



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2021**



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 electronically via the GoTo Meeting conferencing service and began at 7:02p.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 2021 Meeting Dates was published in the Courier News and Bernardsville News on December 3, 2020 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:

Present: Mayor Skinner, Council President Corigliano, Councilman Caminiti, Councilwoman Dietrich, Councilman Lemma, Councilwoman Murphy, 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. 26-21 – Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes – (1) Personnel – Police Chief - Sergeant was read. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Public Meeting reconvened at 7:02 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 27-21 –Read by Councilman Sweeney-Resolution Appointing Sgt. Stephen Ferrante as Chief of Police for the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone Police Department was read. Motion was made by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy.

Councilman Sweeney stated that Steve Ferrante has been with our Police Department for over 20 years He has been Officer in Charge since Mayor Skinner retired as Chief and now, we are formalizing this tenure as the Chief of the Department. Mayor Skinner stated that we will have a formal swearing in, but we're making it official tonight. He then added that he is honored to be reading a resolution naming his successor. Mayor Skinner also mentioned that he worked with Sgt. Ferrante since 1999 and he is thrilled to be making this appointment. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Chief Ferrante stated that he is looking forward to working with everyone on Council and is honored to have the former Chief, now Mayor, appointing him as Chief. He then thanked the entire Council and said he is looking forward to the rest of his career here in Peapack & Gladstone.



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JANUARY 12, 2021**

Resolution No. 28-21 —Resolution Appointing Corporal Thomas Scanlon as Sergeant for the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone Police Department was read by Councilman Sweeney. Motion was made by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Councilman Sweeney stated that even though Corporal Thomas Scanlon is not a resident of Peapack, he is very dedicated to the town and has been an active member of the First Aid Squad for years including serving as President of the First Aid. Mayor Skinner stated that he has worked with Corporal Scanlon since he was hired in 2000, including a day and a half as his training officer before being deployed to the Middle East. Mayor Skinner then said that he was honored and proud to be making this appointment.

Corporal Scanlon then thank the Mayor and Council and stated that he is looking forward to working with Chief Steve Ferrante in the number two spot. He then sent a special thank you to his cousin Jeanine, for all of her support through this process. Said motion was passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S UPDATE ON COVID-19

Mayor Skinner stated that as of today, New Jersey has had approx. 537,000 positive Covid-19 cases and almost 18,000 deaths. Somerset County has had 13,708 positive cases and 612 deaths according to the County website. Peapack & Gladstone has had 152 positive cases and one death. Somerset County is continuing with Covid-19 testing and has tested 5364 people, with a 6% positive rate. There is information on the County website for testing locations and times. Mayor Skinner also directed residents to the New Jersey Covid-19 Information Hub where they can sign up for notifications of upcoming vaccine locations and times. He also reminded everyone to continue taking precautions including washing hands, social distancing and wearing a mask.

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.

Ken Tiger-St. John's Drive-Mr. Tiger said that St. John's Dr. is worse now than when the Sisters had it. He stated that he tried to contact the owners but they passed it off to the property manager who does not help. He is asking for Council to do something. Mayor Skinner said he will pass it to Zoning Official, Sarah Jane Noll. Mr. Tiger also mentioned that there is a wire hanging which he believes is a Verizon issue. Mayor Skinner said that our Police Department will get the pole number and follow up with Verizon.

Ann Todd-9 Maple St.-Ms. Todd wanted to follow up on sidewalks on Holland Ave. Councilwoman Dietrich advised that the area has been surveyed as a step in the process, but we are working on building up the funds for the project. Discussion ensued and Council President Corigliano stated that we would need to discuss this with Somerset County as it is their road.

MINUTES

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Special Meeting minutes of December 14, 2020. Council President Corigliano motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously with Councilman Lemma abstaining.



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
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JANUARY 12, 2021**

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Regular Meeting minutes of December 15, 2020. Councilman Sweeney motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously with Councilman Lemma abstaining. Councilman Caminiti made mention of a few corrections to be made to the minutes. Clerk, Nancy Bretzger said that she will make said corrections.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Skinner advised that we will be sending the resident's addresses to the Postal Supervisor to help with third party delivery.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS

No Miscellaneous Discussion/Approvals

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 29-21 – Resolution Authorizing Program Year 2019 CDBG-CV3 Project was read. Administrator, Randy Bahr explained that this is money from the Community Block Grant through Somerset County to help deal with Covid-19 related issues. Motion was made by Councilwoman Dietrich, seconded by Councilman Lemma. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 30-21 – Resolution Authorizing Salary Increase to Nancy Muoio for Obtaining her Certified Municipal Registrar Certification was read by Clerk, Nancy Bretzger. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 31-21 – Resolution Authorizing the Borough to Enter Into an Agreement with Sellers, Ronald and Joyce Nelson, for the Purchase of Certain Unimproved Real Property was read. Borough Attorney, John Bruder advised that this resolution includes the Hold Harmless and Indemnification Clause. Councilman Sweeney mentioned that this land is being paid for 50% by the Borough and 50% will be split between Somerset County and the Lamington Conservatory. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Sweeney. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 32-21 – Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement for Participation in Preservation of Property with Somerset County for Block 8, Lot 2.03 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 33-21 – Resolution Granting the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to Ellen Hays for Unpaid Time Off from January 4, 2021 to January 8, 2021 was read. Motion was made by Council President Corigliano, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was passed unanimously.



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
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BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2021**



Resolution No. 34-21 – Resolution Authorizing Specific Payments that can be Made Outside of a Meeting was read. Motion was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Council President Corigliano. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 35-21 – Resolution Appointing a Representative to the Community Development Block Grant Committee was read. Motion was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 36-21 – Resolution Establishing Billing Dates for Business and Bulk Sewer Users in the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was read. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 37-21 – Resolution Authorizing the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone to Fix a Due Dates, Grace Period and Late Payment Penalty on Residential Sewer Account Billing was read. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Lemma. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 38-21 – Resolution to Appoint Robert J. Smith III as a Department of Public Works Laborer in the Amount of \$38,000.00 was read. Motion was made by Council President Corigliano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.

BILLS LIST

Resolution No. 39-21 Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List in the amount of \$380,073.06 was read. Councilman Lemma made mention of the cost of certain line items on the Bills List, specifically a stapler. Councilman Caminiti asked Administrator, Randy Bahr about wiring at the fire house. Mr. Bahr said that it would be helpful to ask about such items during office hours as he does not have the vouchers in question with him. Mayor Skinner said that he was aware of the rewiring that was needed due to a safety hazard at the fire house. Motion was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. 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. No one came forward.

Mayor Skinner asked if any of the Council members had any other items to discuss. Mayor Skinner mentioned that he just received a text message from Chief Ferrante informing him that the staple gun that was purchased is for stapling large amounts of paper which is often needed. Council President Corigliano said that he felt somewhat uncomfortable about the earlier call from a resident trying to strong arm the Council into getting sidewalks put in on Holland Ave. Councilwoman Dietrich responded by saying she didn't think that the resident tried to strong arm the Council, and this was not the first time this resident has reached out so the frustration is understood. Councilman Caminiti reiterated that he will reach out to Chief Ferrante to see if we can redirect some of the mobile signs to Holland Avenue and follow up with the County again, but the reality is that we are still short on funding for the project.



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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 Murphy, that this meeting be adjourned at 7:57p.m. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A. Bretzger

Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk