



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2020**



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 electronically via the Go To Meeting conferencing service and began at 7:03 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 Borough Library. Action may be taken."

Mayor Skinner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Present: Mayor Skinner, Council President Corigliano, Councilman Caminiti, 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

MAYOR'S UPDATE ON COVID-19

Mayor Skinner stated that he was starting the meeting off with a quick update on COVID-19. Mayor Skinner stated that the State and County parks have been reopened at 50% of available parking to help follow social distancing. Our parks have always been open with Park Avenue closed to limit the number of people going through the park. Tennis courts were just recently reopened for singles play only as per the Governor's order. The Mayor said that the number of cases as of today is either 36 or 38, depending on how it is looked at, with two fatalities. He continued that the Borough has no new cases as of today and Matheny has three active cases. He continued that the Governor is hoping to have the beaches open for Memorial Day weekend but does not know what the guidelines will be at this time. He praised the food pantry that has been going on in town; they have given out 151 bags of non-perishable foods since April 2. He noted that the food pantry has pick-ups on Fridays, drop-offs on weekdays, and if anyone needs an item refilled, they can pick-up on Tuesdays.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Skinner read Proclamation Declaring May 10 – May 16, 2020 as Police Week in the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone. He thanked Sergeant Ferrante, Officer in Charge, and all of the officers for their hard work and dedication.

Mayor Skinner read Proclamation Declaring May 17 – May 23, 2020 as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) week in the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone. He thanked Ann Ryan, President of the PG Rescue and First Aid Squad, for their members' dedication to this town.



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
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BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
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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.

Donna Brooton – 3 Willow Avenue, Peapack – Ms. Brooton stated that she is a concerned citizen speaking about the 2020 census and the currently low turnout for Peapack and Gladstone. She said that she worked on the 2000 census and that she is aware of some special issues that the Borough has and also how important the census is. She continued that in Peapack nothing is mailed to the residents because they have post office boxes and that it's an issue nationwide that the Census Bureau won't mail to PO boxes because the people who own the boxes may not physically live there. She provided statistics on census responses and said that Peapack and Gladstone has the lowest response in the County currently at 38%. She brought up funding that is allocated based on census data. She would assume that Peapack is responsible for the low response. She has been in touch over the last week with two census officials to get data and determine what can be done. She also spoke to Cheryl, the head of the Peapack post office, who is willing to help spread information about the census. She is also sending in a letter to the Bernardsville News. Mayor Skinner asked Ms. Brooton, if residents do not get anything in the mail can they still go online and complete the census and was told that they can do so. Mayor Skinner continued that this is important and at a local level we can assist in getting the word out by including it in Borough news. The deadline has been extended to October 31st to complete the census.

Bill Simpson – 53 Mendham Rd., Gladstone – Mr. Simpson said that he is calling about Recreation. He noted that Diane has retired and that he doesn't expect that summer rec will take place, but he wanted to know that a new Recreation Director will be hired. Councilman Sweeney noted that he plans to give an update during the new business part of the meeting.

MINUTES

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Regular Meeting minutes of April 21, 2020. Councilwoman Dietrich motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Council President Corigliano. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Executive Session Meeting minutes of April 21, 2020. Council President Corigliano motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Police Department Promotional Exam – Councilman Sweeney said that there will be a joint promotional exam that consists of a written exam and oral exam. The written exam is planned to be scheduled for the first week in August and the oral exam will be the week of August 24th. Only candidates applying for chief or sergeant positions who pass the written exam can take the oral exam. He asked for consensus moving forward with this plan. Councilman Smith asked if the public can sit in during the oral exam, and Mr. Bruder responded that he hasn't seen this done. Councilman Caminiti asked about the logistics of social distancing because of COVID-19 during the exams, and there was a suggestion to spread out in the gym. Councilman Sweeney will speak with Mr. Bahr.



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2020**



Councilwoman Dietrich stated that the Smart Street survey should be out soon. She said that there are posters up in town and that there are also flyers that will get distributed, so the word is starting to get out and they'll get data from the survey.

Councilman Caminiti said that he has an item about the Government Energy Aggregation Program. He and Mr. Bruder had questions for the C.U.C., the service provider that manages this program for municipalities, and now that those are sufficiently ironed out the Borough needs to take a look at the service contract to make sure that nothing has changed from its preliminary review. He continued that he would like to get this on the next Council meeting's agenda. The plan right now is to be part of the Hunterdon County Area Cooperative so that we're part of a bigger pool and that auction is scheduled to start on June 12th, which is good timing because electricity generators are facing a low demand so prices should be good. Mr. Bruder confirmed that with the auction coming up the Borough needs to be on board by then.

Mr. Bruder said that he had sent out the draft Firehouse lease to Council members for input and he asked for comments from those he hasn't heard back from yet. He said that this will then be put on the next meeting's agenda for approval. He continued by stating he has researched converting Park Avenue to the park and that there is no one statute that deals with doing this. He said that he has spoken with the Borough Engineer, Bill Ryden, about coming up with a metes-and-bounds description of exactly what would be done. Councilman Smith asked about the cost for the Engineer's work and was told that it would be \$3,000 to \$5,000 to work off of an existing survey and perform what's needed. Council discussed that this cost was high. Councilman Smith said that the work is an integral part of the park plans but wanted to know if the cost could be revisited. Mr. Bruder will speak to Mr. Ryden and plan to discuss at next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Recreation Commission Requests

Councilman Sweeney said that Rich Rampinelli reached out to him and stated that he has done a drive-in movie at Komline Park and is looking to do this again in the Fall. This is a well-attended event and conducive to social distancing. Council President Corigliano said that the last time this was done it cost \$5,000 after entrance fees were collected and he doesn't think this is a responsible expense. Councilman Sweeney said that there may be more competitive vendors available. Rich Rampinelli was on the call and said that he's done this at least four times and there is always at least 200 people or more, they charge per car, not for walk-ins, and it's a great town-wide event. He thinks that this year more than others is an important time to host this because of the world's current situation, and that these are funds that are basically sitting there. He said that the vendor we've used is one of the few with a three-story inflatable screen and they're very professional. Councilman Sweeney said that we'll see what other numbers come in at and discuss again.

7:50 p.m. Mr. Bahr joined the meeting.

Councilman Sweeney also brought up the purchase of a commemorative bench in honor of Diane Becker, to be placed at Komline Park by the tennis courts since she's an avid tennis player. Costs discussed were \$800 (without a plaque) to \$1,300. There was discussion about the use of private versus Borough funds. Jane Simon from the Recreation Commission spoke with the Mayor's permission and said that the



MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2020



Commission had discussed using Recreation Trust monies, not private funds. Mr. Bahr stated that the Recreation Trust is Borough monies. Councilman Sweeney stated that at this time he is just trying to get a feel for Council's thoughts on this.

Councilman Sweeney said that with the State lockdown, schools closed and no Recreation Director, summer recreation will likely not take place. Council agreed that even as things open it's going to have to be done gradually. Mayor Skinner said that he doesn't see how the Borough could run it, especially when we have to bring the participants inside the gym. Councilwoman Dietrich suggested providing virtual summer recreation, like self-guided activities and several agreed that this was a good idea to help residents who are looking for things to do.

Councilman Sweeney said that regarding the position of Recreation Director, a number of resumes have come in and that they're looking at three potential candidates. He said that he'd like to target August 1 for the start date, in order to give the person a head start on fall activities like sports and Art in the Park.

Mayor Skinner stated that it looks like we're going to cancel the Memorial Day service because of the State's restriction on having no more than ten people in a gathering. He proposed that we do something on Veteran's Day instead. Council discussed.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS

Historical Preservation Commission – Lime Kiln Improvements

Councilwoman Dietrich introduced Pat Delaney, Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission, to give an overview of what has been done so far with the Lime Kiln. Ms. Delaney said that she agreed seven years ago she would head up a committee for this property and they applied for a certificate of eligibility, and were deemed to be of historic significance which allowed them to apply to be on the historic register. They applied for grant money and were awarded \$122,600 by the Historic County/Historic Preservation Grant Program. The grant money was used for the stone restoration, which is complete, but it didn't allow them to do landscaping. The Peapack Lime Kilns are now listed on the historic register in New Jersey and nationally. Ms. Delaney said that the Borough has taken ownership and the Commission is anxious to finish with the landscaping plan. She said that benches and a historic marker have been added, and there's a large interpretive sign that's in storage at the DPW garage. She continued by introducing John Smith as a landscape architect and long-time resident and member of the Commission. She asked him to go over his plans that have been provided to Council. Mr. Smith stated that he lives at 35 Branch Road, Far Hills, which is his mailing address but he resides in the Borough. He said that the project involves tree work, landscaping work, and excavation work. He continued that he obtained nine different bids. He said that Jerry Conover would do excavation work at the top of the property for free with the caveat that he would not be responsible for the disposal of the trees and stumps. Tree Tech came in with the lowest bid for tree work at \$750, and Greenwood Landscaping came in with the lowest bid for landscaping work at \$15,400. In summary, the total cost is \$16,150 if you add up the two lowest bids and include the free work. Council President Corigliano said that he has reviewed the plan and although he understands the need for the landscaping, he believes that rather than putting the first monies into the landscaping he asked if they should go into a plan for the entire site because there are basic necessities that should be taken care of. He brought up an old foundation, broken up concrete, and a retaining wall that needs mason work. Ms. Delaney responded that there could be liability because at the top of the kiln we need to put a protective



MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2020



border and as part of the monies awarded for the stone restoration, we are required to put in a split rail fence just like what was there 200 years ago. Ms. Delaney said that the Historic Commission looked at finishing off where the loading dock platform is and where the wall in front is deteriorating as a second project, but they really just want to finish the project that was started. This is specifically the kilns themselves and the land that goes with them, which is the two sides of the hill and the top. Mr. Smith said that it's a matter of stabilization of the soil so it doesn't go down the hill and the design is something he believes is appropriate. Councilwoman Dietrich said that the Environmental Commission could provide some shade trees, and that DPW could be tapped into which could help cut back on some costs. She agreed with Council President Corigliano that if this is stage one, we need to look ahead and know what other stages will entail. Mr. Smith noted that there is a large amount of debris. Council President Corigliano said that Council needs more formal numbers, and he also said that the ordinance that is on tonight's agenda for capital improvements includes \$18,000 for lime kiln improvements and will take about a month and a half to get approved. Ms. Delaney said that she would get the quotes to Mr. Bahr. Mr. Smith asked about starting the free work right away, and Mr. Bahr advised that they need to look more in depth at the finances and comply with what's required of the Borough. Mr. Smith and Ms. Delaney will meet with Mr. Bahr and Councilwoman Dietrich to discuss further.

Councilman Smith stated that this time of year is the turnout dinner for the Fire Company and First Aid Squad and it has been canceled because of the pandemic. He said this is usually a very nice event, and that it doesn't seem as if it'll be rescheduled.

ORDINANCES

Introduction of **Ordinance 1090-2020** – Providing for Various Improvements in and by the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone, in the County of Somerset, New Jersey and Appropriating \$1,590,000.00 Therefore from Various Funds of the Borough.

Mayor Skinner introduced **Ordinance 1090-2020** – Providing for Various Improvements in and by the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone, in the County of Somerset, New Jersey and Appropriating \$1,590,000.00 Therefore from Various Funds of the Borough. Councilman Caminiti moved to introduce the Ordinance at first reading, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Council President Corigliano stated that he believes there is an error in the numbers. The amount in the title and in section one of the ordinance should read \$1,510,100 and the amount for capital improvement should read \$357,000. Said motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Skinner stated that **Ordinance 1090-2020** is introduced and shall be published in summary in the Bernardsville News and the Public Hearing for said Ordinance shall be held on June 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. or shortly thereafter.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 87-20 – Resolution Setting Forth Summer Hours for Borough Employees for 2020 was read. Motion was made by Councilwoman Dietrich, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2020**



Resolution No. 88-20 – Resolution Accepting a Resignation Letter from Thomas Brian Quinn, Rental Inspector was read. Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Sweeney. Said motion was passed unanimously. Mayor Skinner stated the Borough thanks him for his service.

Resolution No. 89-20 – Resolution to Enter Into an Agreement with Samuel Stothoff, Co., Inc. for the installation of Well Pump at Liberty Park. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Councilman Smith said that at the next meeting he plans to have an update for Council at the next meeting on the timing and cost for the Liberty Park project based on information Carter van Dyke is working on. He said that this resolution is for the pump and mechanicals for the well casing that was dug earlier in the year and has proven to be successful. He said that the cost of the well has come in a little under budget at \$70,000. Said motion was passed unanimously.

BILLS LIST

Resolution No. 90-20 Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List in the amount of \$137,043.53 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – 3 MINUTES PER PERSON – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Mayor Skinner asked if anyone from the public would like to speak.

Jane Simon - 7 Pfizer Dr., Gladstone – Ms. Simon said she is a resident and has been a member of the Recreation Committee for around ten years. She addressed the topic about a bench for Diane's retirement by stating that the taxpayers contribute to recreation funds and that many benefitted by Diane's service. She continued that the fact that other retired employees got dinners instead is not a good enough reason to not do a commemorative bench for Diane, as she is not only a resident but served for 30 years which is probably longer than many employees. She said that something like this would probably mean much to her. She also stated that the Recreation Committee will meet soon and she likes Councilwoman Dietrich's idea about virtual summer camp but she'd like to see a Director hired as soon as possible to work on this as the committee members are volunteers and would like an employee to head this.

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 8:42 p.m. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A. Bretzger

Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk