

**BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING- 6:30 P.M.
COURTROOM/ VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE
October 5, 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 October 5, 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-absent, Martin-present, Mincey-present, Rambo-absent, Scarpaci-present.

MINUTES:

Motion to adopt June 15, 2021 regular session minutes by Martin; second Mincey. Roll call. All ayes.

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

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR COSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

2021-10-115 – A RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING EMERGENCY ACTION AGREEMENT WITH L&A DEMOLITION LLC REGARDING REMEDIATION OF PROPERTY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. § 40A:11-6
Scarpaci expressed concern regarding amount.

Motion to table by Scarpaci; seconded by Mincey. Roll call. All ayes.

2021-10-114 – APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PENN STREET RESURFACING

2021-10-116 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALARY AND WAGE INCREASES IN THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

2021-10-117 – A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR COUNCIL FOR THE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Motion to adopt Resolutions No. 2021-10-114, 2021-10-116, 2021-10-117 and 2021-10-118 by consent by Mincey; second Scarpaci. Roll call. All ayes.

2021-10-118 – A RESOLUTION OFFERING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF SHAWN KIDD

Motion to adopt by Martin; seconded by Carter. Roll call. All ayes.

FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

2021-24 – AN ORDINANCE CREATING AN ANTI-NEPOTISM POLICY FOR THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

Carter questioned the purpose of the Ordinance.

Tarver explained that it will prevent the hiring of family members and is required by the Recovery Plan.

Motion to adopt by Mincey; seconded by Scarpaci. Roll Call.

2021-25 – AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE TABLE OF USE REGULATIONS AND SECTION 450-14 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

Carter questioned the purpose of the Ordinance.

Tarver explained that it reviews the Table of Use, which set forth the parameters of cannabis use in the Borough and the type of licenses.

Motion to table until the October 19, 2021 meeting by Carter; second Mincey. Roll call. All ayes.

APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor announced the appointment of James M. Shields to the Liberty No. 1 Fire Company and the Penns Grove Ambulance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building and Grounds (Martin, Giordano, Rambo) Councilwoman Martin reported: Three quotes for roof installation to be considered during the October 19th meeting; Barber Avenue Park upgrades are underway.

General Government (Scarpaci, Martin, Giordano) Councilwoman Scarpaci reported: Attended Joint Insurance Fund meeting; monies received for the Safety Incentive Program (SIP), Wellness Program and Cyber Security. Attended Clean Community meeting where the banning of plastic and Styrofoam was discussed. Exchange Club conducted cleanup of Riverfront. Contacted school district regarding students to paint murals.

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree (Giordano, Martin, Rambo) Council President Mincey reported Code Enforcement report for the month of September 2022.

Recreation/ Board of Health (Carter, Mincey, Martin) Councilman Carter reported that the final "Car Cruise" will be held on October 6th. Addressed basketball event, Hispanic Heritage event and "Trunk or Treat" and encouraged participation from all.

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

Public Safety (Mincey, Martin, Giordano) No report.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Business Administrator Report: Sean Brown addressed the following: Quotes received for the installation of a new roof for Borough Hall. Purchasing, email for discussion of Committee meetings.

Finance Officer Report: Nothing to report.

Police Director Report: Richard Rivera reported the following: Salem County Prosecutor arrested homicide suspects; two officers on extended leave; Fanfarillo in Training, Officer assigned to Crossing Guard duties due to absence; conducted 30 structural assessments of Borough owned properties. Conducted walkthrough of Salem City with Acting Attorney General and the Salem County Prosecutor on September 21st; "Shoot for Change" basketball event; Police Officer's participation in the PRAC event and the Latino Festival held at the riverwalk.

Fire Chief Report: Mr. Brown announced that the reconstruction of the fire hall parking lot is underway.

Ambulance/EMS Captain Report: No report.

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

Mayoral Comments: Mayor Thomas addressed the following: Expressed appreciation to Jorge Restrepo for the Latin Festival, The Society Pages, sponsors, vendors, volunteers, and all those who participated to make the Latin Music Festival a success. Mayor expressed special appreciation to Brandon Pritchett, Corey Johnson, Landau Hill, Sean Givens, Elwood Barrett and Martin Mincey. Mayor expressed appreciation to the Exchange Club for their cleanup efforts. Mayor also expressed appreciation to Councilman Giordano, Councilman Rambo and Police Director, Richard Rivera for their assistance.

Mayor announced invite from House of Wright, who will host an open house and dedication on October 17, 2021.

Mayor expressed appreciation to the Coalition for a Safe Community, who participated in the community walk through Salem, New Jersey.

Mayor expressed congratulations to PRAC for their flag raising ceremony; congratulated Holy Temple Church on their successful event and congratulations to the Youth Empowerment Network for the "Shoot For Change" basketball event.

Mayor announced that she and council will ride on a float to participate in the Homecoming Parade on October 16th.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Tom Price, Penn Street, Penns Grove, expressed interest in purchasing 25 Penn Street, Penns Grove.

Tarver suggested meeting later.

Anjanette Scott, Mary Street, Penns Grove, questioned the park upgrades

Mr. Brown explained the funding and upgrades to the park equipment and park grounds.

Lou Pasquale, Delaware Drive, questioned the status of Lanning Avenue reconstruction. Mr. Pasquale suggested electronic signage at school crossings. Mr. Pasquale suggested researching overpasses at school crossings; further stating that he recalled a memo advising that the State would assist.

2021-10-119 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Penns Grove will go into closed session to discuss the following, in accordance with the aforesaid provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, after which it will reconvene in the public:

- I. Matters Involving Individual Privacy, and Attorney-Client Privilege Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(3)(7) – Discussion involving Kayla Veltman.
- II. Matters Pertaining to a Collective Bargaining Agreement, and Negotiations Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(4)(7) – Discussion regarding Fraternal Order of Police.
- III. Matters Relating to Litigation Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7) – Pierce vs. Borough of Penns Grove.
- IV. Matters Relating to Litigation Pursuant to N.J.S.S. 10:4-12b(7) – Hudson vs. Borough of Penns Grove.
- V. Matters Involving Individual Privacy, and Attorney-Client Privilege Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(3)(7) – Discussion regarding Attorney-General matter.

Motion to adopt by Mincey; seconded by Scarpaci. Roll call. All ayes.

Motion to reopen regular session by Mincey; seconded by Scarpaci.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Mincey; Second Scarpaci.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon R. Williams, RMC
Municipal Clerk