

**BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING- 6:30 P.M.
COURTROOM/ VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE
October 19, 2021
MINUTES**

Meeting was 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 October 19, 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 Williams

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS & APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: Motion to adopt by Scarpaci; second Giordano. Roll Call. All ayes.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR COSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

2021-10-115 – A RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING EMERGENCY ACTION AGREEMENT WITH L&A DEMOLITION LLC REGARDING REMEDIATION OF PROPERTY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6
Tarver addressed amendment, stating amount of \$12,000.00 to L&A Demolition, \$2604.00 to Regional Express, LLC by check number 1056.

Motion to adopt by Scarpaci; seconded by Mincey. Roll call. All ayes.

2021-10-116 – RESOLUTION REQUESTING TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF COUNTY ROADS FOR THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

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

FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION 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; seconded by Martin.

Discussion:

Mincey requested clarification of the zones.

Business Administrator, Sean Brown, explained the process for determining zones.

Tarver explained that the Ordinance authorizes and regulates cannabis in the municipality and set forths the areas under which the uses and types of uses can occur.

Scarpaci questioned the Commissions recommendation.

Mayor suggested tabling for further discussion and review.

Rambo questioned analysis from other municipalities, i.e., complaints, etc.

Mincey expressed concern regarding moving forward without proper research.

Giordano suggested tabling until further research is conducted.
Motion to table by Martin; second Giordano. Roll call. All ayes.

2021-4 – AN ORDINANCE CREATING AN ANTI-NEPOTISM POLICY FOR THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

Brown stated that this Ordinance is required per Memorandum of Understanding with the DCA. Tarver explained that Mayor and Council cannot hire those they are related to.

Anjanette Scott, expressed concern that the policy had not been available for review.

Motion to adopt by Mincey; seconded by Martin. Roll call. All ayes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building and Grounds (Martin, Giordano, Rambo) Councilwoman Martin reported: In process of hiring a custodian; Barber Avenue Park halted by Council President. Repairs are required per insurance; therefore, repairs will continue.

General Government (Scarpaci, Martin, Giordano) Councilwoman Scarpaci reported: Expressed appreciation to Councilman Rambo for providing float for Homecoming Parade; Rivera spoke with Mr. Griffith from school district regarding painting of murals.

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree (Giordano, Martin, Rambo) Giordano stated that the Borough is still searching for Zoning Officer.

Recreation/ Board of Health (Carter, Mincey, Martin) Councilman Carter reported on the last car show. Expressed appreciation to volunteers and sponsors who assisted with summer events. Trunk or Treat to be held October 30th from 3:00 p.m.

Public Works/Streets & Roads (Rambo, Mincey, Carter) Councilman Rambo stated Agreement with Carneys Point for public works is under review.

Public Safety (Mincey, Martin, Giordano) Council President Mincey addressed the carjacking that took place at the car wash, reminding all to check their surroundings. Mincey announced Thanksgiving parade to be held and encouraged participants to register.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Business Administrator Report: Sean Brown addressed the following: Suggested hiring a Qualified Purchasing Agent as recommended by the state monitor.

Scarpaci suggested utilizing a state contract as it may qualify as an emergent situation.

Brown stated State has created guidelines regarding federal grants received. November 3rd audit by USDA. Brown suggested council attend the NJLM conference. Brown addressed the Fire Marshal violations to be abated.

Finance Officer Report: On behalf of Assistant Treasurer, Ericka Walker, Councilwoman Scarpaci reported tax collection rate increased by 2.38 percent. Pension reports are complete.

Police Director Report: Richard Rivera reported the following: Increased robberies, addressing the carjacking that took place. Rivera stressed the importance of being aware of our surroundings. Part time SLEO II onboarded on October 18th. Rivera stated that police presence will be upgraded. Rivera addressed technology upgrades.

Giordano suggested website posting concerning how to replace your documents.

Carter questioned the particulars of the carjacking. Rivera advised that he will speak with him privately.

Fire Chief Report: Nothing to report.

Ambulance/EMS Captain Report: On behalf of Captain Ashcraft, Council President reported 76 calls in September. Patients are being transported to Inspira, Mullica Hill and Christiana, Delaware as Salem Memorial Hospital is on divert. Encouraged attending the Riverview Success Center for the flu and covid shot on October 27th.

Attorney Report: Robert Tarver reported the following: Working with Business Administrator on USDA and other State matters; revising Personnel Policy and other documents. Tarver also reported that there no lawsuits have been filed during his tenure.

Mayoral Comments: Mayor Thomas addressed the following: Expressed concern regarding the litter along Main Street and Penn Street. Mayor encouraged all to use receptacles. Final Car Cruise, further expressed appreciation to those who assisted with cleanup. Congratulations to Penns Grove High School for the Homecoming Parade and thanked all who participated in the parade. Mayor Thomas addressed the open house, ribbon cutting ceremony, hosted by House of Wright. Trunk or Trea to be held October 30, 2021. Gospel Festival Rambo expressed appreciation to GMC Point Pontiac for the vehicles used during the parade. Mayor expressed appreciation for the Elk's Lodge for use of the float.

NEW BUSINESS:

Penns Grove Housing Authority – Request to support Thanksgiving dinner for residents Brown advised that, per the Memorandum of Understanding, no direct purchases for food can be made.

Anjanette Scott stated that members of the Recreation Committee make donations to support the residents dinner.

Mayor stated the matter will be further reviewed.

AnJanette Scott announced Trunk or Treat to be held at the riverfront on Saturday from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Rivera announced Trick or Treat hours to end by sunset.

Motion to reschedule the November 16th council meeting to November 23rd due to the League of Municipalities session by Scarpaci; seconded Mincey. Roll call. All ayes.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Renee Gambicorta questioned the status of the deed for property she purchased at 8 – 10 North Broad Street, Penns Grove.

Tarver stated that the deeds have been completed.

Greg Martin, Spruce Street, questioned the illegal dumping on New Street.

Rivera stated that the matter will be cleaned up, hopefully, within 48 hours.

Scott questioned obtaining “15 minute” parking for businesses along Broad Street.

Mayor advised to place request in writing and address to the Business Administrator.

Lou Pasquale suggested repairing roof on the former public works building. Mr. Pasquale suggesting having engineers bid roofing projects. Pasquale stated new pump needed at Delaware Avenue.

Sean Smith, engineer, based on reports pump is failing and in need of replacement and back up generator. Working with grant consultant for grants. Smith addressed cost of pump and installation. Smith advised of a refurbished pump with a cost \$500,000 not including installation.

Mayor stated the need to review financing options.

Pasquale stated pump only three years old, therefore pumps failed immaturely or they were not maintained properly.

Pasquale also stated the need to dig out Mill Street ditch.

Mayor Thomas advised that a tour was taken with the engineer to determine the issues. Mayor Thomas also advised that a video was taken and will send to Mr. Pasquale.

Mincey questioned the status of the Penn Street project.

Mr. Smith advised that that project is handled by prior engineer.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Carter; seconded Martin.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon R. Williams, RMC
Municipal Clerk