



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at the Municipal Complex, 1 School Street, Peapack, New Jersey and began at 6:31 p.m.

Mayor Skinner called the meeting to order. Borough Clerk Nancy A. Bretzger read the Sunshine Notice "Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Adequate notice of 2020 Meeting Dates was published in the Courier News and Bernardsville News on December 5, 2019, and posted at the Municipal Complex and the Borough Library. Action may be taken."

Mayor Skinner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call indicated the following present: Mayor Skinner, Councilman Caminiti, Council President Corigliano, Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Smith, Councilman Sweeney

Absent: Councilwoman Dietrich

Also present were: Randy Bahr, Interim Administrator, John Bruder, Esq., Borough Attorney, and Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 36-20 – Authorization for Executive Session for Certified Specified Purposes – (1) Contract Negotiations – (a) Potential Acquisition of Property (2) Comcast Franchise Renewal was read. Motion was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilman Sweeney. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Public Meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – 5 MINUTES PER PERSON – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Skinner asked if any member of the Public wishes to speak about non-agenda items.

Kingsley Hill – Brookside Dr., Gladstone – Mr. Hill stated that at the last meeting he spoke about a human resources crisis he believes is in the town and that there are rumors that there is a criminal investigation into human resources practices. Councilman Sweeney stated as Police Chair he is not aware of an official police and criminal investigation into human resources. Councilman Caminiti stated that personnel issues are confidential. Mr. Hill said that he is on the outside and that he is speaking about rumors that may need to be addressed. Council President Corigliano stated that Mr. Hill is a Borough employee and may be privileged to hear confidential information, and Mr. Hill said that he is standing here as a private citizen and his role as a Borough employee doesn't give him access to human resources. Mr. Hill continued by suggesting that some of the Council may have an unspoken agenda to merge with another town, probably Bedminster. He further stated that the Council is allowing services to purposely deteriorate in advance of this. Councilman Smith interjected and stated that there is no such discussion, whatsoever. Mr. Hill said that he is trained as an economist and that from an efficiency standpoint there is considerable value in reducing the number of small towns and that there is interest on the part of the liberal/progressive State Assembly and the Governor to merge small towns. Mr. Hill said that he doesn't want to see this happen



MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2020



to our town but perhaps there is a majority that would put tax savings and efficiency above the higher level of security, autonomy and service that the Borough gets. Mr. Hill stated that he doesn't object to the notion of a merger, but he stated let's talk about it and put it out as a referendum and don't go about this in a devious way. Mr. Hill continued that maybe Council's strategy is to cripple the town and put it in a desperate position because you don't believe that the majority would support a merger and that Council wants to merge despite the residents' views. He said that Council is carrying out a deceptive policy to deprive residents of their quality of life. Councilman Smith said that he thoroughly disagrees with the premise that we're trying to eliminate the town and he takes offense as HR chair. He has worked hard as HR chair to try to provide decent services to the community by trying to rebuild different functions and we appreciate all our employees. He stated that this is insulting the governing body. Councilman Caminiti responded that this is shockingly misguided and inaccurate but you're free to have any opinion you like but it has nothing to do with reality. He said that making statements like we're creating a toxic work environment or that we're randomly hiring Administrators is silly in response to Mr. Hill's statement that there have been five Administrators in five years. Councilman Smith noted that the Borough is small and doesn't have the ability to pay what other towns do, and the last Administrator left for a higher paying job closer to his home. Council President Corigliano made a statement regarding the public comments section on the agenda for non-agenda items that allows Mr. Hill to say his piece. He continued that in his view what he just heard were accusations that are not true and have no basis. Mr. Hill said that it is not just himself with this opinion about a problem with human resources and what's being done in town. Mr. Hill asked if anyone has an agenda to merge the town. Mayor Skinner stopped Mr. Hill, saying he has made his point and polls are not going to be taken as Mr. Hill started to do.

Ron Hill – Gladstone – Mr. Hill asked why it has taken so long to give the Borough Roads Department a pay raise. Mr. Hill said that he feels that the Borough does not take care of the people that take care of us. Council President Corigliano said that last year when the budget was approved the Council held off on pay raises because union negotiations had started. He continued that pay raises were recently approved to be retroactive to January 1, 2019. Mr. Hill asked what the percentages were, and was told that they're based on the same formula that other Borough employee raises were based on. Councilman Sweeney said that Councilman Smith is looking to put together a more standardized pay scale for the DPW that could be in steps based on longevity. Mr. Bahr cautioned the Council that they are under negotiations with the union.

PROCLAMATIONS

Greg Yannaccone – Land Use Board – Mayor Skinner stated that there is a proclamation for Greg Yannaccone, the recently retired Land Use Board Chair, and since he is not present, we will do this at the next meeting in order to recognize his service.

MINUTES

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the ReOrg Meeting minutes of January 2, 2020. Councilman Caminiti motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilman Sweeney. Said motion was passed unanimously.



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2020**

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Regular Meeting minutes of January 7, 2020. Councilman Caminiti motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Council President Corigliano. Said motion was passed, with Councilwoman Murphy abstaining.

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Executive Session minutes of January 7, 2020. Councilman Caminiti motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilman Sweeney. Said motion was passed, with Councilwoman Murphy abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS

Comcast Franchise Renewal – Council President Corigliano stated that there was a public hearing at the previous meeting for renewing the franchise and in response to the requests the Borough made at that meeting the Borough received a letter from Comcast denying everything requested despite their promise to meet and discuss the Borough's requests. He said that Mr. Bruder will send a response.

NEW BUSINESS

Recreation Commission – Councilman Sweeney stated that Diane Becker will be retiring, effective March 31, 2020. The Commission had their reorg meeting and so the calendar is being put together and assignments handed out. Councilman Sweeney stated this is not part of a mass exodus from the Borough, she was ready to retire. Mayor Skinner would like to do a proclamation for her when she retires. There is also an opening for a commissioner of the Recreation Commission. Councilman Smith said that with Carter van Dyke coming to the February 11 meeting, he is looking for input from the Recreation Commission for anything that would like to see for the Liberty Park tot lot. Councilman Sweeney said that he will ask some Commission members to attend and that they are agreeable with spending monies from the Recreation trust fund for the upgrade. Councilwoman Murphy said that it would be nice to figure out a way to get more people to volunteer because it is the same 30 people who are on multiple committees, and we need to reach out to the next generation. Councilman Sweeney said that this can be advertised as a PG alert that notifies Nextdoor. Council President Corigliano feels that one way to get new volunteers is to get out there and talk to the residents.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS

Council President Corigliano stated that since Councilwoman Dietrich couldn't be at the meeting tonight, she had suggested that the Borough invite Congressman Malinowski to have a town hall in our gym. He continued that he supports this idea and thinks it is something the Council needs to discuss. Councilman Caminiti feels that this is a good idea unless it turns into a campaign event. Councilman Sweeney does not think this is a good idea because he feels that this is a campaign event. Councilwoman Murphy supports the idea because he is representative of this area, regardless of political party. Councilman Smith said that he supports this idea if an outside organization puts in the request rather than have Council do so. Council President Corigliano read Councilwoman Dietrich's email with the request. It was decided that if this was submitted as a property request by the Congressman's office then Council would decide upon this following the same procedure used for all property requests with a waiver of fees.

Councilman Caminiti wanted to give a shout out to all of the volunteers for the employee and volunteer appreciation party.



MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2020



RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 37-20 Mayoral Appointments for the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone for the Year 2020 was read. Motioned by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Council President Corigliano. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 38-20 Resolution to Award Towing License for the Period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022 (3 Years) was read. Motioned by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 39-20 Resolution for Dissolution of Komline Advisory Committee was read. Motioned by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 41-20 Authorizing Borough Police Department to Participate in Somerset County Superbowl Sunday's DWI Safe Passage Grant was read. Motioned by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilman Sweeney. Said motion was passed unanimously.

BILLS LIST

Resolution No. 40-20 Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List in the amount of \$700,758.80. Motion to approve payment was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Finance – Council President Corigliano reported that he is working on the 2020 budget and is looking to set up a special meeting for a Saturday in February.

Sanitation & Sewer – Councilwoman Murphy stated that she has no update.

Borough Property – Councilman Caminiti stated that he has no report with the exception of the well drilling. Councilman Smith said that well drilling at Liberty Park is underway and they are down to 97 feet and once they find bedrock, they'll be close to the water vein. Carter van Dyke is coming on February 11th for a 30-minute public presentation to get comments before going out to bid on the civil project.

Fire – Councilman Smith congratulated the newly elected officers of the Fire Company and thanked Council President Corigliano for standing in for him and Councilwoman Murphy. He also said that there is a very nice article in the Bernardsville News on the First Aid Squad about volunteerism in the Borough.

Police– Councilman Sweeney said that he and Councilwoman Dietrich will be meeting with a group called Warren Blue Ridge on January 29 because they are interested in doing deer culling. Councilman Sweeney stated that this will only be bow and arrow and that there should be no costs incurred. There was discussion regarding this topic. Councilman Sweeney confirmed that there will be a Safe Streets meeting with the County on the same day.

Roads & Transportation – Councilman Sweeney stated that his earlier report covered this.



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2020**



Zoning & Construction – Mayor Skinner stated that he has no update.

Legal – Mr. Bruder stated that he has no update.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Bahr stated that he spoke with Sarah Jane Noll, the Zoning Officer, regarding the property maintenance ordinance and that she stated it is working very well. She said that there are not many calls pertaining to the ordinance but when there are the residents take care of issues right away and she has not needed to give any violations. Councilman Sweeney asked about an earlier ordinance regarding fees that were charged for rental registrations and if the fees cover the cost of the inspections. Council President Corigliano stated that the fees were raised to \$100/unit for the first unit, and \$50/unit for additional units. Mr. Bahr said that he would take a look at the current fees to answer Councilman Sweeney's question.

Mr. Bahr stated that the Fire Department building lease has run out on December 31, 2019 and with Council's permission he will have Mr. Bruder put together a new ten-year lease for review.

Mr. Bahr also said that we've been contacted by Bedminster because NJ American Water is before the BPU for an increase of just under 12 percent for water rates. The last time this was done the Borough joined with other municipalities to hire an attorney and Bedminster asked if we'd do this again. Mr. Bahr spoke regarding the impact of the increase. The Council agreed that we should participate with the surrounding municipalities.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Skinner stated that he has no update.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – 3 MINUTES PER PERSON – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Mayor Skinner asked if any member of the Public wishes to speak about agenda items.

No one came forward.

The Mayor asked if there was any further business for discussion.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, that this meeting be adjourned at 7:51 p.m. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk