



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 19, 2023**



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 in person and began at 7:04p.m.

Mayor Corigliano called the meeting to order. Borough Clerk Nancy Bretzger read the Sunshine Notice "Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Adequate notice of 2023 Meeting Dates was published in the Courier News and Bernardsville News on December 8, 2022 and posted at the Municipal Complex and the Borough Library. Action may be taken."

Mayor Corigliano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call indicated the following present: Councilwoman Dietrich, Councilman Lemma, Councilman Quartello, Council President Sweeney, Councilwoman Weible and Mayor Corigliano

Absent: Councilwomen Murphy

Also present were: Brian Bontempo, filling in for Borough Attorney John Bruder, Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk/Administrator

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

Donna Brooten, 3 Willow Avenue wanted to personally thank Amy Dietrich and Don Lemma for all they have done for the Borough. She thanked Amy Dietrich for her involvement on the Historic Preservation Board and she thanked Don Lemma for getting Liberty Park into the great condition it is.

OLD BUSINESS

●Cats-Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) program

Councilwoman Weible updated the Council on the Cat colonies within the Borough. There is a group of residents who are willing to trap, neuter and release these cats using their own money.

She spoke on the recently passed Ordinance relating to this issue and some wording that prohibits the feeding of these animals. There is a conflict that is arising because the private citizens who are interested in doing this program feel that particular wording is contradictory to them because not feeding the cats is considered animal cruelty. They also are concerned with the cats after they are spayed and neutered that they are not just left to fend for themselves. These issues are not stopping them and they have begun the process.

These residents would like the Council to promote this program. One of the residents is willing to match any monetary donations they receive with her own money.

There has also been an issue in enforcing this Ordinance. If these individuals who have these cat colonies are approached they claim they are their own, owned, cats; they just live outdoors.

Mayor Corigliano stated that if this group is looking for Borough endorsement or Borough support, they will need to come before the Council with a formal proposal.



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- Councilman Quartello brought up the weight limitation on vehicles on certain roads, but specifically Overlook Avenue. He said there is an existing ordinance in place and Overlook Ave. can be added to it. He spoke with Chief Ferrante and he suggested adding Jackson Ave. as well. Councilman Quartello would like to see an ordinance modification next year adding Overlook Avenue to the list of weight restricted roads of the existing Ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Lemma stated that the Chief of Police expressed an interest in using a company called EDS to schedule the special jobs (off-duty road jobs) that the police work. EDS is used by several other departments. They maintain the database and prioritize the call out for the officer's special duty assignments which the Chief recommends, based on seniority. The draw back to this is there is an 8% fee but it is charged to the company that is requesting the officer to direct traffic such as New Jersey National Gas and Verizon. It comes to \$10.80 per hour based on the current call-out rate. It would be month to month and can be cancelled at any time.

The way it works now is a call comes in and Sgt. Scanlon does the schedule and he takes care of the prioritization and posts it.

Mayor Corigliano stated this would require an Ordinance change to allow a charge by a third-party to the road work fees.

Some valid questions were raised by the Council. Councilman Lemma will follow up on this.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS -None

MINUTES

Mayor Corigliano asked for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 5, 2023, motion made by Council President Sweeney, and seconded by Councilwoman Weible, roll call taken; said motion passed, Councilman Quartello and Councilman Lemma abstained.

PUBLIC HEARING OF BOND ORDINANCE 1129-2023 *BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A FIRE TRUCK IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$1,000,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$950,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF*

Councilman Lemma made motion to open the Ordinance up for public hearing; seconded by Councilman Quartello, roll call taken; said motion passes.

No public comment made.

Council President Sweeney made a motion to close the public session; seconded by Councilman Lemma, roll call taken; said motion passed.



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Motion to adopt Ordinance 1129-2023, made by Councilman Lemma, seconded by Councilman Quartello, roll call vote taken; said motion passed.

Mayor Corigliano stated that "Bond Ordinance 1129-2023 is adopted and shall be published by title only in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the law.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 1130-2023 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING CERTAIN MONIES HELD BY THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A FIRE TRUCK FOR THE BOROUGH'S FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR \$50,000.00

Motion made by Councilman Quartello to open the Ordinance up for public hearing; seconded by Councilwoman Weible to introduce the ordinance; roll call taken; said motion passed.

No Public comment.

Motion made by Councilman Quartello to close the public hearing; seconded by Councilman Weible; roll call taken, said motion passes.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 1130-2023, made by Councilman Quartello, seconded by Councilwoman Weible, roll call vote taken; said motion passes.

Mayor Corigliano stated that "Ordinance 1130-2023 is adopted and shall be published by title only in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the law.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 1131-2023 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER II, SECTION 2-43 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK AND GLADSTONE BY CREATING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Motion made by Councilman Quartello; seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich to open the Ordinance up for public hearing, roll call taken, said motion passed.

John Kappler, 25 Holland Avenue said it is his understanding that combining the Environmental and Shade Tree commissions will not affect the Shade Trees commissions ability to get immunity.

He commended the Board for their efforts in doing this. He is happy to see the two combined.

He is concerned about the reduction in membership. He said currently they have 5 to 7 plus two alternates under the current ordinance. Under the new Ordinance the member is 5 plus 2. This past year, they had 8 members and he asked the Council the amend the Ordinance to make the membership the current roll.



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Mayor Corigliano stated that when he and John met the other day he explained to John that the 5 and 2 are not members they are Commissioners and they have to vote and file a financial disclosure statement. The record of the Environmental Commissioners this past year has been very poor with none of the commissioners filing financial disclosure statements. This does not preclude the combined Commission from having more members, they just have to be a title other than Commissioners such as advisors, etc..

Through John Kappler's research he has discovered that Environmental Commission Commissioners do not need to complete Financial Disclosure statements because they are not officers.

Nancy Bretzger said she will look into this.

Andrew Goode, 303 Main Street has been on the Environmental Commission for 6 or 8 years. He stated in the new Ordinance there is now a term limit for the Environmental Commissioners of 3 years. He feels that by changing this every 3 year might not be a good idea because you will lose the continuity and the understanding of how all the laws work.

Mayor Corigliano stated you can be an Environmental Commissioner as long as one wants to be reappointed and as long as the Mayor and Council want to reappoint the individual. The three-year term limit applies to the Chairman. After three years the current Chairman must be changed. Once the chair goes off they can still continue to serve as a member of the Environmental Commission.

Councilwoman Dietrich expressed her thoughts on the term limit of the Chairman. She said it is a lot of work to be the Chairman and it is a nice idea to rotate it.

Motion made by Council President Sweeney; seconded by Councilwoman Weible to closed the public hearing, roll call taken, said motion passed.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 1131-2023 made by Council President John Sweeny; seconded by Councilman Quartello, roll call vote taken, said motion passed.

Mayor Corigliano stated that "Ordinance 1131-2023 is adopted and shall be published by title only in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the law.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 1132-2023 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER II, SECTION 2-45 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK AND GLADSTONE ENTITLED HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AND CREATING CHAPTER II, SECTION 2-51 ESTABLISHING AN HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE



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Motion made by Councilman Quartello; seconded by Councilwoman Weible to open the Ordinance up for public hearing, roll call taken; said motion passed.

No public comment.

Motion made by Councilman Lemma; seconded by Council President Sweeney to closed the public hearing, roll call taken, said motion passed.

Motion made by Councilwoman Weible; seconded by Council President Sweeney to adopt Ordinance 1132-2023, roll call taken; said motion passed.

Mayor Corigliano Officer stated that "Ordinance 1132-2023 is adopted and shall be published by title only in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the law.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 1133-2023 *AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER II, SECTION 2-42 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK AND GLADSTONE ENTITLED RECREATION COMMISSION AND CREATING CHAPTER II, SECTION 2-50 ESTABLISHING A RECREATION COMMITTEE*

Motion made by Councilman Quartello; seconded by Councilwoman Weible to open the Ordinance up for public hearing, roll call taken; said motion passed.

No public comment.

Motion made by Councilman Lemma; seconded by Councilman Quartello to close public hearing; roll call vote taken, said motion passed.

Motion made by Council President Sweeney; seconded by Councilman Quartello to adopt Ordinance 1133-2023, roll call taken; said motion passed.

Mayor Corigliano stated that "Ordinance 1133-2023 is adopted and shall be published by title only in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the law.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 1134-2023 *AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER II, SECTION 2-47 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK AND GLADSTONE TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD TO THE LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE*

Motion made by Council President Sweeney; seconded by Councilman Quartello to open the Ordinance for public hearing, roll call taken; said motion passed.

No public comment.

Motion made by Council President Sweeney; seconded by Councilwoman Weible to close the public hearing, roll call taken; said motion passed.

Motion made by Council President Sweeney; seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich to adopt Ordinance 1134-2023, roll call taken; said motion passed.



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Mayor Corigliano stated that "Ordinance 1134-2023 is adopted and shall be published by title only in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the law.

Mayor Corigliano stated that the ordinances that were just adopted were prompted by his Mayor's Punchlist. He said earlier in the year he presented the Mayor's punch list. On the list was a rationalization of committees. He was cognizant that the Borough is not utilizing its volunteers most effectively, there is redundancy and further, we are not following State Statutes. He said we follow the law in Peapack and Gladstone and that the Committees and Commissions shall as well. He said Councilwoman Dietrich, Council President Sweeney and himself had formed a subcommittee and they worked with the Borough Attorney and Nancy Bretzger to rationalize and see what could be consolidated and make more efficient in an effort to make our volunteers feel valued and to make their time volunteering with the Borough more productive. Unfortunately, it came down to the wire in getting them read and the intent was to get them read and discussed so we can make the appointments for next year consistent with the Ordinance changes. He said this town runs on our volunteers and we want to make them feel appreciated.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 1135-2023 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING CERTAIN MONIES HELD BY THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A RESCUE FIRE TRUCK FOR THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Motion made by Councilman Quartello; seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich to open up the public hearing, roll call vote taken; said motion passed.

No public comment.

Motion made by Council President Sweeney; seconded by Councilwoman Weible to close the public hearing, roll call taken; said motion passed.

Motion made by Councilman Lemma; seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich to adopt Ordinance 1135-2023, roll call taken; said motion passed.

Mayor Corigliano stated that "Ordinance 1135-2023 is adopted and shall be published by title only in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the law.

Mayor Corigliano explained that this Ordinance allows us to pay the last \$75,000 cost of the new rescue fire truck.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R-219-23 RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH NEW WORK HOURS FOR BOROUGH EMPLOYEES AND BOROUGH HALL HOURS STARTING JANUARY 1, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. R-220-23 RESOLUTION APPOINTING A PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE SHARED MUNICIPAL COURT IN THE YEAR 2024

RESOLUTION NO. R-221-23 RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR FOR THE SHARED MUNICIPAL COURT FOR 2024



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Consent Agenda vote for Resolutions 219-23 to 221-23; motion made by Councilwoman Dietrich; seconded by Councilman Lemma, roll call taken; said motion passed.

BILLS LIST

RESOLUTION NO. 222-23 *Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List Total Amount: \$733,862.91*

Motion made by Councilman Quartello; seconded by Councilwoman Weible, seconded by Councilman Quartello, roll call vote taken; said motion passed.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Lemma stated there was a fire at Natirar which was reported in the newspaper and our Fire Department did a very effective job responding to the fire quickly and putting it out before there was any real damage.

He said we are starting the process on the fire engine truck, but it will take several years to build. He also advised that the new rescue fire truck is nearly complete and some of the fire department members flew down to Louisiana where it is being made. They were very impressed with what they saw. It will be taken to Ohio for outfitting. The Borough should have it by the end of January.

Under police, the selection is underway to replace Officer Kelly. He understands there is one candidate and they have also looked at the most recent graduating class in Morristown.

Mayor Corigliano stated the Borough indirectly received for the school board 2 grants from the County. One is for the Governor's Council of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and the funding is a total award of \$15,435.00 and the other one is for \$12,000 as an annual grant of which \$6,000 goes to educational programs.

He said he signed a Mayor's petition to the Governor to support reform of the Open Public Records Act.

Nancy Bretzger stated that Suzie Givone passed her Registered Municipal Clerk's exam. She took the exam in October and found out last week that she passed.

Mayor's Executive Summary

Nancy Bretzger to move a discussion that was slated for Executive Session but was tabled to the January 23rd meeting.

Don Lemma will reach out to the police on the analysis regarding the off-duty work service.

The Mayor again thanked the Volunteers at the Fire Department. They have been called out more times this year than last year. The Chief and volunteers were running after Monday's heavy rain storm, pumping out basements and dealing with a tree fell through someone's roof on Main Street. A big shout out to them.



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Mayor Corigliano said tonight is the last meeting for Councilwoman Amy Dietrich and Councilman Don Lemma. He said they will be very missed and thanked them for their service.

No public comment.

Councilman Lemma recognized the Bernardsville New and Jake Perry for his incredible dedication. He said his reporting is always honest and balanced. He thanked him for what he does.

With no further business, motion made by Councilman Quartello; seconded by Councilwoman Weible to close the meeting at 8:10pm.

Motion made by Council President Sweeney to move back into executive session, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich, roll call taken; said motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A. Bretzger

Nancy Bretzger, Borough Clerk