

**BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE  
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING – 6:30 P.M.  
April 4, 2023 – MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor LaDaena D. Thomas in the courtroom of Borough Hall, 1 State Street, Penns Grove, New Jersey. Mayor Thomas made the Open Public Meeting Statement.

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 was also posted on the Borough of Penns Grove website: [www.pennsgrove-nj.org](http://www.pennsgrove-nj.org) and was emailed to the official newspaper as provided by Resolution. This April 4, 2023 meeting is being held via “Zoom” online meeting platform.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by LaDaena Thomas

INVOCATION: by Sharon Williams, Clerk

MEETING RULES OF CONDUCT: Mayor LaDaena Thomas

ROLL CALL: Carter – present, Marinaro – present, Rambo – present, Scott – present, Worley - absent

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST AND PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Motion to adopt by Scott Seconded Marinaro. Roll Call: All affirm, motion passed.

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION:

2023-4-62 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LIEN ASSIGNMENT

2023-4-63 – A RESOLUTION TO CANCEL TAX AS AN ERRONEOUS BILLING

2023-4-64 – AN EMERGENCY TEMPORARY BUDGET SOLUTION

2023-4-65 –A RESOLUTION REQUESTING TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF COUNTY ROADS TO CONDUCT PENNS GROVE DAY PARADE

2023-4-66 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING SCOPE OF SERVICES & COST PROPOSAL FOR ENGINEERING FOR FY 2021 NJDOT TRUST FUND IMPROVEMENTS FOR PENN STREET PHASE IV

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-4-62 through 2023-4-66 by Carter seconded Scott. Roll call: All affirm, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds (Worley, Carter, Scott): Councilwoman Scott reported on behalf of Councilwoman Worley that there are arrangements for Clean Community Events on April 22, 2023 and April 29, 2023 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM at Barber Avenue Park.

General Government/Finance/Personnel (Martin, Worley, Marinaro): Addressed under BA report.

Housing/Zoning & Planning (Marinaro, Martin, Rambo): Councilwoman Marinaro reports a meeting is scheduled at 5:30 PM prior to the next meeting regarding Mallard Park – OSHA involved; Presents the Housing Report provided by Ms. Mauer stating there are housing complaints to be completed and for March 2023 there were 20 Certificate of Occupancies, ten Zoning Applications and two motor home violations.

Recreation/Board of Health (Scott, Martin, Carter): Councilwoman Scott provided information on Easter event for Salem County, April 8, 2023 – 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM; 4/7 may have pop up event; 2022 raised \$3200 result of good works under SIP. Youth Summit begins April 29, 2023.

Public Works/Streets & Roads (Rambo, Scott, Marinaro): Councilman Rambo advised Mr. Tarver will address.

Public Safety (Carter, Rambo, Worley): Councilman Carter informed of a meeting to boost morale of the employees on March 24, 2023. There were two officers hired.

## DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Business Administrator Report – Jack Surrency reported: Newsletter sent by Charles Washington, Zoom meeting with DEP EDA and USDA and Brownsfield and possible funding. List of interest in Borough property. Met with Triad and possibility of funds for storm water pump stations. For Signage met with Hoyt Mason for vehicle signage. Mason fixed signage. Tracy Thompson met with technicians for computers, Wi-Fi, etc. at Public Works. All cameras are operational. Mallard Park issue – Erin will continue to cite – Open hole with gushing water and trash.

Finance Officer Report: Ericka Walker reported on the Transitional Aid Application and Supporting Documentation were submitted by March 31, 2023 to the Division of Local Government Services. The 2023 Introduced Municipal Budget, COLA Ordinance, Cap Levy Worksheet and Certification of New Construction was downloaded into State's FAST system. The US Federal Government's System for Award Management (SAM) was renewed for 2023. SAM must be renewed yearly to be eligible for Federal Grants. The Emergency Temporary Budget Resolution which increases Budget Appropriation for an additional three months for operations since the Borough will not be able to adopt the budget until Transitional Aid is awarded. The Emergency Temporary Budget

Public Safety Director Report: Lieutenant Frett addressed with the new hires there are currently 15 Officers in the department. In the event of problems or issues with the youth send an email to LT. Frett and include the area so the locations can be monitored., Detective Bureau possible heading; Poplar and Lanning will be closed for a few days for a water main replacement.

Attorney Report: Robert Tarver, Jr. reported Stormwater M 54 reports to be completed. Dealing with areas of waterfront where flooding occurs due to bulkhead. Negotiations with parties regarding land adjacent to waterfront; Municipal Court issues, working with AOC regarding Judge coverage. Meetings with parties regarding Grocery Store and exploring all options; Share Services agreement with Carneys Point and potential for reimbursement of funds. The trash schedule has been revised and flyers will be sent to each house by the end of week.

Mayoral Comments: Mayor Thomas had Lt. Frett report that the Shot Spotter Grant has been approved. Lt. Frett explained the use and how it identifies where shots fired and license plate readers. Mayor Thomas reported that NJEDA Asset Activation Grant for \$50,000 for the Waterfront Area to be used for Market Analysis, DProject Development and Design.

NEW BUSINESS: Set up for Everbridge Community notifications – Need to register on the Borough website.

## PUBLIC SESSION:

Angel LeFrance, Gillette Ave – question updates due to matter in Municipal Court and Mr. Tarver advised the matter must be addressed through the court. Mr. Tarver will speak with Ms. LeFrance after meeting due to the nature of the case.

Russell Hoffman, Iona Ave – Mr. Hoffman has been having ongoing issues with parking on both sides of Iona Avenue by the Penns Grove – Carneys Point Regional School District during the Board of Education Meetings. Mr. Tarver advised he will speak with Mr. Hoffman after the meeting.

Irene Scarpaci, Railroad Ave – Lot and block number for first resolution and lien; Mrs. Scarpaci questioned timeframe for bulkhead; Mr. Tarver advised the project is moving forward at this time.

Lou Pasquale, Delaware Ave – commended the Business Administrator for pump station issues; Airy Ave flooding issues; Lanning Ave, shipping lines causing bigger waves when traveling the river. Mr. Tarver advised that there was a recent regulations set in place that had not been in place prior and moving forward properties can be held accountable.

- Officer Briggs and Officer Soto were sworn in by Mayor Thomas

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Williams, Municipal Clerk

MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM