

**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 21, 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 Borough Solicitor, Sean Brown Business Administrator, Ericka Walker Assistant Treasurer, and Mandy Renner Deputy Municipal Clerk.

MINUTES:

December 7, 2021- Regular Session

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR COSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

2021-12-139- RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LIEN ASSIGNMENT

2021-12-140 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZONG A REFUND OVERPAYMENT OF 2021 TAX BILLING

2021-12-141 – RESOULTION AUTHORIZING REFUND TAX BILLING PAID FOR A TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN

2021-11-142 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TO TRANFER OVERPAID TAX FROM 2021-2022

2021-11-143 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELWASE OF MORTGAGE

2021-11-144 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFER

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-12-139 and 2021-12-144 by consent Scarpaci; second Mincey. Roll Call. All ayes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building and Grounds (Martin, Giordano, Rambo) Councilwomen Martin stated/addressed all Holiday decorations are up. Also, the foyer area on the side of the building will be repaired.

General Government (Scarpaci, Martin, Giordano) Councilwomen Scarpaci stated/addressed the following: clean communities will no longer be allowing plastic bags or straws. Thank you to Steve for getting us up to date with all the reports. We due have some funds that need to be used by the end of the year.

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree (Giordano, Martin, Rambo) Councilmen Giordano stated/addressed there still has not been any activity with the planning board. At this time the super Wawa and Auto Zone has received all their permits.

Recreation/ Board of Health (Carter, Mincey, Martin) Councilmen Carter stated/addressed the following: Thank you to all involved with the tree lighting and this year's toy drive.

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 Covid numbers are rising again.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Business Administrator Report: Sean Brown stated/addressed the following: At this time, we have about 12 applications for Cannabis to join Penns Grove. The committee will have all applications by the end of this week, and we plan to review them next week. As for the Wawa they are still waiting on the DCA permits to begin the process. Landing Ave still needs to be cleaned up and I am looking into ways on starting the clean up process.

Finance Officer Report: Ericka Walker stated/addressed the following: Tax Collection Rate as of December 17, 2021 is showing a **2.97%** increase from the prior year, 12/17/2021 - 87.85%, 12/17/2020 - 84.88%. Finance Officer Receipts for November 2021 (per attached). Budget Transfer Resolution, which transfers amounts from Budget Appropriations that have excess to those appropriations which are insufficient. The Borough received the remaining 25% of Transitional Aid (\$ 137,500.00).

Police Director Report: Richard Rivera stated/addressed the following: Main concern is that we had another officer resign this month. We have lost three officers over the past couple of months. The focus for the upcoming year is to bring on new officers.

Fire Chief Report: stated/addressed the following: Make sure to add fire chief to the planning board emails.

Ambulance/EMS Captain Report: stated/addressed the following: Salem Medical Center is in the process of being bought by Inspira. We will have 3 new EMT's starting training in January.

Attorney Report: Robert Tarver stated/addressed the following: With the end of the year report, we had no major litigations this year. We were able to stay below budget.

Mayoral Report Mayor Thomas stated/addressed the following: Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual Christmas Tree lighting. Also, thank you to the Elks Lodge for their support in our community. Our annual toy give away is still going on and we want to thank all the sponsors that donated toys. More information will be posted on the Facebook page.

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:

Lucas, Delaware Drive- Concerned about the flood that occurred in October 28 and the pumping station.

Joyce Martin- Concerned about the discussion regarding the Business Administrator.

Greg Martin, 46 Spruce St- concerned about the hiring process of the Police Officers.

Jerimie Glover, Delaware Ave- how can we get the lights fixed and add more lights on the Riverwalk?

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Carter; second Rambo.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mandy Renner, Deputy Clerk

MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM