

**BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – 6:30 P.M.
June 7, 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 June 7, 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 - Absent, Councilman John Rambo – Present, Councilwoman Deborah Scott – Absent, Councilwoman Sonya Worley – Present

MINUTES:

- March 7, 2023 – Regular Session

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST AND PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION:

2023-6-81 – RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALTERNATE FUND COMMISSIONER TO THE MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND

2023-6-82 – RESOLUTION APPOINTING CONTACT PERSONS FOR THE EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY ATTORNEY CONSULTATION SERVICE GLOUCESTER, SALEM, CUMBERLAND COUNTIES MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND

2023-6-83 – RESOLUTION REQUESTING TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF COUNTY ROADS TO CONDUCT THE PENNS GROVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CONGRESS HOMECOMING DAY PARADE

2023-6-84 – RESOLUTION APPOINTING POLICE OFFICER

2023-6-85 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF DUPLICATE TAX SALE

2023-6-86 – RENEWAL OF INACTIVE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE RETAIL LICENSE NO. FOR THE 2023-2024 LICENSE TERM * This resolution was pulled from the agenda by Mayor Thomas

2023-6-87 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF NON-CONFORMING PROPERTY TO OSCAR CARILLO AND TRINITY TECHNOLOGIES

2023-6-88 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE LANNING AVENUE ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

2023-6-89 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT THE NEW JERSEY ASSETT ACTIVATION PLANNING GRANT

2023-6-90 – RENEWAL OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE RETAIL LICENSES FOR THE 2023-2024 LICENSE TERM

Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-6-81 through 2023-6-90 (with the exception of 2023-6-86) by consent by Council President Scott, Seconded by Carter. Roll call, all affirm.

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING AND ADOPTION:

2023-4 – CALENDAR YEAR 2023 MODEL ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Public Comment: None

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

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

Public Comment: None

Motion to adopt by Carter, Seconded by Worley. Roll call: all affirm, motion passed

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING AND ADOPTION:

2023-6- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 206-18 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH F PENNS GROVE ESTABLISHING FEES FOR BOROUGH ACTIONS TO REMEDY PROPERTY VIOLATIONS

Motion to adopt by title only by Council President Scott, Seconded by Worley. Roll call: all affirm, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building & Grounds: Councilwoman Worley congratulated the election candidates and Officer Diaz. Councilwoman Worley announced that on June 17, 2023 there will be a Clean Communities event from 9:00AM to 11:AM and all 501C3 companies are welcome. Councilwoman Worley questioned if there were updates for the carpet and floor at Borough Hall and Mr. Tarver advised it will be addressed in the Business Administrator report.

Recreation/Board of Health: Council President Scott thanked the participants of the last events. Council President Scott informed the Youth Summit is doing well. There was limited attendance at the mother/son dance. Penns Grove Day is being held on June 10, 2023, and there will be an email, flyers to follow. The Parade will end at the Riverfront with a Homecoming celebration. There will be a Daddy/Daughter dance on June 16, 2023. There will be a Father's Day Brunch on June 18, 2023. Car and Bike event at the park on June 24, 2023. The fishing event in memory of Mr. Weigle went great.

Public Safety: Councilman Carter informed that there was interview last month of Officer Diaz. Currently 15 officers and will continue to interview until the department has 16 officers. Thanked Sergeant Hemple for the fishing event. Oldies night at the Riverfront had a great turnout.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Business Administrator Report: Mr. Jack Surrency reported that the Barber Avenue Park courts are almost complete. Jif has a list of repairs and Atlantic City Electric replaced the meters at the Delaware Ave Pump Station to digital. There is a Cyber Security Grant. Bids went out and quotes have been received for the flooring. Rite Aid to Broad had street cleaning and over 3,000 pounds of dirt removed from the curbside. Public Works is looking to have two seasonal lawn cutters. Councilman Carter suggested four trashcans at the Riverfront as well as dog waste cans. Mr. Tarver advised violation signs have been ordered. Mayor Thomas suggested cameras.

Finance Officer Report provided by Ericka Walker, assistant to the CFO. Mrs. Walker reported the COLA Ordinance which authorizes the increase of Budget Appropriations from 2.50% to 3.50% and also authorizes the Banking of balance not utilized in the 2023 Municipal Budget for the next two years.

Tax Collection Percentage 6/02/2023: 81.79%

Tax Collection Percentage 6/02/2022: 80.51%

The Year-to-Date Comparison is showing a 1.28% increase from prior year.

Public Safety Director Report provided by Director Rich Rivera. Director Rivera reported that the new Officer Diaz is experienced from other agencies and is a certified youth counselor. The department is continuing to interview others. Memorial Day Weekend denied a fifth road closure permit and a permit for Memorial Park was approved. The fishing event was a great success and thanked Officer Hempel and the vendors. Discussed the dog waste issue at the riverfront. The police Department will have a presence at the car show as well as the other events throughout the summer.

Attorney Report provided by Mr. Robert Tarver, Jr. Mr. Tarver that the street closures provide a liability to the Borough. Mr. Tarver discussed that there are areas of the Riverfront under litigation. Mr. Tarver addressed the Asset Activation Grant NJEDA for \$50,000 for planning and analysis to develop the riverfront. Mr. Tarver stated that the Borough has partnered with Cumberland County Improvement

Authority for the project. Mr. Tarver commented that there is also a Food Security Grant for \$100,000 to service distressed areas for supermarket planning.

Mayoral Comments: Mayor Thomas thanked the council and employees for understanding of the cancellation of the last meeting. Provided thanks to Officer Hemple for the fishing derby. The turnout for Oldies night was great. On July 30, 2023, the Mayor announced the Blue Notes are sponsored by DiPaolo's, will entertain at the riverfront and the Intruders possibly in August 2023. For Public Works would like to have two laborers per district. Provided congratulations to the winners of the election. Invites all to attend Penns Grove Day.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Ashcraft provided Emergency Management Report and the updates are on the website. There will be a virtual meeting on June 20, 2023. Working on renewal of plan to see if it is still feasible.

Irene Scarpaci ,Railroad Avenue – Questioned if letters were sent to the bulkhead owners and if Argorosomus, LLC is going to be charged. Mr. Tarver advised that all has been done and is unable to comment further due to the matter being in litigation.

Bill Hauser – Asked about the lighting issues that he has been dealing with for 16 months and advised he had spoken with the Housing Inspector. Advised he wants an answer in 10 days or he will be filing a suit. Mr. Tarver advised if he has an attorney he should be speaking with them. Mayor advised Mr. Hauser that the matter will not be discussed further during the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by Worley, Seconded by Carter.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hills, Deputy Clerk

MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM