

**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)
August 17, 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 Municipal Clerk, Sharon Williams

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

Also, present were Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas, Robert Tarver Borough Solicitor, Sean Brown Business Administrator, Ericka Walker Assistant Treasurer

MINUTES:

July 1, 2021- Executive Session

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

August 5, 2021- Regular Session

Motion to adopt by Scarpaci; second Martin. Roll Call. All ayes.

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

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR COSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

2021-8-91 – RESOLUTION TO HIRE AUDITOR

2021-8-93 – 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

2021-8-94 – EMERGENCY TEMPORARY RESOLUTION N.J.S.A. 40A; 4-20

2021-8-95 – RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE BUDGET

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-8-91 and 2021-8-95 by consent Scarpaci; second Giordano. Roll Call. All ayes.

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

2021-21 – AN ORDINANCE GOVERNING SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
Mayor solicited public comment:

Motion to adopt by Giordano; second Mincey. Roll Call. Worley-yes, Martin-yes, Mincey-yes, Scarpaci-absent, Carter-yes, Rambo-absent. 4 ayes. Motion passes

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building and Grounds (Martin, Giordano, Rambo) Councilwomen Martin stated Mr. Brown has received a few estimates for review to fix the water pump and roof. Currently the Borough is looking into hiring a maintenance person to handle the Borough properties that are in need of any minor and cleaning within the Borough Hall. More lighting, as well as proper bags for dog feces are needed at the riverwalk.

General Government (Scarpaci, Martin, Giordano) Councilwomen Scarpaci stated/addressed the following: Council president Mincey, the Municipal clerk, and the Business Administrator conducted final interviews for a Deputy Clerk and a recommendation to hire a candidate was made. In the General Governance Committee meeting there were some action items that need to be discussed with the council; a letter to be sent about the loan that is on the audit report, a letter to be sent for damages of documents that are stored in a local business, and a letter to be sent to a board member on the sewage authority and a board member on the housing authority because they are no longer residents of the Borough.

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree (Giordano, Martin, Rambo) Nothing to report.

Recreation/ Board of Health (Carter, Mincey, Martin) Nothing to report.

Public Works/Streets & Roads (Rambo, Mincey, Carter) Nothing to report.

Public Safety (Mincey, Martin, Giordano) Nothing to report. Public Safety Committee will meet tomorrow.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Business Administrator Report: Sean Brown stated/addressed the following: Several complaints were made regarding piles of trash on Beach Ave. Brown stated that the trash will be removed within 24 hours. The Borough Hall now has a secure drop box for all no court matters. Sean Smith, the Borough engineer, and his team met to determine what houses will be added to the demolition list. Mr. Brown also addressed meeting in person. GreenTech is perplexed on what needs to be done to resolve technical issues. The Borough website is 90% done. A staff meeting was held last week, staff wages and as well as evaluations were discussed.

Finance Officer Report: Sean Brown spoke in the absence of Ericka Walker. Mr. Brown explained the Emergency Temporary Budget Resolution. Tax was 1.92% increase from last year. Collection increased by 1.92% since last year.

Police Director Report: Sean Brown spoke in the absence of Richard Rivera. Mr. Brown stated/addressed the following: There have been some arrest made for illegal guns. Several polices officers have been out sick, which causes overtime, however the overtime is being monitored. Expressed appreciation to the Salem County Sheriffs and prosecutor's office for filling in.

Fire Chief Report: stated/addressed the following: Nothing to report

Ambulance/EMS Captain Report: stated/addressed the following: Nothing to report

Attorney Report: Robert Tarver stated/addressed the following: Nothing to report. Hope to meet with the council members on August 18 at 5pm.

Mayoral Comments: Mayor Thomas stated/addressed the following: The car meet and greet had more participation. Expressed appreciation to Councilman Carter and Councilman Rambo. Oldies on the Riverfront had 500 people attend. Expressed appreciation to Greg Martin for cooking, the Dixon family for door prizes, and Jennifer Webb for cleaning up. Expressed thanks to council members for the hard work. Mayor Thomas also recognized Naji Surpee for opening a Salon in Penns Grove named Sugar Doll. Mayor addressed a request put in from a resident on Iona Ave for the lighting on a utility pole, further stating that the clerk has contacted Atlantic City Electric to have the lighting installed.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Greg Martin, Spruce St. questioned if the bid clean ups are public knowledge. Mr. Brown explained that it is dictated by statute.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Mincey; Second Martin.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mandy Renner, Deputy Clerk