



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 22, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at the Municipal Complex, 1 School Street, Peapack, New Jersey and began at 6:03 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 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. 172-20 – Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes – (1) N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b (6) – Tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public, provided that their disclosure could impair that protection, or investigations of violations or possible violations of the law (2) Contract Negotiations was read. Motion was made by Councilwoman Dietrich, seconded by Council President Corigliano. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Public Meeting reconvened at 7:02 p.m.

MAYOR'S UPDATE ON COVID-19

Mayor Skinner asked Kingsley Hill, the Borough's OEM Coordinator, to give an update on COVID-19. Mr. Hill stated that the Borough has a mini flare-up, largely associated with the cases that shut down the high school for two weeks. He continued that a couple of young people attended an event out of state and brought COVID-19 home, then attended an event or two in the school district which resulted in nine active cases. This is in the last four weeks. Currently there are five active cases, all less than 14 days past when they tested positive. He continued that all the cases are likely associated with the same event so these cases are considered contact contagion as opposed to unknown or community spread. Councilman Sweeney asked if it was a Borough-sponsored event to determine if we could learn from this, and Mr. Hill responded that it was not. Mayor Skinner pointed out that cases were district wide, not all within Peapack and Gladstone. Mr. Hill said that there were 26 total cases in the cluster, and that all cases were mild or asymptomatic. Mr. Hill said that in June and July there was one case each and, outside of Matheny, the greatest number of cases we've had has been two or three in the entire course of the virus until now.



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Mr. Hill said that they're working with the County and the Federal government to get reimbursed for COVID-19 and Tropical Storm Isaias expenses.

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.

No one came forward.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Granting Renewal of Comcast Franchise Within the Borough –

Ms. Bretzger stated that the renewal was received back on July 8th and the Comcast representative, Mr. Smith, asked if there were any comments that needed to be included. Council President Corigliano said that he spoke with Mr. Bruder about alternate options to the Borough because Comcast didn't honor the agreement by renewing it before the current one expired and the Borough was not successful in getting requested concessions. Mr. Bruder said that Mr. Smith made himself available between October 5th to October 9th and he will set up a meeting, and both Council President Corigliano and Councilman Sweeney said that they would attend. There was discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Borough Rebranding Initiative –

Council President Corigliano said that he would like to defer this discussion to the October 13 meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS

There was no miscellaneous discussion.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 173-20 Resolution to Approve Extension of 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 Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Council President Corigliano asked if tents need to come down if places don't ask for an extension. Ms. Bretzger said that the Fire Inspector noted that in the Executive Order pertaining to the tents, it only allows them to be up until December 1. Council discussed. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 174-20 Resolution Strongly Encouraging the Right of In-Person Machine Voting for the November 3, 2020 General Election was read. Motioned by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Councilwoman Dietrich stated that she really opposes the resolution and its language and she asked to hear from the Borough Clerk what the problem is. Councilwoman Dietrich said that the resolution has much finger pointing about what is going wrong and she doesn't know that we've had that at the local level. Councilman Sweeney said that it took at least two months for the County to certify the results from the last primary and Bernardsville had the wrong ballots mailed to Republicans.



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Ms. Bretzger provided information on the general election and how ballots can be cast, and in response to two comments from Council said that she is working on getting an informational flyer posted to the Borough's website. Councilwoman Dietrich said that she is not opposed to in-person voting, but she continued that it isn't the point of this resolution. Instead, she believes this resolution is very political and is trying to set the stage for further arguments. Councilman Caminiti asked if people will be able to go in-person and vote at Borough Hall, and Ms. Bretzger responded that they may but they'll be casting a provisional, write-in ballot instead of using the machine because of COVID-19 concerns. Councilman Sweeney said that he wants to send a message to the Governor. Councilman Smith said that he is concerned about people receiving multiple ballots as that happened to his family during the primary. Councilwoman Murphy stated that she is in support of allowing voters to use the machine to cast their votes but she thinks that the wording in the second paragraph is inflammatory and would like it cleaned up. Councilwoman Murphy asked if the wording could be adjusted before the vote. Mr. Bruder said there would have to be a motion to amend the resolution and the language would need to be adjusted and then it could be voted on. Council discussed. Councilwoman Dietrich made a motion to remove "voter fraud" from the second paragraph, keep the rest the same, and move the amended resolution forward. Motioned by Councilwoman Dietrich, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was passed, with Councilman Sweeney voting no.

BILLS LIST

Resolution No. 175-20 Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List in the amount of \$622,003.97. Motion to approve payment was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Finance – Council President Corigliano reported that as of September 4th, the quarterly tax collection rate was almost the same as last year. He also provided an affordable housing update, stating that on September 11, the Borough received an Order of Compliance with a few minor conditions from the Judge for Round 3. The Borough is waiting for a decision about the amount to be paid to Fair Share Housing, as this is not yet resolved. Mayor Skinner thanked Council President Corigliano and Councilman Sweeney for all of their work on that.

Sanitation & Sewer – Councilwoman Murphy stated that she had no updates.

Borough Property – Councilman Caminiti said there was a meeting at the Scout cabin with the Historic Preservation Commission and the DPW to see if it was structurally able to handle historic documents, and that the Borough will pursue getting grant monies. He also said thank you to Council President Corigliano, Councilman Sweeney, and Mr. Bruder for all the work that went into affordable housing. Councilman Sweeney gave a shout out to Susan Rubright and Peter Sorge for all of the work they did. Council President Corigliano thanked the Borough Land Use Attorney Roger Thomas and the Borough Planner John Szabo.

Fire – Councilman Smith stated that this Saturday is the 7th annual coffee and car show, and everyone is invited to attend. He hopes that everyone wears masks and practices social distancing.



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Police– Councilman Sweeney said he had nothing to report. He reported one thing for Recreation. He said that the drive-in movie was held over the weekend and although he doesn't know the final number, it was more than 40 families and everyone appeared to have a great time.

Roads & Transportation – Councilwoman Dietrich said that she has a couple of updates and everyone should have the preliminary draft of the Street Smarts report. She said that the Scout cabin tour was helpful, and after that she met with Dan Megill, the new DPW Supervisor, and walked on Holland Avenue to revisit the issue of sidewalks there. She said that Mr. Megill will look into some of the measurements with the County in order to see how to proceed with this. She also said that tomorrow she will meet with Tom Scanlon who's responsible for traffic in terms of the Police Department to look at the safety of the parking on Main Street in Gladstone. Councilwoman Dietrich noted that Brook Hollow and Cedar Place are being milled and paved this week. Mr. Bahr said that they started last Friday and that they only have police traffic detail for one more day and if they finish milling today, they can pave the roads tomorrow and be done. Councilman Smith asked if the County has published their schedule, specifically for paving of Old Chester Road from County Line to Brook Hollow. Councilwoman Dietrich said that on Friday she was at the pre-construction meeting and that it should be done before October 31, 2020, but Mr. Bahr noted that we don't have a specific day yet. Mayor Skinner got a message from a DPW worker that said that, on Thursday, Patriot Road, Riverview Ave., and Ridge Road would be paved, and Brook Hollow Road and Cedar Place would be done at the same time as Old Chester Road.

Zoning & Construction – Councilman Sweeney said that a resident has been asking the Borough to put the zoning report on the Borough website to track the effectiveness of the property maintenance ordinance. Ms. Bretzger stated that she is redacting it.

Legal – Mr. Bruder stated that he is working on a number of items but nothing that would warrant a discussion.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Bahr gave an update about the consortium that the Borough is part of in fighting the rate increases from New Jersey American Water. He continued that the Public should know that the utility is looking for double digit increases in the next 18 months. Mr. Bahr said that we're hoping that we can come to a settlement. He also said that they're working on drawing up a press release to inform the Public of these increases. These discussions will go through the middle or end of October. Council discussed.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Skinner stated that he reported a couple of months back that he is in dialog with the Bedminster Postmaster because all of the area mail moves through their post office and we'd like to get mail delivered to Peapack addresses rather than P.O boxes. He is continuing to try to work with them. Mayor Skinner also stated that JCP&L came to Emergency Management at the County level and they want to start a power restoration working group with representation from each municipality, to include an OEM representative and an elected official. Right now, he said that he could be part of this along with Kingsley Hill, the OEM Coordinator.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – 3 MINUTES PER PERSON – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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



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Andrea Kronik – 25 Holland Ave., Peapack - Ms. Kronik thanked Councilwoman Dietrich for walking Holland Avenue and she said that the bushes at the southwest corner of Holland and Main are growing out of control again so that navigating that intersection has become dangerous. She continued that she appreciated Councilwoman Dietrich for questioning the voting resolution and that as a social studies teacher, she believes voting is essential in this country and that it is much more important that we get it right rather than getting results that night. Ms. Kronik continued that it seems unfortunate that this is the message that we've decided to send to the Governor but she thanks Council for being concerned that voting does happen actively in the Borough.

Ken Tiger – 16 Saint Johns Drive, Gladstone – Mr. Tiger commented on resolution 174-20 and that he liked how it was originally although at this point the resolution has passed with the paragraph taken out. He continued that as a former poll worker he has heard many complaints about not being able to use the machines. Mr. Tiger continued that he doesn't see why you can't vote by machine. Mayor Skinner said that the Clerk's office will be publishing where people can bring their ballots.

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 8:12 p.m. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy A. Bretzger".

Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk