

BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MARCH 17, 2021
MINUTES

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 was also posted on the Borough of 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-19 ("Coronavirus"), this March 2, 2021 Meeting will be held via "Zoom" online meeting platform.
Mayor Thomas read meeting rules.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor LaDaena D. Thomas.

INVOCATION: By Robert L. Tarver, Jr., Solicitor.

ROLL CALL:

Carter – absent, Giordano – present, Martin – present, Mincey – present, Rambo – present, Scarpaci – present

EXECUTIVE SESSION: for discussion of pending Litigation matters.

Motion: Giordano Second: Mincey Voice Vote: 5 Affirm

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST AND PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Motion to adopt Martin; seconded by Rambo. Roll call. All affirm, motion passes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 2, 2021 (Regular Session)

Motion to adopt by consent: Giordano Second: Martin Roll Call: All affirm, motion passes

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CONSENT:

2023-3-41 – A CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION FOR THE FAMILY OF RANDY A. HAYWOOD

Motion to adopt by consent: Martin Second: Mincey Roll Call: All affirm, motion passes

2021-3-31 – AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH RILEY & RILEY AS LITIGATION COUNSEL FOR A ONE YEAR TERM
2021-3-32 – AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH MICHAEL A. ARMSTRONG & ASSOCIATES, LLC AS LITIGATION AND REDEVELOPMENT COUNSEL FOR A ONE YEAR TERM

2021-3-33—AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH RUDERMAN & ROTH, LLC AS LABOR COUNSEL AND LITIGATION COUNSEL FOR A ONE YEAR TERM

2021-3-34 – AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH EDWARD H. HILL, ESQ. AS LITIGATION COUNSEL AND REDEVELOPMENT COUNSEL FOR A ONE YEAR TERM

2021-3-35 – AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH BLANEY, DONOHUE, KARAVAN & WEINBERG , P.C. AS LITIGATION COUNSEL AND LABOR COUNSEL FOR A ONE YEAR TERM

2021-3-36 – AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH MCMANIMON, SCOTLAND & BAUMANN, LLC AS REDEVELOPMENT COUNSEL FOR A ONE YEAR TERM

2021-3-37 – AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH DARRYL RHONE, ESQ. AS LITIGATION COUNSEL FOR A ONE YEAR TERM

2021-3-38 – AUTHORIZING BOROUGH SOLICITOR TO SETTLE CONTESTED MATTERS UNDER \$5,000 WITHOUT COUNCIL APPROVAL

2021-3-39 – AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF UP TO \$136,000 OF SPECIAL EMERGENCY NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-3-31 through 2021-3-39 Martin Second Giordano Roll Call All Ayes

FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION FOR ORDINANCE(S): Public Hearing to be held on March 16, 2021
None

Motion to adopt by Title only: Mincey Second: Martin Roll Call: All affirm, motion passes

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE(S):

2021-8 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 206, BUILDINGS, UNFIT AND ABANDONED, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE

Motion to adopt: Second: Roll Call _____

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds (Martin, Giordano, Rambo): Councilwoman Martin rode around to inventory and assessment of abandoned properties and will report what is Borough owned vs. Privately owned.

General Government/Clean Communities/JIF Fund/ Finance (Scarpaci, Martin, Giordano): Councilman Giordano recognized Steven Labb for his work so far on budget. In April will set up series for Clean Community Events sponsored by a grant from New Jersey Clean Community. Attended School Board Meeting and provided financial information. Instructed council to attend the JIF training. Mayor also stated for the JIF training to be attendance and for each member that attends the Borough will receive a \$250 credit per person.

Housing/Zoning & Planning/Shade Tree (Giordano, Martin, Rambo): Councilman Giordano states he sent as report to council. Discussed WaWa will start construction on the strip of stores for the businesses adjacent to the IGA. Auto Zone will begin construction after the sale of adjacent lot. Zoning Board received \$300 for CO's in January and \$600 in CO's for February.

Recreation/Board of Health (Carter, Mincey, Martin): Councilman Carter absent. Councilwoman Mincey reports for Board of Health – Summons to be heard – 3. 19 Ten day Notices to be sent out and 16 Ten Day Notices have been resolved.

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

Public Safety (Mincey, Martin, Giordano): Councilman Mincey reports for Debbie Ashcraft – Reports 59 alarms and an increase in PCP use.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Finance Officer Report: Stephen Labb, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer reports the collection rate is up 1.28% and important dates are 4/6 the budget will be introduced and 4/9 transitional aid application due.

Public Safety Director Report: Lieutenant Spera 346 calls of service from March 1 through March 16, 2021 and 46 Business checks. The department is operating on a 75% staff due to medical of 2 officers, a resignation and a retirement. So far this year there were 1, 766 calls of service, 41 arrests, 99 motor vehicle summons, and 18 ordinance violations. Penns Grove police department has recovered more guns this year than all of the combined departments in Salem County.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT: Chief states that his heart goes out to the families with tombstones affected by the fire at the cemetery. The fire at Rivers Bend was due to a bonfire and urges residents to be aware of wind conditions etc.

EMS REPORT: Provided above by Council president Mincey

Attorney Report: Robert L. Tarver, Jr. states there are aggressive moves being set in place to protect the Borough.

Mayoral Comments: Mayor Thomas received a complaint regarding a fire alarm that has been going off for 3 weeks at SeaShore Produce, Chief advised they have made contact with the owner and he would not send anyone to the location and would not disarm the alarm. He said it has been ongoing for a year. Mr. Tarver added that it will be addressed quickly. Borough Hall is closed as both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk are out of the office indefinitely.

Third term Covid Vaccine for Salem County Residents 65 and older, Flyer is on the website. Call to register and transportation is available.

On March 29, 2021 Ascenda Health on Main Street is partnering with Family Success Center for Penns Grove, Carneys Point and Pennsville residents for Covid Vaccines, transportation available.

APPOINTMENTS:

- Richard Rivera- Police Director of Penns Grove Police Department

Motion: Mincey Second Giordano Roll Call Vote All affirm, motion passes

- Sean Brown- Business Administrator for the Borough of Penns Grove

Motion: Mincey Second Giordano Roll Call Vote All affirm, motion passes

Anajanette Scott – 20 Mary Street, Penns Grove – Questioned if there has been any training on the PCP use increase for the officers and stated that Salem Hospital has opened the 4th floor however does not accept new patients after 9 pm. Lieutenant Spera responded the officers have attend classes for drugs in general.

Greg Martin, Spruce Street, Penns Grove, Asked where Auto Zone is going to be located. Councilman Giordano advised across the street from Advanced Auto on Virginia Ave,

Mayor asked if there were any other questions.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Mincey seconded Martin. All in favor.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 6, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Williams, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM