

**BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – 6:30 P.M.
July 5, 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 July 5, 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 – Absent, Councilwoman Tracy Marinaro- Present, Councilman John Rambo – Present, Councilwoman Deborah Scott – Absent, Councilwoman Sonya Worley – Absent

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST AND PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION:

2023-7-95 –AN EMERGENCY TEMPORARY BUDGET RESOLUTION

202-7-96 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A DUPLICATE TAX SALE CERTIFICATE

2023-7-97 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE TO ACCEPT THE NJEDA FOOD SECURITY GRANT *Mr. Tarver stated that a \$100,000 grant so the Borough can assess the feasibility of a grocery store. Analysis, testing resolution is part of grant. Councilwoman Marinaro questioned the next steps. Mr. Tarver stated analysis and hiring of professionals.

2023-7-98 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH TRIAD ASSOCIATES TO ASSIST WITH THE ACQUISITION OF FUNDS UNDER THE NJDCA SMALL CITIES PUBLIC FACILITIES PROGRAM FOR THE STRAUGHNS LANE PUMPING STATION

2023-7-99 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH TRIAD ADVISORY SERVICES, INC. TO PREPARE A LOCAL ENERGY AUDIT FOR MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

2023-7-100 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH REMINGTON AND VERNICK ENGINEERS TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE NJDCA SMALL CITY’S PUBLIC FACILITIES GRANT FOR EAST PITMAN STREET STORM SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

2023-7-101 – A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM REMINGTON AND VERNICK ENGINEERS FOR PREPARATION OF GRANT FUNDING APPLICATIONS FROM NJDEP FOR REMEDIATION OF 76 S. VIRGINIA AVE

2023-7-102 – A RESOLUTION AWARDING AT RISK YOUTH GRANT TO THE PENNS GROVE COMMUNITY HOUSING INITIATIVE CORPORATION *Councilman Carter asked if this was last year’s grant and Mr. Tarver advised it is from last year.

2023-7-103 – RENEWAL OF IN’N OUT LIQUOR, INC. INACTIVE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE RETAIL LICENSE FOR THE 2023-2024 LICENSE TERM * PULLED FROM AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-7-95 through 2023-7-102 by consent by Council President Scott, Seconded by Worley. Roll call: all affirm, motion passed.

ORDINANCE(S) FOR FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION:

2023-8 – AN ORDINANCE CODYFYING THE OPERATION OF CANNABIS FQACILITIES WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE *Pulled by MR. Tarver until Special Meeting

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING AND ADOPTION:

2023-7 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 206-18 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE ESTABLISHING FEES FOR BOROUGH ACTION TO REMEDY PROPERTY VIOLATIONS
Public Comment: Luis Burgos, 99 Penn Street questioned if this is for private, or Borough owned properties. Mayor Thomas advised private properties.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

General Government Report provided by Council President Scott. Council President provided the Municipal Clerk's report for April 2023. Council President Scott commended Sharon Williams, Ericka Walker, Steven Labb, Erin Mauer and Jen Koeturius for the last event. Council president thanked Jack, Rich and the Department of Public Works who participated in the Recreation event Stop the Violence and Bookbag Event. Council President Scott stated there was a meeting Monday and there was discussion of upcoming events, changes and volunteers.

Recreation/Board of Health report was provided by Councilman Carter. Councilman Carter provided the Registrar's report for April and May 2023.

Public Works/Streets & Roads report provided by Councilman Rambo. Councilman Rambo provided information on the flooding and the issues with the trash entering the pump systems. Councilman Rambo discussed the need for Personal Protective Equipment for Public Works Employees. Councilman Rambo advised that Council President Scott will check with JIF for training on mower safety.

Public Safety had no report per Councilwoman Deborah Scott. Councilman Carter advised there have been 12 applicants to the police department with six being eliminated and six being reviewed.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Business Administrator report provided by Mr. Jack Surrency. Mr. Surrency thanked Councilman Rambo during the pump station outage with his help. Mr. Surrency and Mr. Dunn reviewed the need for pothole fill. Provided update that the insurance has approved the flooring of the first floor.

Finance Report provided by Mrs. Ericka Walker. Mrs. Walker advised the Temporary Budget Resolution until the 2023 Municipal Budget is finalized.

Public Safety Report provided by Mr. Rich Rivera. Mr. Rivera informed all that there is a Police Youth Initiative Program Grant for \$47,000 to fund events. Mr. Softee event is the first scheduled. National night out will be held on the first Tuesday in August. Mr. Rivera also advised there are issues with the light fixtures at the Ambulance Hall.

Attorney Report provided by Mr. Robert Tarver, Jr. Mr. Tarver provided information that there is a strategy dealing with the foreclosures and that the U.S. Supreme Court decision impacts how to move forward. Mr. Tarver stated that bids for demolition are forthcoming. Mr. Tarver anticipates RFQ's for trash and recycling services. Mr. Tarver stated he is pleased with Councilman Rambo's impact with the Department of Public Works. Mr. Tarver also stated that there will be a company to provide a quote for street sweeping.

Mayoral Comments: Mayor Thomas thanked all who participated in the events, Mayor stated that the car show was great. Mayor thanked Council President Scott for obtaining a DJ and Mr. Tarver for donation to cover the cost. Mayor announced that the next Oldies night will be July 16, 2023, and on July 30, 2023, the Blue Notes will perform courtesy of DiPaolo's. Mayor stated she had a visit with former Mayor John Washington to make peace and it was a great visit.

NEW BUSINESS: 2023-7-104 – A RESOLUTION AUTORIZING THE YOUTH SUMMIT INIATIVE GRANT

Motion to adopt by Deborah Scott, Seconded by Worley. Roll call: Five affirm, motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Steve Dennis, State Street – Mr. Dennis states his property borders Straughn's Lane and thanked Councilman Rambo for running pumps at 5:30 AM. Mr. Dennis stated the vegetation needs to be cleaned out.

Luis Burgos, 99 Penn Street – Mr. Burgos expressed concern regarding Borough owned properties not being maintained. Engineers have expressed the same and suggested they contact him regarding the properties.

Greg Martin, Cedarwood Lane, Carneys Point – Mr. Martin questioned why the residents aren't required to have trash cans.

John Gilliam, Railroad Avenue – Questioned if there was any way the Recreation Committee could assist with the basketball program at Penns Grove Middle School. Mayor Thomas informed Mr. Gilliam to write a proposal. President Scott expressed appreciation.

Ron Giordano, Sack Avenue – Mr. Giordano commended Mayor Thomas for reaching out to former Mayor Washington. Mr. Giordano thanked Councilman Rambo for his efforts with Public Works. Mr. Giordano also asks the police to enforce littering. He questioned the invoices from Sean Smith and was provided a response by Mayor Thomas that Mr. Smith owned the firm but had other licensed engineers employed.

Brenda Fowler, Carneys Point – Ms. Fowler addressed the ideas of the youth and expansion of the community center.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

2023-7-105 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

REGULAR SESSION:

2023-7-106 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH ZELLAR & Wieliczko, LLP

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Carter, Seconded by Rambo.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hills, Deputy Clerk

MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM