



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 19, 2022**



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at the Municipal Complex, 1 School Street, Peapack, New Jersey and virtually via GOTO Meetings and began at 7:00p.m.

Mayor Skinner called the meeting to order. Deputy Borough Clerk Karen Van Nest read the Sunshine Notice "Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Adequate notice of 2022 Meeting Dates was published in the Courier News and Bernardsville News on December 9, 2021 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: Councilman Caminiti, Councilwoman Dietrich, Councilman Lemma, Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Sweeney, Mayor Skinner

Absent: Council President Corigliano

Also present were: Mr. Fred Rubenstein, Esq., Covering for Borough Attorney (via GOTO Meeting), Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk/Administrator (via GOTO Meeting) and Karen Van Nest, Deputy Clerk.

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

Mayor Skinner opened it up to the public for any non-agenda comments. No one came forward.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Caminiti spoke about the Borough as a registered member of the Hunterdon Area Energy Coop and noted that as a municipality, the Borough is a government energy aggregator. The recent auction results were unfavorable and the Borough will sit out for now and revert back to the basic generation rate and will revisit in September. Councilwoman Dietrich asked how frequently we receive the rate and Councilman Caminiti stated twice per year and that if the next reverse auction comes up with a more favorable rate, we can upgrade. Councilwoman Murphy asked about the JCP&L bill and Councilman Caminiti said that it is invisible and seamless on the bill.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business items discussed.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS

Councilman Sweeney began the discussion surrounding a letter received from the Recreation Commission for Art in the Park and noted that the modified version recommended is such that some vendors would be around the park and other vendors would set up on Lackawanna Avenue up to the old Beval building. He noted that he spoke with Police Chief Ferrante and his only potential concern was parking. It was stated



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that visitors would park in municipal parking lots and also the NJ Transit parking lot. The consensus from the Mayor and Council was that Lackawanna Avenue can be closed for the Art in the Park event.

MINUTES

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Regular Meeting minutes of June 28, 2022. Councilman Caminiti motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilman Lemma. Councilwoman Dietrich and Councilwoman Murphy abstained. Said motion was passed.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 161-22 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO APPRAISAL SYSTEMS, INC. TO PERFORM PROFESSIONAL APPRAISAL INSPECTIONS AND RELATED SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE 2023 BOROUGH WIDE REASSESSMENT PROGRAM was read. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Sweeney. Said motion was passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 163-22 – AUTHORIZATION TO PAY V&K CONSTRUCTION INC FOR WORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIBERTY PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT was read. Motion was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilman Sweeney. Councilman Lemma explained that some money is being withheld due to a missing detail page from the invoice, a large quantity of dead plantings (1,849), and unacceptable grass seeding. Discussion noted that the amount withheld is approximately \$48k in total plus there is still \$90K that hasn't been paid, plus the performance bond. Plantings should be done in August as they are more heat-tolerant than the grass seed and the grass seed should be done in September. Councilman Lemma also stated that the benches are outstanding as the wood for the benches has a shipping delay and that the geese-away system with amber lights has been installed by our DPW department. Councilmembers discussed that the contractor must comply with the bid specs and that we cannot deviate from the plan. It was noted that Borough Attorney John Bruder is preparing a letter for the contractor regarding the items to be addressed. Said motion was passed unanimously.

BILLS LIST

Resolution No. 162-22 Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List in the amount of \$1,196,921.07 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Finance – Councilman Sweeney noted that there is a delay in the tax bills being printed due to the County certifying the tax rates. He presented a written Resolution to extend the grace period to August 31st, rather than August 10th for the quarterly property tax payments. Councilwoman Dietrich asked if there would be a 10-day grace period after August 31st and Councilman Sweeney stated no, that interest would be charged back to August 1st for any payments not received by August 31st.

RESOLUTION NO. 164-22 – RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE GRACE PERIOD ON THE 2022 THIRD QUARTER TAX INSTALLMENT was read. Motion was made by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was passed unanimously.



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Sanitation & Sewer – Councilman Lemma stated that regarding the STAB, he is optimistic that the grant will be favorably received and that regarding capital improvements, there are still various items on the list.

Borough Property – Nothing specific to report

Fire and First Aid – Councilwoman Murphy noted that the Fire House needs new gutters and that for the one estimate received from Somerville Aluminum, we have received a very generous donation from a Borough resident. The in-kind donation of \$7,500 is identified on the estimate, reflecting a net amount for the Borough of \$2,500. The gutters will be commercial grade gutters instead of the current residential grade gutters.

Police – Councilman Sweeney stated that the Police Department is making progress on hiring a 9th Officer and have narrowed it down to two candidates, both of whom they are conducting background checks on. A meeting will be scheduled for Councilman Sweeney, Councilwoman Dietrich, Borough Administrator Bretzger, and Chief Ferrante to meet with the first-choice candidate.

Roads & Transportation – Nothing specific to report

Zoning & Construction – Nothing specific to report

Borough Attorney's Report- Mr. Fred Rubenstein, Attorney covering for Mr. John Bruder noted that he had nothing specific to report.

Administrator's Report – Nothing specific to report

Mayor's Report – Nothing specific to report

PUBLIC COMMENTS – 3 MINUTES PER PERSON – AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Skinner asked if any member of the public wishes to speak about agenda items. No one came forward.

Mayor Skinner recognized the Boy Scout in the audience who was observing our Borough Council meeting for his Citizen in the Community merit badge; he welcomed him, congratulated him, and encouraged him to become an Eagle Scout.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilman Sweeney, that this meeting be adjourned at 7:28p.m. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen VanNest, Deputy Borough Clerk