECTION 3 REGARDING MEMBERSHIP, TERMS AND VACANCIES FOR THE ECONOMIC AND REDEVELOPMENT BOARD

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building and Grounds (Martin, Giordano, Rambo) Councilwomen Martin stated/addressed the Borough Hall at 1 State St Penns Grove, NJ has a new roof and gutters.

General Government (Scarpaci, Martin, Giordano) Councilwomen Scarpaci stated/addressed the following: Received a letter from JIFF talking about Abandon properties and how they are expecting law suits on the amounts that have been set, as well as how the money is being spent. We are in good shape with it being that we have a dedicated fund. She would also like to discuss the email she received from a company that would be able to help us get grants. Councilwomen Scarpaci also stated that she would like them to come in and do a presentation.

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree (Giordano, Martin, Rambo) Councilmen Giordano stated/addressed Expressed concern that the planning board hasn't had a meeting in 4 months. It is also a big concern that we haven't had any new developers coming in. Councilmen Giordano also addressed that our Zoning Official/Housing Inspector Kasey Carmer, will be leaving at the end of this month.

Recreation/ Board of Health (Carter, Mincey, Martin) Councilmen Carter stated/addressed the following: First annual Christmas tree lighting Ceremony this year. It will be held this Saturday, December 11th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Memorial Park on Main Street. He also stated that

December 18th at 2pm we will have a Holiday toy give away on the Riverfront. Councilmen Carter read the November report from our Code Enforcement Official Nate Dunn. We had 24 ten days notices, 10 uncut grass, 1 pool with no fence, 6 trash, 2 Inoperable vehicles, 5 furniture household waste and 8 Summons. Councilmen Rambo then expressed his concern regarding the 10 Notices and not showing up to court.

Public Works/Streets & Roads (Rambo, Mincey, Carter) Councilmen Rambo stated/addressed the following: Nothing to report at this time.

Public Safety (Mincey, Martin, Giordano) Councilwomen Mincey stated/addressed the following: The retirement of one of our Police Officers. The need to appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator and Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Business Administrator Report: Sean Brown stated/addressed the following:

Police- Purchasing new supplies, Officers have been trained on de-escalation, anti-bias, and we are working through personal/staffing/hiring issues.

Finance- Goals for winter

Code Enforcement- currently tracking with Micro Access, NJ EPA and county will be partners in attacking illegal dumping, Door hangers.

Building and Grounds- Borough hall needs a generator, pump area needs maintenance and needs new lawn care equipment.

Finance Officer Report: Ericka Walker stated/addressed the following: The tax collection rate as of 12/6/2021, increased by 2.01%. Best practice inventory check sheet, no aid withheld from final state aid payment. Upon approval of InterLocal Service Agreement for Public Works and Tax Collection, the remaining 25% of Transitional Aid, will be released to the Municipality. Ericka also read a Thank You letter from Steve and Patty Labb.

Police Director Report: Richard Rivera stated/addressed the following: The Borough of Penns Grove had 12 Thefts, 1 Burglary, 10 Domestic Violence cases, 6 people registered for Megan's Law, 9 car accidents, 1 Robbery and 8 reports of shots fired. Our officers stopped 131 vehicles. We had 4 officers volunteer to do a camp out within the community. One house that is town owned has been secured.

Fire Chief Report: stated/addressed the following: Richard Rivera reported, multiple alarm fire reported. The incident has been ruled as an accident.

Ambulance/EMS Captain Report: stated/addressed the following: The EMT classes will begin January 5, 2022 with 4 new students attending. Also, we have still having a problem with the hospitals being on divert.

Attorney Report: Robert Tarver stated/addressed the following: Nothing to report at this time.

Mayoral Comments: Mayor Thomas stated/addressed the following: This Saturday, December 11th with will have our Christmas tree lighting. Plan to hold a Candle Light Vigil for the baby at 6:30pm. The Elks lodge will be hosting a pot luck this Saturday, December 11th for 7-10 kids. Expressed congratulations the High School students who participated in a Climate Change competition and placed 2nd.

NEW BUSINESS:

2021-12-138- A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF LEO MINCEY

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

PUBLIC SESSION:

Greg Martin, Spruce Street, addressed the importance of maintaining the Memorial Park.

David McFadden, Borden Drive, Carneys Point, New Jersey, expressed concerned about the flooding on Delaware Ave.

Renee Gambacorta, questioned the status of refund for 8 and 10 North Broad Street.

Tarver advised that the matter will be resolved by the next meeting.

Ms. Gambacorta questioned the next Borough owned property sale.

Ms. Gambacorta was advised that an online auction will be held in the early part of 2022.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Carter; second Rambo.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mandy Renner, Deputy Clerk

MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM