

**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)
APRIL 5, 2022-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 January 18, 2022 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 Renner

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

Also, present were: Madam Mayor LaDaena Thomas, Rob Tarver, Borough Solicitor, Ericka Walker, Treasurer Assistant, Sean Brown, Business Administrator, and Richard Rivera, Police Director.

MINUTES:

February 1, 2022- Regular Session

Motion to adopt by Worley; second Martin. Roll Call. All aye.

February 15, 2022- Work Session

Motion to adopt by Carter; second Martin. Roll Call. All aye.

March 2, 2022- Regular Session

Motion to adopt by Carter; second Martin. Roll Call. All aye.

March 15, 2022- Work Session

Motion to adopt by Carter; second Martin. Roll Call. All aye.

March 22, 2022- Budget Session

Motion to adopt by Carter; second Martin. Roll Call. All aye.

PAYMENT OF BILLS & APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: Motion was moved by Councilwomen Worley, Council president Martin seconded the motion. Roll Call. All ayes.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR COSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

2022-4-64 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONTACT PERSON FOR THE EMPLOYMENN PRACTICES LIABILITY ATTORNEY CONSULTATION SERVICE, GLOUSTER, SALEM, CUMBERLAND COUNTIES MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-4-64 by Worley; second Mincey. Roll Call. All ayes.

2022-4-65 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE TAX COLLECTOR TO PREPARE AND ISSUE ESTIMATED TAX BILLS FOR THIRD QUARTER 2022 PROPERTY TAXES

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-4-65 by Worley; second Mincey. Roll Call. All ayes.

2022-4-66 – TRANSFER DEDUCATION CREDIT FROM 2021 TO 2022

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-4-66 by Worley; second Mincey. Roll Call. All ayes.

2022-4-67 – RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZING MAILING AND ADVERTISEMENT OF 2022 TAX SALE NOTICES

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-4-67 by Mincey; second Worley. Roll Call. All ayes.

2022-4-68 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ELECTRONIC TAX SALE IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 54:5-19.1

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-4-68 by Martin; second Mincey. Roll Call. All ayes.

2022-4-69 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR CHARITABLE SOLICITATION (LIBERTY FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 PENNS GROVE)

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-4-69 by Martin; second Carter. Roll Call. All ayes.

2022-4-70 –RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE, COUNTY OF SALEM, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF UP TO \$68,000 OF SPECIAL EMERGENCY NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE, MAKING CERTAIN CONVENANTS TO MAINTAIN THE EXEMPTION OF THE INTEREST ON SAID NOTES FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAXATION; AND AUTHORIZING SUCH FURTHER ACTIONS AND MAKING SUCH DETERMINATIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE TO EFFECTUATE THE ISSUE AND SALE OF THE NOTES

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-4-70 by Mincey; second Worley. Roll Call. All ayes.

FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

2022-7 – AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE LICENSURE, PERMITTING AND STANDARDS OF MOBILE RETAIL FOOD TRUCK VENDORS THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH

Motion to be Tabled by Scarpaci; second Carter. Roll call. Carter-yes, Worley-yes, Martin-yes, Mincey-yes, Scarpaci-yes. Motion passes.

SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION ORDINANCE(S):

2022-2 – AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, THE DIVISION OF POLICE, THE DIVISION OF FIRE AND THE DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND THE TITLE AND POSITION OF PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor solicited public comment:

Lewis Pasquale, Delaware Ave, asked if the Borough currently has a Public Safety Director. Councilwoman Mincey responded that the Borough at this time only has a Police Director.

Motion to adopt by Worley; second Martin. Roll call. Carter-yes, Worley-yes, Martin-yes, Mincey-yes, Scarpaci-yes. Motion passes.

2022-3 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 85 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

Mayor solicited public comment:

No public member had a comment

Motion to adopt by Carter; second Worley. Roll call. Carter-yes, Worley-yes, Martin-yes, Mincey-yes, Scarpaci-yes. Motion passes.

2022-4 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 173-4, LICENSING FEES FOR RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSES

Mayor solicited public comment:

Greg Martin, Spruce St, questioned what the fee is for the Liquor Licenses. Business Administrator Sean Brown stated the prices are set by Statute.

Motion to adopt by Worley; second Carter. Roll call. Carter-yes, Worley-yes, Martin-yes, Mincey-yes, Scarpaci-yes. Motion passes.

2022-5 – AN ORDINANCE TO CONVEY BLOCK 7, LOT 91 A/K/A 444 PARK AVENUE IN THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE, TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY A DULY INCORPORATED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING OR REHABILITATING SAID PROPERTY FOR RESALE

Mayor solicited public comment:

No public member had a comment

Motion to adopt by Scarpaci; second Martin. Roll call. Carter-yes, Worley-yes, Martin-yes, Mincey-yes, Scarpaci-yes. Motion passes.

2022-6 – CALENDAR YEAR 2022 MODEL ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Mayor solicited public comment:

Ron G, 7 Sack Ave, had some concern that the Borough will be going over state budget. Business Administrator Sean Brown stated the Council has to approve before the CFO to spend a certain amount from the budget, this will not expand the budget or cost the taxpayers.

Motion to adopt by Worley; second Mincey. Roll call. Carter-yes, Worley-yes, Martin-yes, Mincey-yes, Scarpaci-yes. Motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building and Grounds (Worley, Martin, Scarpaci) Councilwoman Worley addressed Mr. Sean Brown regarding the demo project. Mr. Brown advised that the list of properties will be reviewed to determine if it's necessary to rebid the project. Councilwomen Worley also addressed Mr. Brown regarding JIF's list of violations from 2021. Mr. Brown stated that we have had a lot of inspections this year and the list shows repeats, further advising that he will review the list to determine what needs to be abated.

General Government (Martin, Carter, Worley) Councilwoman Martin stated/addressed the following: Prayers for Bruce Willis and family. Committee met on March 8th, at which time they discussed obtaining EZ Pass and cross training Borough employees.

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree (Rambo, Scarpaci, Martin) Councilman Rambo stated/addressed the following: LED lights are being considered for the on the Flag pole in Barber Ave Park. An electrician will need to look into what the Park needs to run the electric. CO request are up to date. Also, landlords are being notified to fill out a landlord registration form, so that the Borough can have this information on file. Tenants are unable to move in without a CO. Ten day notices have been sent out with hope by the end of May all trash and abandon cars to be under control.

Recreation/ Board of Health (Carter, Rambo, Mincey) Councilmen Carter stated/addressed the following: The Registrar Vital Statistics report for December, January and February. In December there were 17 certified copies of Death, 3 certified copies of Marriage and 1 certified copy of Birth, with a total of 12 cents interest earned and a total deposit of \$1,288. In January there were 29 certified copies of Death and 2 certified copies of Marriage with that a total of 1 cent interest was earned and a total deposit of \$1,740.01 In February there were 15 certified copies of Death, 5 certified copies of Marriage and 1 Marriage License, with 6 cents interest earned and a total deposit of \$1,153.06. Thank you to the Mayor and everyone who was able to come help last month with the food drive, it turned out to be a successful event. Councilmen Carter stated that an Easter egg hunt will be held at Barber Ave Park on April 16th.

Public Works/Streets & Roads (Scarpaci, Mincey, Rambo) Councilwoman Scarpaci stated/addressed the following: The meeting with Carneys Point regarding the contract has been moved to sometime after Easter. Councilwoman Scarpaci asked when the Borough will award the contract for replacing the gutters at the Fire and Ambulance hall. Mr. Sean Brown responded and asked ask that this situation be discussed at the next Public Works meeting. Councilwoman Scarpaci also stated that she has been in touch with the mosquito commission and was told that the Borough is on their calendar but, the weather has been holding them up. The borough scheduled to have the ditches cleaned before April.

Public Safety (Mincey, Worley, Carter) Councilwoman Mincey stated/addressed the following: Public Safety interviewed two candidates for the police department, at this time they are in the process of getting background checks.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Business Administrator Report: Sean Brown stated/addressed the following: The Cannabis Regulatory Commission announced two weeks ago that they approved their first set of conditional licensing. One of the licenses that were approved was an applicant that applied in Penns Grove. In the upcoming meetings the Borough needs to proceed with the Ordinances to regulate times of operation. Sean also stated that the housing and zoning page on the Boroughs website has been updated with, new jobs posted online.

Finance Officer Report: Ericka Walker stated/addressed the following: The introduced Budget Document along with supporting documentation was uploaded into the Fast System. The user friendly budget worksheet was uploaded in the Fast System on March 31st. The transitional Aid Application along with Appendix A thru M and supporting documentations were emailed to the Division on March 31st and on the morning of April 1st. Hard copies of all the documents should be delivered to the Division this Monday.

Police Director Report: Richard Rivera stated/addressed the following: The end of March monthly report was compared to March of last year's report. Burglaries have decreased 400%, Criminal Mischief was down 33%, domestic violence 33%, Car Stops went up, property checks have doubled, shots fired are down 50% and thefts went up this year.

Fire Chief Report: Nothing to report

Ambulance/EMS Captain Report: Nothing to report

Attorney Report: Nothing to report

Mayoral Comments: Mayor Thomas stated/addressed the following. Expresses thanks to all the officers for not going over the 2021 Budget. Also, the budget has had the biggest surplus it has had in over 20 years. In 2018 Penns Grove had a deficit of \$266,000.00 which tax payers had to pay back in the next year's taxes. In 2021 Penns Grove had \$709,000.00 in surplus. Penns Grove has raised over \$450,000.00 to demolish vacant properties and redo Barber Avenue Park with the support of Governor Phil Murphy.

APPOINTMENT(S):

Mayor Thomas Appointed Greg Martin- Penns as Class IV member to the Penns Grove Planning Board to fill the unexpired term of Jeanette Jackson

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-4-72- 2022-4-73 by consent Worley; second Carter. Roll Call. All aye.

2022-4-72 – A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE APPLICATION OF GENERATION OG, LLC.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-4-72 by consent Worley; second Carter. Roll Call. All ayes.

2022-4-73 – A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE APPLICATION OF JAWSON AND JAWSON

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-4-73 by consent Worley; second Carter. Roll Call. All ayes.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Mayor solicited public comment.

Steve Dennis, 304 State St- the Sleuth gate at the Straughn's Lane pumping station is broken. Also, the amount of trash in the pumping station needs to be cleaned up. Councilwoman Scarpaci expressed her concern with the trash as well. Mayor Thomas and Councilwoman Scarpaci exchanged information with Mr. Dennis and will be in touch to address these matters.

Lewis Pasquale, Delaware Ave- the Sleuth gate at the Straughn's Lane pumping station was repaired 4 years ago and has not been maintained since the repair. Pasqual also addressed Delaware Ave has no pumps and Mill Street has no ditch to bring the water to the pumps.

Greg Martin, Spruce Street expressed concern on picking the roads that will be cleaned for Clean Communities.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Mincey; second Worley.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mandy Renner
Deputy Clerk