

**BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE  
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING – 6:30 P.M.  
August 2, 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. 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 August 2, 2023 meeting is being held via “Zoom” online meeting platform.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor LaDaena Thomas

INVOCATION: Sharon Williams, Municipal Clerk

MEETING RULES OF CONDUCT: Mayor LaDaena Thomas

ROLL CALL: Council President, Anjanette Scott – Present, Councilman Jonathan Carter – Present, Councilwoman Tracy Marinaro – Present, Councilman John Rambo – Present, Councilwoman Deborah Scott – Present, Councilwoman Sonya Worley – Present

**COMMENDATION:**

Resolution No. 2023-8-116 – A RESOLUTION COMMENDING JUDGE WITCHER UPON HIS RETIREMENT – Read by Mayor Thomas

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

Accolades provided by Nelson Carney, NAACP, Jack Surrency, Robert Tarver, Jr., Council President Scott, and Elliot Hernandez.

**APPOINTMENT:**

Resolution No. 2023-8-117 – A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE – Biography read by Mayor Thomas.

Motion to adopt by Council President Scott, seconded by Marinaro. Roll call: All affirm, motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST AND PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

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

**RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION:**

**2023-8-113 – RENEWAL OF IN ANTHONY’S ROTTEN RALPH NJ INACTIVE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE RETAIL LICENSE FOR THE 2022-2023 AND 2023-2024 LICENSE TERMS**

2023-8-114 – A RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO THINK PAVERS HARDSCAPING, LLC FOR PENN STREET (PHASE IV) IMPROVEMENTS

2023-8-115 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT BOND FOR THE LIBERTY FIRE STATION PARKING LOT RECONSTRUCTION

2023-8-118 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK

Motion to adopt by consent Resolutions No. 2023-8-113 through 2023-8-118 by Council President Scott, second by Carter. Roll Call: All affirm, motion passed.

ORDINANCE(S) FOR FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION:

2023-9 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023-2, ESTABLISHING FEES FOR BOROUGH ACTION TO REMEDY PROPERTY VIOLATIONS

Motion to adopt by Title Only by Worley, seconded by Deborah Scott. Roll Call: All affirm, motion passed.

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING AND ADOPTION:

2023-8 – AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH CANNABIS LAND USE REGULATIONS

Public Comment:

Irene Scarpaci, Railroad Ave – Mrs. Scarpaci questioned if the Ordinance limits the number of licenses. Mr. Tarver responded that the Ordinance does not limit the number of licenses.

Greg Martin, Cedarwood Ave, Carneys Point – Mr. Martin asked for clarification. Mr. Tarver informed the Ordinance sets parameters and regulations for cannabis.

Motion to adopt by Marinaro, seconded by Carter. Roll call: all affirm, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds: Councilwoman Worley addressed flooring will be installed this weekend. Councilwoman Worley thanked all who helped this weekend.

General Government/Finance/Personnel: Council President Scott provided the Municipal Clerk Report for June 2023.

Housing/Zoning & Planning: Councilwoman Marinaro reported on the cleanup of properties. Mayor Thomas stated some of the maintenance and such of properties need to be done by a contractor and the cost is billed to the property owner. Councilwoman Marinaro stated potholes will be resolved upon additional laborer.

Recreation/Board of Health: Councilman Carter provided the Vital Statistics Report for June 2023. Councilman Carter stated the Blue Notes event was nice. Councilman Carter stated the BBS Boys of Delaware event will be August 6, 2023, from 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM. He also outlined the process for vendors and that the guidelines will be followed. Council President Scott stated there is a

Back-To-School Event at Barber Avenue Park from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM and September 17, 2023, will be a multi-cultural event at the Riverwalk.

Public Works/Streets & Roads: Councilman Rambo followed up on the loss of power at the pump stations; A return call has not yet been received from Atlantic City Electric by Mr. Surrency. Councilman Rambo informed that the storm drains are collecting grass from the streets resulting in the grass sticking to the screens at the pump stations. There are busted lights at the Riverwalk and possibly need to put cages since people are continuing to throw rocks. Councilman Rambo serviced the lawn mower. Councilman provided accolades to the laborers being more observant.

Public Safety: Mr. Jack Surrency informed the Public Works Crew cleaned up 101 Lanning Avenue. Councilwoman Scott requested the crew continue to maintain the property and board up.

#### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Business Administrator Report: Jack Surrency provided the Engineering Report regarding repairs to Straughn's Lane, Penn Street and Pitman Street. Mr. Surrency advised the Masterplan meeting is upcoming. Mr. Surrency mentioned the need of fishing nets to clean the pump stations.

Finance Officer Report: Mrs. Ericka Walker stated the full amount of transitional aid was received and Mr. Labb will provide the Budget amendment upon his return.

Public Safety Report: Mr. Rivera stated the National Night Out was successful with a turnout of 300 to 400 residents at the event. Mr. Rivera commented that there was another accident at the intersection of Broad Street and Pitman Avenue. Mr. Rivera has been in contact with the county regarding the maintenance of the road within the Borough.

Mayoral Comments: Mayor Thomas commented that National Night Out was successful and fun. Mayor announced there will be a monthly newsletter and the next one will have information on trash and recycling as well as the Public Works Department. Mayor provided information on the upcoming Grand reopening of Barber Avenue Park. Mayor informed of the passing of John Gannello, the owner of the trash company that services the Borough. Mayor also informed of the passing of Lieutenant Governor Oliver and offers her condolences to both families.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

2023-8-119 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF A LABORER

Motion to adopt by Carter, seconded by Council President Scott. Roll call: all affirm, motion passed.

#### PUBLIC SESSION:

Carl Washington – Mr. Washington suggested the use of stickers for overweight regarding the trash. Mr. Washington advised that House of Wright has been in business 30 years this upcoming Wednesday and there will be ice cream from 3:00PM to 4:00PM on August 9, 2023. Mr. Washington questioned if there will be food for the kids at the Barber Avenue Park opening and has offered to provide hot dogs for the event if needed. Mr. Washington provided accolades to the police department with the investigation of his son's shooting.

Mayor Thomas advised her aunt Betty Reed Johnson passed and the service will be on August 15, 2023 in Maryland,

Dana – via zoom – stated she has video of the trash collectors throwing trash cans for the last two weeks and that her elderly neighbors' can was thrown into the street. Dana states this is resulting in the cans being broken on Gillison Avenue.

Greg Martin – Cedarwood Avenue, Carneys Point – Mr. Martin stated he was happy to see the dog stations.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by consent by Carter, second Marinaro.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Hills, Deputy Clerk

**MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM**