

**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)
September 23, 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 September 23, 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-absent, Giordano- present, Martin-present, Mincey-present, Rambo-absent, Scarpaci-absent.

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

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR COSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

2021-9-107 – EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FOR THE NOVEMBER 2021 TAX QUARTER

2021-9-108 – REFUND DUPLICATE PAYMENT TO CORELOGIC

2021-9-109 – RENEWAL OF INACTIVE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE RETAIL LICENSE FOR THE 2021-2022 LICENSE TERM – (Anthony’s Rotten Ralph)

2021-9-110 – RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPLICATION FROM THE PENNS GROVE HIGH SCHOOL BAND BOOSTERS FOR CHARITABLE SOLICITATION

2021-9-111 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH MAX SPANN REAL ESTATE & AUCTION

2021-9-112 – A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

2021-9-113 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HIRING OF DEPUTY CLERK

Motion to adopt Resolutions No. 2021-9-107 through 2021-9-113 by consent by Mincey, seconded Martin. Roll call. All ayes.

PRESENTATION: Max Spann Realty & Auction Company

Max Spann, President of Max Spann Realty & Auction Company stated company has been in business for 50 years, providing services around the world. Mr. Spann addressed how they assist government with the sale of property via an online process. Mr. Spann explained the marketing of properties, and the bidding and closing process. Mr. Spann stated that the sale would begin in December and close in January.

Mincey questioned the turnaround time.

Mr. Spann stated 7 to 8 weeks.

Mincey questioned the auction period.

Mr. Spann stated that there is a 4-week marketing period.

Mayor questioned the auction duration.

Mr. Spann stated auction will run for 2 days.

Sue Ann Leighty, Habitat for Humanity, expressed concern that purchasers may not rehab the property and questioned Habitat's ability to acquire properties in future.

Mayor expressed appreciation to Habitat for Humanity.

Giordano suggested that Habitat meet with the Economic Development Committee.

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:

Greg Martin, Spruce Street, Penns Grove, requested clarification regarding street closures.

Tarver explained that the Ordinance addresses all events including road closures.

Debbie Ashcraft, State Street, Penns Grove, questioned deadline for submission.

Tarver stated that applications must be submitted 45 days prior to the event.

Mincey expressed concern regarding the Borough's "cancel" time from 5 days to two weeks.

Tarver stated explained the intention of the section.

Mincey questioned fee schedule, suggesting \$0.00 fee for Memorial Park.

Mayor suggested meeting to discuss fees and amend as needed.

Motion to adopt with amendment reflecting \$0.00 fee for the Memorial Park by Mincey; seconded by Giordano. Roll call. All ayes.

APPOINTMENTS: Mayor Thomas appointed Kyle Goodson as alternate to the Penns Grove Planning Board.

Motion to appoint Greg Martin to the Sewerage Authority by Mincey; seconded by Giordano. Roll call. Giordano-yes, Martin-abstain, Mincey-yes. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building and Grounds (Martin, Giordano, Rambo) Councilwoman Martin reported that renovations to the Barber Avenue Park will commence September 24, 2021; further stating that playground equipment will be replaced, removal of trees, basketball court to be extended, removal of fence and mulch to be placed. Martin also reported that roof estimates for the Borough Hall will be obtained.

General Government (Scarpaci, Martin, Giordano) No report.

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree (Giordano, Martin, Rambo) Councilman Giordano gave Zoning report for the month of August and the Certificate of Occupancy report for the month of August. Giordano also reported 136 property violations, with 48 receiving summonses.

Recreation/ Board of Health (Carter, Mincey, Martin) Councilwoman Martin reported that the "Oldie's" night ended on September 12th and the Country Western Night was held on the 19th of September. Martin announced that the Latino Festival will be held on October 2nd from 1:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Public Works/Streets & Roads (Rambo, Mincey, Carter) No report.

Public Safety (Mincey, Martin, Giordano) Council President Mincey announced that the Emergency Rental Assistance Program is now active. Mincey encouraged participation with riverfront cleanup.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Business Administrator Report: Sean Brown reported the following: Attended Business Administrator training. Brown addressed the American Recovery monies and the need to report how the Borough will spend funds.

Finance Officer Report: Assistant to the Treasurer, Ericka Walker reported the following: 2021 budget has been adopted.

Police Director Report: Sean Brown reported the following: Police Department conducting property checks on 97 Borough owned properties with a list assessing each property. Holy Temple Church had a successful event. Met with the Department of Community Affairs, Office of Resilience to discuss trauma and the effect on children and the adverse consequences of trauma. Met with Attorney General in Salem City regarding trainings for police and the challenges Police Departments face. Police Director Richard Rivera met with the Penns Grove – Carneys Point Board of Education. Brown announced the September 26th basketball event to be held at the Barber Avenue Park from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Fire Chief Report: Adam Hartsough reported the following: Parking lot project to commence next week.

Ambulance/EMS Captain Report: stated/addressed the following: Ashcraft explained the need to re-chassis the ambulance. Ashcraft reported responding to 18 COVID calls during the weekend.

Attorney Report: Robert Tarver reported the following: Nothing to report.

Mayoral Comments: Mayor Thomas reported the following: Expressed appreciation to all who assisted with the summer events.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to appoint Brenda Robinson to the position of Crossing Guard by Martin; second Mincey. Roll call. All ayes.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Greg Martin, Spruce Street, Penns Grove, expressed concern regarding resident who leaves their trash cans at the curb 24/7.

Mincey stated Ordinance requires trash is set out after 3:00 p.m. the day before pickup; further suggested warning stickers.

Brenda Fowler, Denny Avenue, Penns Grove, Executive Director of Youth Empowerment Network, expressed appreciation to Sean Brown, who has mentored her.

Celina Williams, State Street, Penns Grove, suggested tree planting in front of businesses and addressing poor lighting. Ms. Williams also expressed concern regarding children running along the railroad tracks.

Motion to amend the bill list to include DJ reimbursement, tee shirts and police identification by Mincey; second Giordano. Roll call. All ayes.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Mincey; Second Martin.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon R. Williams, RMC
Municipal Clerk