

**BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – 6:30 P.M.
December 8, 2020**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor LaDaena Thomas.

Invocation by Municipal Clerk.

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.

ROLL CALL: Bercute-present, Mincey-present, Oliver-present, Pasquale-present, Rambo-present, Scott-absent.

2020-12-179 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

REGULAR SESSION:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Mayor Thomas.

INVOCATION by Clerk Williams.

ROLL CALL: Bercute-present, Mincey-present, Oliver-present, Pasquale-present, Rambo-present, Scott-absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to adopt November 10, 2020 regular session minutes by Mincey; second Bercute. Roll call. All ayes.

Motion to adopt November 17, 2020 regular session minutes by Mincey; second Bercute. Roll call. All ayes.

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

This portion of the meeting is provided for comments on Agenda items only. There will be a public portion later in the meeting for general comments. If you have any comments, please state your name and address for the record.

Motion to open meeting to the public for discussion of agenda items only by Mincey; second Oliver. All in favor.

Greg Martin, Church Street, Penns Grove, questioned Resolution No. 2020-12-167 and the reason for rescinding tax exempt status.

Mincey advised that Resolution 2020-12-167 has been removed from the list until further research is conducted.

Motion to close public portion on agenda items by Mincey; second Pasquale.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

2020-12-166 – RESOLUTION AMENDING THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AND POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

2020-12-168 – AUTHORIZING AND ADOPTING PENNS GROVE FORMS

2020-12-169 – AUTHORIZING (1) ONE YEAR EXTENSION TO INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

2020-12-170 – AUTHORIZING CREDIT CART AUTHORIZATION FORM

2020-12-171 – AUTHORIZING POLICE/FIRE ESCORTED HORSE & SLEIGH PROCESSION

2020-12-172 – RESOLUTION PERMITTING FREE COVID 19 TESTING AND STREET CLOSURE

2020-12-173 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT

2020-12-174 – REFUND OVERPAYMENT TO CORELOGIC

2020-12-175 – REFUND RECORDING FEES PAID

2020-12-176 – CANCEL TAX AS BOROUGH OWNED BY RECORDED DEED

2020-12-177 – BUDGET TRANSFER RESOLUTION

2020-12-178 - ACKNOWLEDGING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH RESPECT TO 2020 CALENDAR YEAR TRANSITIONAL AID

2020-12-180 - RESOLUTION ADOPTING EMPLOYEE COVID-19 POLICY

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS & APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: Motion to adopt by Mincey; second Bercute. All in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds – (Pasquale, Bercute) Pasquale stated/addressed the following: Water leak in Police Department under review; Computers moved from Public Works building for disposal.

General Government – (Mincey, Scott) Mincey addressed/stated the following: Office building closed until December 21, 2020 due to two COVID 19 positive employees; all employees required to have negative results before returning to work.

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree – (Scott, Pasquale, Mincey) No report.

Parks & Recreation/Board of Health – (Bercute, Oliver, Pasquale) Bercute addressed/stated the following: 56 Ten-day notices issued, 13 resolved, 18 summonses issued; House decorating contest with award of \$500.00, \$250.00, \$150.00 and ten honorable mentions at \$20.00 each. Winners will be announced in January.

Public Works/Streets & Roads – (Oliver, Scott) Mincey addressed/stated the following: leaf pickup to occur once per month, with leaves to be placed on sidewalk.

Public Safety – (Mincey, Bercute, Scott) Mincey addressed/stated the following: Flooding along West Main Street drains were cleaned by county officials, however, awaiting communication from County Engineers regarding permanent resolution.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Finance Officer Report – Labb addressed/stated the following: 4.25 percent increase in tax collection rate compared to November 2019 to November 2020. Working on CARES Grant for final reimbursement, which is approximately \$51,000.00.

Mayor addressed the total technology upgrade as well as conferencing equipment for the courtroom, which was covered by the CARES Grant.

Lieutenant Report – Spera addressed/stated the following: 838 calls for service, 76 motor vehicle summonses issued, 13 Borough ordinances, 32 arrests to include juveniles, and performed approximately 253 business/property checks during the month of November. Increased patrols in the area of Penn Towers, East/West Pitman Street, Penn Street and the Penn Food Mart. Staffing level decrease from 87.5% to 75%. Rise in overdose of heroine, fentanyl. Increase in motor vehicle theft within the Borough and surrounding counties and states. For the year of 2020, Officers responded to 11011 calls for service, made a total of 346 arrests, issued 482 motor vehicle summonses and issued 397 Borough Ordinances.

Mayor questioned stock of Narcan.

Spera stated well stocked and prepared.

Fire Chief Report – Hartsough addressed/stated the following: Santa coming to town on December 19, 2020 between 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Questioned first responders' ability to obtain COVID-19 vaccination.

Lento advised that he will follow-up in that regard.

Ambulance/EMS Captain Report – Mincey addressed/stated the following: Extremely busy on transport and COVID cases have increased.

Mayoral Comment – Mayor Thomas addressed/stated the following: COVID-19 testing at the Penns Grove High School on December 4, 2020 and Borough Hall on December 5, 2020, with approximately 1000 participants. Expressed appreciation to the Penns Grove and Carneys Point Police Officers who assisted, teachers association and residents. Mayor's 2nd Annual toy drive will be hosted on December 20, 2020 at the Middle School, with Santa and elves on sleigh ride through town, live pony carousel for the children with all required to wear a mask, and safety

protocols in place. Expressed appreciation to outgoing council members for hard work and dedication during the past year.

Congratulations to newly elected John Rambo, Jonathan Carter and Charlyn Martin.

Attorney Report – Joseph Lento addressed/stated the following: Awaiting court decision on the Frameworks matter. Worked on several property sales. Negotiating Police contract. Working with the state to obtain the necessary doses of COVID-19 vaccination.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

2020-12-181 – Resolution Authorizing Settlement for Chief Patrick Riley
Motion to adopt by Mincey; second Rambo. Roll call. All ayes.

Best Practice – Labb stated Best Practice Inventory was submitted to the State. Based on score, Borough will receive 100 percent of state aid.

Mayor expressed regret in receiving letter of resignation from Councilman Michael Bercute, however, expressed thanks for service.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Motion to open the public portion of the meeting by Mincey; second Pasquale. All in favor.

Richard Rivera commented, "Thanks for service Mike".

Greg Martin, Spruce Street, questioned the properties that tax exempt status was revoked. Mincey stated that the properties have not been utilized in years. Mr. Lento stated that all tax exempt properties are being reviewed. Mr. Martin expressed appreciation to Michael Bercute for his service.

Jonathan Carter, Broad Street, questioned the ability to pay tickets online. Mayor stated yes.

Motion to close the public portion of the meeting by Mincey; second Pasquale. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon R. Williams
Municipal Clerk