

**BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – 6:30 P.M.
May 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 and was emailed to the official newspaper as provided by Resolution. This March 28, 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 – Absent

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST AND PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION:

2023-5-77 – RESOLUTION CREATING MAYOR’S OFFICE ON LATINO AFFAIRS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
2023-5-78 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN CTX INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE TO CONSTRUCT AN ADDITIONAL COURT - Mayor provided context on the purpose of resolution.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-5-77 by title only Marinaro, seconded by Council President Scott. Roll call: Four affirm, motion passed, D. Scott abstained.

2023-5-79 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 IN THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE AND CTX INFRASTRUCTURE LLC
2023-5-80 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR DEMOLITION OF BOROUGH PROPERTIES

Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-5-78 through 2023-5-80 by Council President Scott, seconded by Marinaro. Roll call: Four affirm, motion passed, D. Scott abstained.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION:

2023-5 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND CREATING STANDARDS FOR A BOROUGH PROCUREMENT CARD

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds: Councilwoman Worley reported on a meeting that discussed updates with the park, floors and doors needed at Borough Hall. Thanked all for the Clean Communities event, and the reschedule to May 20, 2023 at Barber Avenue Park from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Thanked Council President Scott, Lieutenant Frett and Carol Mincey.

Housing/Zoning & Planning: Councilwoman Marinaro provided Housing Inspector report for the for Ms. Mauer that there are ongoing issues with Mallard Park. Housing/Zoning report for the

month of April there were 20 certificate of occupancies issued for resale and rental properties, 15 zoning applications for pools and fences and possible meeting with Landlords in July.

Recreation/Board of Health: Council President Scott thanked all those involved with the Youth Summit; and stated that the next one will be on May 20, 2023. Friday, May 12, 2023 will be the Kings & Queens event at the Elks Lodge 1358, 57 W. Main Street, and is a free event. Big Hats Brunch will be held at the Elks Lodge on May 13, 2023. Provided Board of Health reports for January, February and March 2023 and Municipal Clerk reports for January, February and March 2023.

Public Works/Streets & Roads: Councilman Rambo reported on a meeting to discuss the severity of the potholes. Currently researching pricing on resolution. Councilman Rambo stated that a third of street signs are missing in the Borough. Councilman Rambo addressed Stand up Commercial Mowers are being looked into for the Public Works Department. Councilman Rambo addressed the Christmas Tree Light pole by Broad and Main stating it is out of service. Councilman Rambo also addressed the Ordinance regarding seawall preparation.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Business Administrator provided by Mr. Robert Tarver, Jr. Mr. Tarver provided information on SDL onboarding, and seasonal part-time laborers to assist with Public Works functions.

Public Safety Director Report provided by Director Rivera. Mr. Rivera provided comparison from April 2022 to April 2023 that burglaries are down 66%, shot fired are down a third. There is an increase in car accidents. No robberies for April. Working with the school district administrators especially at Penns Grove Middle School. Proud of officers Briggs, Acevedo and Sergeant Hemple regarding a Domestic Violence Incident where the individual was apprehended. One officer was maced in the incident, but the officers were able to deescalate the situation.

Mr. Rivera stated there were 50 ambulance calls and nine fire calls for April 2023.

Attorney Report provided by Mr. Tarver. Mr. Tarver addressed that foreclosures stating that the Borough will be moving forward aggressively on vacant and abandoned properties and explained the process. Discussed the Procurement Card Ordinance.

Mayoral Report: Mayor Thomas provided information that there will be an additional half basketball court at Barber Avenue Park. Provided additional information on 2023-5-79 for change order #2 with CTX; Stating that there was unforeseen ground sinkage that posed a safety hazard. The area will be re excavated, resurfaced and repainted by June 1, 2023.

Resolution 2023-5-80 is a request for proposal for demolition. Ordinance 2023-5 is a move to modernize the tax office. There will be a Town Hall meeting at 6:00PM on May 16, 2023. Congratulations to all those awarded at the VFW on Saturday, April 29, 2023 including Patrolman Gagliardi, McElroy, Detective Hart and the Ambulance Squad.

NEW BUSINESS: Council President provided information on the Penns Grove Day Parade, including the route, festivities following at the park, the theme is "Homecoming". There will be a fishing event in memory of Mr. Weigle on June 3, 2023 with a rain date of June 4, 2023.

PRESENTATION:

Uncle B's LLC, Brian Green has five retail licenses, provided information on the background, Economic Development and Community Impact.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Thomas Vardley, 80 S. Broad Street – Questioned an easement, Mr. Tarver will address with him after the meeting.

Irene Scarpacci, Railroad Avenue – Questioned the RFQ's for trash service and which statute addressed it. Mr. Tarver will discuss this after the meeting.

Mr. Rivera provided an update to Mrs. Scarpacci regarding the property checks on Route 130 around her store that was mentioned in a previous meeting.

Greg Martin, Spruce Street – Mr. Martin questioned the age requirement of the seasonal workers and suggested opening the positions to high school age kids. Questioned if the properties for demolition have been selected. Mr. Tarver provided not all and final declaration will be made by Construction Official. Mr. Martin questioned making Beach Ave a two way street since St. James school has closed it has remained a one way. He asked what streets were cleaned during the clean community event and Councilwoman Worley responded that Tyrone, Pitman, Harmony, Cumberland and Iona had been completed.

Council President Scott discussed the disrespectfulness of the residents that trashed the streets within 20 minutes of the clean communities being completed.

Mr. Martin stated that he will be resigning from the Planning Board as he is moving out of the Borough.

Lou Pasquale, Delaware Avenue – Mr. Pasquale questioned the DOT for Penn and Lanning. Spoke of the Straughns Lane and concern of the sand and that it needs to be blown out of the check valve and that there are fallen trees. Waiting on Penn Street Phase IV.

Brenda Fowler - Provided information on Prayer Meeting in Dunns Park on May 4, 2023 from 12:00PM to 2:00PM and 6:00PM to 8:00PM.

Council President Scott acknowledged Qawaun White for work done.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Council President Scott, Seconded by Marinaro Voice Vote

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hills, Deputy Clerk

MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM