



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



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at the Municipal Complex, 1 School Street, Peapack, New Jersey and began at 6:15 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 Dietrich, Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Smith, Councilman Sweeney

Absent: (none)

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 120-20 – Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes – (1) Potential Litigation (2) Contract Negotiations (a) Affordable Housing (3) Personnel (4) Attorney-Client Privilege was read. Motion was made by Council President Corigliano, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Public Meeting reconvened at 7:02 p.m.

MAYOR'S UPDATE ON COVID-19

Mayor Skinner gave an update on COVID-19. He said the Borough hasn't had any new cases in quite some time. He said that County OEM gave the Borough 15 cases of bleach, 10 gallons of hand sanitizer, and isolation gowns. He noted that Borough hall has been open since July 6th and that it seems as if outdoor dining in town has been popular. He noted that the Governor's office put out more executive orders pertaining to contact sports and that the State is coming up with a plan concerning school opening in September.

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.

Peggy McFarland – 50 Mendham Rd. – Ms. McFarland asked what is the expectation on what action will be taken at the joint meeting scheduled for next week. Council President Corigliano responded that we expect no action to be taken at the meeting and that we anticipate that there will be a presentation and a question and answer session. He continued that an executive session is scheduled afterwards with



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Council and Land Use Board to discuss the contractual arrangements and if there is a consensus to take any action it will take place at subsequent meetings of the Council and Land Use Board.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Sweeney said that the Recreation Commission is planning on holding a scaled down Community Day this upcoming Saturday at the municipal ball fields. The Commission's equipment will be used to play music, and Rich Rampinelli is donating the use of his projector in order to show a movie.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS

MINUTES

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Regular Meeting minutes of June 23, 2020. Councilman Caminiti motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilman Smith. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Executive Session Meeting minutes of June 23, 2020. Councilman Sweeney motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Council President Corigliano. Said motion was passed unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Skinner asked if **Resolutions 137-20 through 140-20** could be considered as a consent agenda. Motion to approve these was made by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 137-20 Authorizing Borough Police Department to Participate in Somerset County Distracted Driving Crackdown July 19 – August 1, 2020.

Resolution No. 138-20 Authorizing Borough Police Department to Participate in Somerset County Driving While Intoxicated Enforcement from July 24 – September 20, 2020.

Resolution No. 139-20 Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the 2020 Budget for the Distracted Driving Crackdown Grant Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948).

Resolution No. 140-20 Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the 2020 Budget for the Driving While Intoxicated Enforcement Grant Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948).

Resolution No. 121-20 Resolution for Renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption Liquor License for the Period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 was read. Motioned by Councilwoman Dietrich, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.



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Resolution No. 122-20 Borough of Peapack and Gladstone Council Resolution to Authorize the Execution of Delta Gas Station/Convenient Mart, 145 Route 206, Gladstone, NJ Block 33, Lot 5 Treatment Works Approval Application was read. Motioned by Council President Corigliano, seconded by Councilman Smith. Council President Corigliano commented that the Borough Engineer Bill Ryden said that it is appropriate to approve this because it is not feasible for them to connect to the sanitary sewer system. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 123-20 Resolution Accepting a Resignation Letter from Randy Bahr, Tax Collector was read. Motioned by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Mayor Skinner thanked Randy for his service. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 124-20 Resolution Authorizing the Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Bedminster, the Borough of Bernardsville and the Township of Bernards, for the Establishment and Operation of a Shared Municipal Court was read. Motioned by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Councilman Sweeney and Mr. Bruder noted that there were some minor administrative adjustments made to the agreement. Mr. Bruder said that the other three municipalities have approved the agreement and he can get these into the Municipal Division so that this can start on September 1st. Council President Corigliano thanked the Court Committee for working on this. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 125-20 Resolution Appointing John Desmelyk as Machine Operator for the Department of Public Works was read. Motioned by Councilman Smith, seconded by Council President Corigliano. Councilman Smith noted that Mr. Desmelyk is an excellent backhoe operator. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 126-20 Resolution was **CARRIED** until after Executive Session.

Resolution No. 127-20 Resolution Appointing Professional Service Consultant UHL & Associates, Inc. for the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone for the Liberty Park Pond Well was read. Motioned by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Councilman Smith stated that this work was completed and he asked if this was just a catch up on the paperwork. Mr. Bahr responded that the Borough Engineer had indicated that he needed a consultant to do the work and although it was anticipated that this cost would come through the Engineer's Company, that we're getting billed directly. Councilman Smith said that this work was the pre-drilling hydrology work to understand the aquifer and was also the supervision of the actual well drilling, all done under the Borough Engineer's firm. He noted that the work is complete and the well is in service at this time. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 128-20 Resolution to Approve a Special Use Permit for Natirar, 2 Main Street, Peapack, NJ During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency was read. Motioned by Council President Corigliano, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 129-20 Resolution for Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2020 – June 2025 – Form 1B was read. Motioned by Council President Corigliano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.



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Resolution No. 130-20 Consenting to Assignment of the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone's Solid Waste Disposal Contract from Peter Rubinetti Private Disposal LLC to Interstate Waste Services was read. Motioned by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Mr. Bruder noted that Rubinetti has applied to NJDEP to merge with another company and as part of the process they need to get approval from the towns they service. He continued that the same equipment and personnel will be used in town and so we should not see any difference in solid waste collection. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 131-20 Resolution for the Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit was read. Motioned by Council President Corigliano, seconded by Councilman Sweeney. Council President Corigliano said that everyone should have received a digital copy of the audit and he believes that the results are very acceptable. He noted that Mr. Bahr will work with the CFO on any remediation items. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 132-20 Resolution Accepting a Retirement Letter from Scott Hanna, Department of Public Works Director was read. Motioned by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Mayor Skinner thanked Scott for his many years of hard work and wished him well in retirement. This sentiment was echoed by several others. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 133-20 Resolution Appointing Daniel Megill as Part-Time Department of Public Works Director for the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone was read. Motioned by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Councilman Smith stated that Dan was the Superintendent of the Lacey Township DPW for a number of years and will join the department in a part-time role. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 134-20 Resolution Appointing Brad Fagan as Front-Line Supervisor Department of Public Works for the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone was read. Motioned by Council President Corigliano, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Councilman Smith stated that Brad has worked for the Borough for nine years and has really stepped up and shown himself to be a top-notch supervisor and will work as a team with Dan. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 135-20 Authorization to Solicit Bids for Liberty Park Renovations and Improvements was read. Motioned by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Councilman Smith stated that this is a big contract that includes the earth work and plantings, including the removal of Park Avenue and incorporation of the tot lot and the Scout cabin into the park. He noted that he is hopeful that the Borough will get some favorable bids based on bids coming in for other work such as the Sheephill Drive paving project. Councilman Sweeney said that the timing might be fortuitous because there are many people looking for jobs. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 136-20 Authorizing Refunds for Cancelled Trips and Sport Programs Sponsored by the Happy Rockers and Recreation Department Due to COVID-19 Restrictions was read. Motioned by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 141-20 Resolution Recognizing the Many Contributions of Diane Becker to the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone Naming the Gymnasium in Borough Hall as the Diane Becker Gym was read in full by Councilman Sweeney. Motioned by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was passed unanimously. Mayor Skinner said that this is a very fitting and lasting tribute to her.



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Councilman Sweeney said that the Recreation Commission has been trying hard to keep this a surprise. Council applauded the resolution and discussed a future ribbon cutting ceremony.

BILLS LIST

Resolution No. 142-20 Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List in the amount of \$927,011.99. Council discussed the new format. Council President Corigliano asked about the half yearly payments that are made to Fire Department Line Officers which he is thrilled to do but the numbers don't match what was budgeted. Mayor Skinner noted that he isn't taking his stipend and he thinks they spread it out among the others, and Mr. Bahr said that was not permitted, that he will hold the checks and will speak with the Chief. Motion to approve payment was made by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Council President Corigliano. Said motion was passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Finance – Council President Corigliano said he has nothing for finance but he would like to take this time to give a quick affordable housing update. He reported that the Borough is in the middle of working on a revised settlement to satisfy obligations. The Land Use Board approved a D variance for the conversion of an office building on Route 206 to housing which provides five units towards our obligation, but we are still short another 17 units. Council's Affordable Housing Committee added two temporary members of the Land Use Board to the committee to work together towards solving the shortfall. He noted that there will be a joint meeting with Council and Land Use Board which will include a presentation by a property owner/developer in town on July 29.

Sanitation & Sewer – Councilwoman Murphy stated that she has nothing to report other than what was discussed concerning the Resolution associated with the gas station on Rt. 206 and that they will be moving forward with septic since it is a challenge for them to connect to sewer.

Borough Property – Councilman Caminiti said there was a demonstration by Pierce, the rescue truck manufacturer that the Fire Department has been talking about. Also, the Borough has a date of August 19th for the auction for the Government Energy Aggregation and by September hopefully many of us will get relief on our electric bills. Councilwoman Murphy said that she's had a few residents ask about JCP&L's markings on trees for trimming. She asked if we have any ability to adjust what they've chosen to trim. She noted that she and John Kappler, the head of the Environmental Commission, spoke about the removal of five big sycamores near the entrance of town heading towards Natirar and that they appear to be healthy trees and maybe could just be monitored. Mayor Skinner said that he spoke with the JCP&L representative and that she told him the company's Forester went to homeowners and that it is the homeowner's choice if they want JCP&L to take trees down. Councilwoman Murphy said she heard that if a homeowner asks that a tree not be removed, they may be asked to sign a waiver by JCP&L. Council discussed. Mayor Skinner suggested that he ask a representative from the Power Company to come to the next Council meeting to give a presentation and in the meantime, he will ask them to hold off on these particular trees.

Fire – Councilman Smith stated that the First Aid calls are up from earlier this year and as reported last month the severity of them is greater and is concerned about the wear and tear we are putting on the volunteers.



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Police– Councilman Sweeney said that to piggyback on what Councilman Smith just reported, when you look at the Police report you can see the effect that COVID-19 has had. He thinks that the newer numbers are starting to trend upwards as people are out and about. He continued that tomorrow the Mayor, Councilwoman Dietrich, and he will be interviewing a Class II Special which they had hoped to have done ahead of this meeting but instead want to have a resolution for the next meeting. Councilman Sweeney also stated that the Borough has been presented with an offer of a donation of a Ford F150 completely equipped for police use valued at \$70,000 by a benefactor from Bernardsville. He said this will be a great asset to the department. Also, the written promotional exam is on August 4th and there are five people taking the exam, four will be applying for chief and one for sergeant.

Roads & Transportation – Councilwoman Dietrich said there was a pre-construction meeting last week for Sheephill and Forestview and she thanked all who attended as it takes many different departments to do these road improvements. The plan is to begin resurfacing on July 28th and the work will last for two weeks. Also, Bill Ryden, Councilman Sweeney and she will meet hopefully this week to discuss Holland Avenue. Lastly, the Safe Streets data has been collected, the police will need to do an additional monitoring effort in September, and the review of the report will be forthcoming. Council President Corigliano asked if Councilwoman Dietrich has worked on lining up contractors for resurfacing other roads such as Cedar, Ridge and Riverview. Borough Clerk Bretzger noted that Brad was getting pricing through the co-op and that the DPW was working on preparing the roads. Councilwoman Dietrich noted that she is staying on top of the County regarding Old Chester Road which they are planning on doing this year.

Zoning & Construction – Councilman Sweeney said that this month's zoning report has a couple of references to the maintenance ordinance and he knows that Mrs. McFarland is on the call and has been promised updates on the enforcement of this ordinance. Council discussed that this can go on the website but confidential information needs to be redacted first.

Legal – Mr. Bruder stated that we've covered a number of items that he's been working on by way of resolution tonight. One other matter is that with respect to the Nelson property the contract was sent out about a month ago and he expects a response from the attorney this week.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Bahr stated that he has nothing to report.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Skinner stated that he had conversations with the head of the County's DPW about the new recycling bins. Borough Clerk Bretzger said that the totes will be given out on August 4th and the first collection in that zone will be on August 18th. Mayor Skinner continued that the Police Department, Fire Department and Rescue Squad received a letter from a family in town that expressed their grief over the loss of a loved one along with their very sincere thanks to all the responders. He read the letter.



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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.

CONTINUED EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 120-20 – Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes – (1) Potential Litigation (2) Contract Negotiations (a) Affordable Housing (3) Personnel (4) Attorney-Client Privilege was read. Motion was made by Councilwoman Dietrich, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Closed session started at 8:14 p.m.

Public Meeting reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

Resolution 126-20 Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Settlement Agreement was read. Motioned by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously. Councilman Sweeney commented that this does not involve a financial settlement of any kind.

Council President Corigliano 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 Caminiti, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich, that this meeting be adjourned at 8:49 p.m. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk