



**MAYOR & COUNCIL  
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 5, 2023**



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 7:01pm.

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, Councilwoman Murphy, Council President Sweeney, Councilwoman Weible

Councilmen Lemma and Quartello were absent.

Also present were: Mr. John Bruder, Esq., Borough Attorney, Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk/Administrator

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

Nicki Dawson, 825 Brown Road, Bridgewater spoke on a feline trap, neuter, and return program she offers. She is a 30-year animal control officer and shelter administrator and for the last 5 years and has worked nationally as well internationally on animal issues. She said that the trap, neuter and return programs have proven to be very successful. She can provide statistics and methods and has information for the council on best practices.

Mayor Corigliano stated the Borough is interested in how she might help with the feral cat issues in the Borough and asked her to coordinate with Councilwoman Weible, who has been overseeing this matter

**PRESENTATION**

Mayor Corigliano read and presented Matheny with a Proclamation recognizing 30 years of their Arts Access Program, to President Bill Kent and Eileen Murray, Director of the Arts Access Program.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Nancy Bretzger stated she received an email today asking for permission from the architect for the library to have their electrical engineer come in and check the electrical panels to make sure everything is up to code. They will be here on Friday morning, December 8, 2023.

Councilwoman Dietrich gave an update on the quilt. She will be bringing it to the framer tomorrow and they should be able to get it back to us quickly.



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**NEW BUSINESS**

Nancy Bretzger spoke on Borough Hall Hours.

Back in September after we had our summer hours, a few of the employees and she did a straw poll for any residents or anyone that came into the building for the month of September. The Clerks office, Construction and the Police Department did the poll on an hour by hour basis. For the entire month of September, there was a total of 5 people that came in after 1:00PM on a Friday afternoon. She is proposing to have the building hours changed year-round to 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday -Thursday with an hour for lunch – and 8:00am to 1:00pm on Fridays with no lunch. DPW would work 7am to 4pm with a continued ½ hour for lunch Monday – Thursday and 7am to 1pm on Fridays with no lunch.

The council was very supportive of this idea. They will move forward with a resolution for the next meeting.

**MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS**

- Discussion about Main St. crossing at Cocoluxe.

Councilwoman Murphy explained about the current situation and how it is hard to see pedestrians in the street trying to cross the road. She felt flashing lights would not nice be ecstatically pleasing to the eye and her alternative suggestion was a curved bump out. This would expand the sidewalk out to expand further into the crosswalk. She feels this visually will be more pleasing and the bump out will make it easier for people to see the pedestrians. She feels it could be made smaller or narrower so it won't impact the loading zone for Cocoluxe.

Council President Sweeney liked the idea but said we would need to get County approval. Mayor Corigliano likes the idea as well and suggested a bump out with possibly a planter. Councilwoman Murphy will pursue this.

- Bridge discussion

Councilwoman Murphy stated she attended an on-line meeting about a bridge replacement project that is going to occur in town on the bridge that is at the bottom of Pottersville Road by Gladstone Tavern and the gas station. It is a very old bridge and is deemed in poor condition. The County has plans to replace it in the imminent future. The new structure will be the same width and length and the roadway will not change. Under the bridge will change with all utilities going underground with the general area cleaned up. The deadline for the bids is April of 2024 but the work would not get done until the spring of 2025 because it is over a trout stream and you cannot do any work over a trout stream during certain periods. The County will work with us to insure emergency vehicles access. The road will be closed to through traffic during construction. The County is hoping to have it completed in 6 months. There will be no cost to the Borough. The Borough can have input on the type of stone for the bridge.





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**MINUTES**

Mayor Corigliano asked for a motion to approve the Executive Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2023, motion made by Council President Sweeney; seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich; roll call taken; said motion passed. Councilwomen Murphy and Weible abstained.

**INTRODUCTION OF BOND 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

Council President Sweeney motioned to accept the introduction of Ordinance 1135-2023; seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, roll call taken; said motion passed.

Mayor Corigliano stated that "Bond Ordinance 1135-2023 is Introduced and shall be published in summary in the Courier News and that the Public Hearing for said Ordinance shall be held on December 19, 2023 at 7:00pm or shortly thereafter"

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 212-23** RESOLUTION FOR OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE FOR THE YEAR 2024

**RESOLUTION NO. 213-23** RESOLUTION SETTING THE 2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK AND GLADSTONE

**RESOLUTION NO. 214-23** RESOLUTION ACCEPTING RESIGNATION FROM MATT KELLY, POLICE OFFICER

**RESOLUTION NO. 215-23** RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2026

**RESOLUTION NO. 216-23** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN DRIVE SOBER END-OF-YEAR DWI EVENT FROM DECEMBER 15, 2023 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2024

Consent Agenda vote for Resolutions R-212-23 to R-216-23, motion made by Council President Sweeney; seconded by Councilwoman Murphy; roll call taken; said motion passed.

**BILLS LIST**

**RESOLUTION NO. 217-23** Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List Total Amount: **\$1,035,048.11** Motion made by Council President Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich, roll call vote taken; said motion passed.



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**Mayor's Executive Summary**

Councilwoman Weible will contact Ms. Dawson on the trap, neuter and release program.  
Nancy Bretzger will do the resolutions for the Borough Hall new hours.

Mayor Corigliano gave a shout out to the Knights of Columbus and Council President Sweeney for his work in repairing the manger and figures for displace in the Park.

Mayor Corigliano recalled when, just before he joined the Council in 2014 he was invited to interview Borough Attorney candidates. They interviewed three or four attorneys and one of them stood head and shoulders above rest and that person was John Bruder. John has been serving the Borough for 10 years. He stated that tonight could be John's last night with us at a public meeting because he is up for nomination next week by the NJ Senate to be the Superior Court Judge in Somerset County. That is great news for John. His guidance, honesty and integrity will be very missed.

**Public Comment**

Carol Lane, 1 Hillyard Lane asked a question on the bump out that Councilwoman Murphy mentioned in front of Cocoluxe. She wanted to know if that design could go in front of Rob Frances?

Councilwoman Murphy explained that the bump out would only be installed to safely access the crosswalk. There is not a crosswalk at Rob Frances.

Ms. Lane asked about the bridge and is happy to hear that work will take place. She emailed the County about a year and half ago and they stated it was on their radar. The County did mention that when they did the work they would reevaluate the mortaring that was done on the bridge by Jackson Avenue. That bridge was in a state of disrepair and the stone work done did not come out very well. The County mentioned they would address that when they addressed the Potterville's Bridge.

Councilwoman Murphy was not aware of that but she will bring it up next time they meet.

With no further business, motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:43PM by Council President Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Nancy Bretzger, Borough Clerk