

**BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING- 6:30 P.M.
September 7, 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 September 7, 2021 meeting is being held 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, Council President Mincey-present, Rambo-present, Scarpaci-present

PAYMENT OF BILLS & APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: Mincey questioned adding invoice from Corey Ransome and Jobs Done Right. Tarver asked for invoices for review and matter can be revisited prior to the end of the meeting.

Motion moved by Councilwomen Scarpaci, Councilman Giordano seconded the motion. Roll Call. All ayes.

BUDGET AMENDMENT:

2021-9-104- RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Labb explained the purpose of the amendment, why public hearing is necessary and the purpose of the Resolution.

Mayor solicited public comment.

No public member had a comment

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-9-104 by Scarpaci; second Giordano. Roll Call. All ayes.

PRESENTATION:

Mary Kay James, Chairperson of the Sewer Authority stated the Authority has lost revenue due to abandoned and vacant property. Ms. James stated that the Authority is reviewing responsible ways to save. James addressed correspondence requesting to obtain Borough owned property located at West Harmony Street for a solar installation project, stating that the project will generate over a million dollars over the life of the project.

William DeFillipo, Keystone Power Holdings stated that they maintain the solar installation adjacent to the Sewer Authority. Mr. DeFillipo addressed the West Harmony Street property and why it would be an ideal location. Mr. DeFillipo stated that Sewer Authority would recognize a tremendous saving.

Scarpaci questioned the deadline.

DeFillipo stated that immediately as the process is approximately 1 to 1 ½ years.

Giordano questioned if easements will be needed to connect from West Harmony Street to the authority.

DeFillipo stated that no lines are needed as its delivered via aggregate metering, which is through the grid of the utility.

Mincey questioned the savings to the Borough.

James indicated that the savings comes back to the Authority, which prevents them from having to raise rates, thus the taxpayer saves.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR COSIDERATION BY CONSENT

2021-9-96- RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GRANT APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR UP TO \$400,000 FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AT STRAUGHN LANE PUMP STATION

2021-9-97 – IDENTIFYING CDBG FAIR HOUSING OFFICER- PUBLIC FACILITIES FUND FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS STRAUGHN LANE PUMP STATION

2021-9-98 – GRANT MANAGEMENT PLAN – PUBLIC FACILITIES FUND FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AT STRAUGHN LANE PUMP STATION

2021-9-99 – CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN FY2022-PUBLIC FACILITIES FUND FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AT STRAUGHN LANE PUMP

2021-9-100 – TO COMMIT TO THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCUREMENT PROCESS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1 THROUGH 40A:11-4.5 FOR CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, CONTINGENT UPON AN FY2022 SMALL CITIES GRANT AWARD FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AT STRAUGHN LANE PUMP STATION

2021-9-101 – A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE INCURRENCE OF INDEBTEDNESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A PORTION OF THE COST OF ACQUIRING, CONSTRUCTING, ENLARGING, IMPROVING AND/OR EXTENDING ITS FY21 POLICE AND FIRE EQUIPMENT FACILITY TO SERVE AN AREA LAWFULLY WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION TO SERVE.

2021-9-102 – ADOPTING COUNCIL RULES FOR THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

2021-9-103 – RESOLUTION APPOINTING POLICE OFFICER- ALEX FANFARILLA

2021-9-105 – RESOLUTION APPOINTING SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER – GRANT ASHCRAFT

2021-9-106 – RESOLUTION APPOINTING SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER- JOSHUA GREY

Motion to adopt the above Resolutions No. 2021-9-96 through 2021-9-106, except for Resolution No. 2021-9-105 by Scarpaci; second Mincey. Roll Call. All ayes.

APPOINTMENTS:

Motion to appoint Dylan Myers Membership to Liberty One Fire Department by Scarpaci; seconded Mincey. Roll call. All ayes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building and Grounds (Martin, Giordano, Rambo): Councilwoman Martin stated with the 2021 budget adopted, the Borough will be able to move forward with the repairs that are needed within the Borough Hall.

General Government (Scarpaci, Martin, Giordano): Councilwoman Scarpaci stated/addressed the following: Will scheduled community events. \$10,000 Clean Communities grant has been awarded to the Borough. Habitat expressed concern regarding the deeds for their properties. It was discussed that the deeds are not being turned over to Habitat until the buildings are completed. Mr. Tarver agreed to investigate this process.

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree (Giordano, Martin, Rambo): Councilman Giordano stated/addressed the following: Housing report for the month of July 2022.

Recreation/ Board of Health (Carter, Mincey, Martin): Councilwoman Martin stated that the "Oldies" night at the river was successful. Martin encouraged attendance at the Country Western music at the riverfront on September 19th, and the Latino festival on October 2nd from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Public Works/Streets & Roads (Rambo, Mincey, Carter): Councilman Rambo stated/addressed: Contractual negotiations with Carneys Point regarding the contract for public work services.

Public Safety (Mincey, Martin, Giordano): Council President Mincey stated/addressed the following: Committee met to discuss the needs of the Police Department. Researching Blackboard, stating it would benefit each Borough departments. Benefits to the community by issuing alerts as needed. Number of COVID cases are rising.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Business Administrator Report: Sean Brown stated/addressed the following: Updates from the Chief Financial Officer, Code Enforcement and Housing. Working with council regarding shared service agreements for tax collection. Working with contractor regarding grass cutting; reviewing process for non-compliance.

Finance Officer Report: Stephen Labb stated/addressed the following: Tax collection rate increased by 2.6 percent from September 3, 2020 of 80.88 percent to 82.94 percent as of September 3, 2021.

Police Director Report: Richard Rivera stated/addressed the following: Congratulations to Officer Fanfarilla and Officer Grey. Hiring of crossing guard. Discussion with Department of Transportation regarding crosswalk improvements. Storm preparation and prevention.

Fire Chief Report: Adam Hartsough stated/addressed the following: Fire report for the month of August 2021. Met with engineer regarding fire department parking lot.

Ambulance/EMS Captain Report: Deborah Ashcraft stated/addressed the following: Ambulance report for the month of August 2022. Experiencing further transport as hospital is on divert. Rise in COVID numbers, suggesting continued use of PPE.

Attorney Report: Robert Tarver stated/addressed the following: No new litigation. Significant number of upcoming Ordinances. In the process of reviewing the Personnel Policy as required by the Joint Insurance Fund.

Mayoral Report: Mayor Thomas stated/addressed the following: Expressed appreciation to Rambo, Carter, and Martin for the car "Meet 'n Greet". Expressed appreciation to all who help to maintain the riverfront. 911 service at the Salem County Fairgrounds. Encouraged attendance

at the Country Western night at the riverfront, and Latino festival. Mayor addressed the gospel festival hosted by Bishop Freddy Washington.

Rambo stated that he had a great time during the car events, announcing the last to be held on October 6th.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Debbie Ashcraft, State Street, Penns Grove, suggested that residents load the weather app on their phones to receive weather alerts.

Greg Martin, Spruce Street, Penns Grove, questioned the status of the event ordinance. Mr. Martin was advised that the matter will be considered during the September 21st meeting.]

Motion to pay \$1300.00 to Jobs Done Right by Scarpaci, seconded Mincey. Roll call. All ayes.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Scarpaci; seconded by Mincey. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon R. Williams
Municipal Clerk