



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 29, 2022**



The meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 in person at Borough Hall's Council Chambers and electronically via the GoTo Meeting conferencing service and began at 7:04p.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 the Meeting Date was published in the Courier News and Bernardsville News on February 13, 2022 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: Mr. John Bruder, Esq., Borough Attorney and Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk/Administrator

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

Valerie Pawlowski of 61 Main Street stated she has lived in town for 23 years. She was hit by another driver in May 2021 while pulling out of her driveway; the driver who hit into her also crashed through her neighbor's fence which was just recently fixed. Ms. Pawlowski contacted the Police Department, who sat in her driveway on occasion to take radar. She suggests additional stop signs to stop drivers from speeding, in particular she'd like to raise awareness at Main Street & Holland Ave and at Main Street & Willow Ave. She noted that Sgt. Scanlon has been very helpful as has Mayor Skinner and asked what actions need to be taken to implement additional stop signs. Mayor Skinner stated that it's a county road and that the county has jurisdiction. The County would do a study as they set the speed limits and determine where to put stop signs. Mayor Skinner noted that the Borough and the Police Department, collectively, will contact the Traffic Safety Department at the County. Councilman Lemma spoke about how a traffic study could potentially increase the speed limit for a road so will need to be careful about how the request is worded. Councilman Sweeney also suggested that Ms. Pawlowski could reach out to the County Board of Commissioners and can attend and speak at one of their meetings.

Mike Koppes of 25 Willow Avenue noted that Sgt. Scanlon has done tremendous work on the speed studies throughout the Borough and noted that the average speed is 30-35 mph on Willow Ave. He stated that the Borough used to be known as a town that people didn't want to speed through due to enforcement by the Police Department. Mr. Koppes raised his concern about speeding issues as well as the staffing level of the Police Department.

Patty Sullivan of 21 Willow Avenue addressed the Mayor & Council and said that it's dangerous and scary when she walks her dogs. She feels that flashing signs to remind drivers of the speed limit would be helpful and noted that she and fellow neighbors are trying to prevent a tragedy from occurring. Mayor Skinner &



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 29, 2022**



various Council Members stated that the Borough does still have a reputation that speeding is enforced throughout town. Councilwoman Murphy stated that she also lives on Willow Ave and concurred with the concerns of the Willow Ave residents. Mayor Skinner discussed possibly looking into narrowing the lines on the road by perhaps bringing the lines in a bit. Sgt. Scanlon stated that the data was very similar when the flashing lights were on versus off as part of the studies conducted. Councilman Caminiti noted that he is the Roads Chairman and that data changes, volume changes, and drivers change. He stated that the opportunity to look into grants is important, and also noted that officers have a level of discretion that comes into play as it relates to speeding. He reiterated that everyone wants the community to be safe for walking. Further discussion touched on the newest law in NJ regarding distancing from walkers was put into effect at the end of February and the Council stated that information will be posted on the Borough website for education on the new law. Councilman Sweeney mentioned that rumble strips are another option to strategically place on Willow Ave that are very economical but residents may be concerned with the associated noise.

Larry Nagy of 33 Main Street spoke about no available parking on the East side of Main Street and future road safety issues. He stated that hopefully the Lime Kiln will be a future place of interest. He also stated that the strip of land between 31 Main Street and 33 Main Street is owned by the Borough and that if the Borough eventually connects it's piece of land to Natirar's trail system, people could be walking on Main Street. He also suggested that perhaps the Borough could seek to acquire an easement in the area of 41 Main Street for people to walk more safely in that area. Councilman Murphy noted that she is on the committee for the trail system.

Donna Brooten of 3 Willow Ave spoke about the tradition of tree lighting, live nativity, Santa, luminaries, etc. for the holidays at Liberty Park. She suggested that perhaps a tree from the tree farm on Willow Ave could be donated to the Borough to replace the large tree for holiday lights. Councilman Caminiti said that it will be discussed with the landscape architect.

Guy Torsilieri, who doesn't live in town, but has his business' office at 265 Main Street asked the Mayor & Council if there is a new completion date for the Liberty Park Project. Councilman Caminiti said that there is not a date certain but that completion is slated for the end of April/beginning of May. Mr. Torsilieri stated that there are serious supervision problems at the park, for example, the steps around the gazebo were installed incorrectly as a full set of stairs were not done. He said the contractor is backing into approvals. Councilman Caminiti noted that there are still outstanding OPRA request items to be satisfied. Mr. Torsilieri noted that the sample path was not approved as it was done with a 1" thickness, whereas the plans and specs called for 3" thickness and stated that the Borough doesn't have the proper construction management oversight in town. Mr. Torsilieri asks about the vetting process for payment schedules and Councilman Caminiti noted that Carter Van Dyke & Associates as Construction Manager does the reconciliations. Mr. Torsilieri stated that the Borough should receive a credit for the lack of fittings and stone from December. Council President Corigliano confirmed that Construction Management is not an area of expertise that the Borough Council Members or the DPW maintain, which is why Carter Van Dyke & Associates was hired.

John Kochis of 24 Willow Ave also discussed speeding and noted that he pulls over when he is being tailgated. He also raised the idea of potential stop signs on Tainter.



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 29, 2022**



Mike Koppes of 25 Willow Ave spoke again and asked about the status of the 2022 Budget and the staffing level of the Police Department. Chief Ferrante responded that since he has been with the Borough, the department had the most staffing in 2007 & 2008 when there were nine (9) full-time employees and two (2) part-time employees. Mayor Skinner noted that there would be a Budget Meeting at 6pm on April 7th that would be held virtually if Mr. Koppes would like to participate in that virtual meeting to listen and address the Police Department budget.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Skinner stated that Gerald Palmer, who was very instrumental in the Scout Program in the Borough for many years recently passed away and requested that the Scout Cabin be named after Gerald Palmer in his honor. Council Members concurred.

Mayor Skinner stated that if the Borough loses electricity, the Municipal Building has a propane generator. He noted that a change from propane to natural gas in the municipal building was a topic of discussion several years back and recommends looking into a dual fuel propane and natural gas system. Borough Administrator Bretzger stated that she will speak with Dan Megill regarding same. Councilman Lemma stated that there has never been a natural gas outage in New Jersey.

MISCELLANEOUS DISSSION/APPROVALS

Councilwoman Murphy raised the topic of open gym and stated that several residents have asked about same. Councilman Sweeney said that there have been some discussions with the Recreation Commissions and that we will need to have the open gym supervised so that children are not alone without adult supervision volunteers. Council President Corigliano stated that there were some issues in the gym before the COVID pandemic (ie. Damage and injuries) and suggested that Recreation Director Dan Dolan to come up with a plan. Councilman Sweeney will discuss with Dan Dolan. Councilman Lemma stated that a video surveillance system was purchased for the gym as well.

MINUTES

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Regular Meeting minutes of March 8, 2022. Councilman Caminiti motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.

ORDINANCES

Mayor Skinner asked for a motion and second to open the Public Hearing for **Ordinance 1109-2022 – AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK** (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Councilman Sweeney moved to open the hearing for Public Comment for **Ordinance 1109-2022**, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was carried unanimously.



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 29, 2022**



Mayor Skinner opened it to the public for any comments. No one came forward.

Councilman Caminiti moved to close public comment for **Ordinance 1109-2022**, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Caminiti moved to Adopt **Ordinance 1109-2022**, seconded by Council President Corigliano. Said motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

Consent Agenda for Resolutions 65-22, 66-22, 67-22, 69-22, 70-22, 72-22, 73-22, 74-22, 75-22, 76-22, and 77-22 was motioned by Councilman Lemma, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motioned was passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 65-22 – RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM CLAIMANT CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT POLICY FOR 2022

RESOLUTION NO. 66-22 – RESOLUTION FOR MAYORAL APPOINTMENT FOR THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE TO THE RECREATION COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 67-22 – RESOLUTION FOR STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GREEN ACRES PROGRAM-ENABLING RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 69-22 – AUTHORIZATION TO PAY UNUSED VACATION TIME TO JUSTIN DIETRICH

RESOLUTION NO. 70-22 – RESOLUTION FOR TEMPORARY EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR OPERATING PURPOSES

RESOLUTION NO. 72-22 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF A 2021 FERRARA CUSTOM NON WALK-IN RESCUE TRUCK FROM FF1 APPARATUS LLC FOR THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 73-22 – RESOLUTION APPOINTING NANCY A. BRETZGER AS THE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE

RESOLUTION NO. 74-22 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO AARP FOR THEIR COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM IN REGARDS TO EXPANDED VIRTUAL MEETING TECHNOLOGY

RESOLUTION NO. 75-22 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF TEMPORARY PART-TIME VIOLATIONS CLERKS IN THE SHARED MUNICIPAL COURT

RESOLUTION NO. 76-22 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN DISTRACTED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT FOR AWARDED GRANT COURT

RESOLUTION NO. 77-22 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE AND THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET FOR COMMODITY RESALE AGREEMENT ID# 201SCCRS 2021-2026

RESOLUTION 68-22 Resolution to Approve a Special Use Permit for Café Azzuro, 141 Main Street, Peapack, NJ for a Tent for Outside Dining was read. Following a discussion, said resolution was pulled. The discussion was such that the applicant's attorney should present to the Land Use Board. Councilman Sweeney noted that it should be a Use Permit and not a Special Use Permit. John Bruder confirmed that he will contact Café Azzuro's attorney.



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 29, 2022**



RESOLUTION 71-22 Resolution to Approve Purchase and Installation of a Backflow Prevention Assembly per the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act (N.J.S.A. 58:12A-1 ET SEQ) at Borough Hall was read. Motion was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich, followed by a discussion. Council President Corigliano noted that NJ American Water Company hired a company from Somers Point, NJ and he contacted the company asking for a copy of the law. He has not received a copy of the law and stated that there are criteria for who does and doesn't qualify for needing to install a backflow prevention assembly. He stated that there are really no circumstances where non-potable water could get into the water supply and recommends holding off until we learn more about it or until it comes out as a state law. Council President Corigliano will also speak with the Plumbing Code Official regarding the topic. Then, a motion was made by Councilman Caminiti to withdraw said resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion to withdraw the resolution was passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 78-22 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 Council President Corigliano. Said motion was voted with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilman Sweeney for the following reason: he would like to see a revised bill to reflect the credit mentioned by Mr. Torsilieri tonight and feels that the best way to get their attention is to hold up the check.

RESOLUTION 79-22 Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List in the amount of \$851,024.38 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 80-22 Resolution Suspending Peapack and Gladstone Police Officer Anthony Damiano Without Pay for Five Work Days Effective March 24, 2022 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 81-22 Resolution Accepting from Anthony Damiano, Police Officer his Resignation and Authorization to Pay Unused Vacation was read. Motion was made by Council President Corigliano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Finance – second budget meeting will be held virtually at 6pm on April 7th.

Sanitation & Sewer – nothing to report and no increase in sewer rates.

Borough Property – Liberty Park Project anticipated completion end of April/beginning of May at which time there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Scout Cabin received display cabinets from the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts as a donation, that our DPW picked up. The Scout Cabin will be complete by the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Fire and First Aid – approval granted tonight for the purchase of a truck and pre-construction meeting will occur after the deposit is sent.



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
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Roads & Transportation – Striping will be finished shortly and the DPW has equipment to enhance striping in-house.

Zoning & Construction – No Report

Borough Attorney's Report- John Bruder stated that he had no report tonight.

Police– letter received from PBA regarding contract arbitration; and, will advertise for Police Department officer replacement.

Administrator's Report – Nancy Bretzger stated that she had no report tonight.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Skinner stated that he had no report tonight.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – 3 MINUTES PER PERSON – AGENDA ITEMS

No one came forward

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 8:28 p.m. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk