



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 18, 2023**



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 virtually via GoTo Meeting and began at 7:00p.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, Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Quartello, Council President Sweeney, Councilwoman Weible and Mayor Corigliano

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

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

No public comment

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Ordinance for Police Promotions

Council President Sweeney said they are scrapping the existing promotional ordinance because it is overly complex for the size of our Police Department. With the new ordinance they are presenting, there have been changes for the chief such as minimal requirements and preferred requirements. The Council was given a copy of the new proposed ordinance.

Councilman Lemma stated that Chief Ferrante has reviewed this but not the PBA. He also mentioned to omit the word Patrol in Patrol Officer and just use Officer. Council President Sweeney agreed with the change.

This draft is being asked for everyone to review one last time before it goes to first reading. It will be reviewed by John Bruder, Esq.

If there is not much feedback, it will be introduced at the meeting in August or September.

Councilman Quartello gave an update from the speeding reading at Jackson and Main Streets and it looks like the average speed has been between 34 and 35 miles per hour. He has been provided a contact with the county that has worked with us and he is going to see what additional things we can do in terms of signage, etc.

Councilman Lemma stated that we have been extremely patient with the outstanding Liberty Park issues. Councilwoman Murphy stated they have been trying to communicate with them and John Bruder has been involved.



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NEW BUSINESS

Feral and Free Roaming Cat Ordinance-

Mayor Corigliano put this on the agenda because there has become an issued with feral and free roaming cats in our town, particularly in one neighborhood. There is an older woman who has been feeding cats upwards to 17 to 20 cats. This has created a nuisance for neighbors. We reached out to Animal Control and there is nothing they can do without having either an ordinance or a cat registration program in place. John Bruder has looked into. Basically, our hands are tied. Mayor stated apparently this situation is not unique to us. He drove through the neighborhood and saw firsthand. His first thought was to be diplomatic and he reached out to a relative of the homeowner and he was promised that the feedings would decrease but they haven't. Plan B, Hazlett has a very effective ordinance which would simply allow animal control to put some enforcement in place. This ordinance was included in the council's package to review.

Councilwoman Murphy feels this ordinance is completely reasonable. She said it should be expanded to include not feeding wildlife including deer. Birds would be excluded.

In particular to this feral cat problem we need to figure out a way as a town to trap these cats and spay and neuter them and we will need to go beyond this ordinance to help the residents.

John Bruder stated in regards to the deer hunting there would have to be language about feeding deer because the state of New Jersey permits that in connection with hunting deer.

There was consensus from the Council to take the next steps.

Mayor Corigliano asked John Bruder to take this up with the modifications suggested by the council extending it to all feral animals but carving out birds and who would be the enforcing agency.

The enforcing agency was discussed and decided that Animal Control will be the enforcing agent. John Bruder will include language including no feeding of the geese.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS

Deer Management-

Council President Sweeney gave an overview on the deer culling program that was in town from about 2005 to about 2010. It was staffed by PG volunteers and organized by Borough employees. Hunting took place in a couple of the local parks as well as on numerous different properties. The question is do we want to reinstate deer culling, if so with Blue Ridge Sportsman, only on private property or a mix of public and private property?

Ralph Mehne from Blue Ridge Sportsman gave a background of his company being active with Deer Management for approximately 25 out of the 30 to 40 years of there existence. They had started as a bird hunting club and moved into deer management. He explained the thorough vetting process of



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their members and how the members are associates members for 1 to 2 years so it gives them a chance to get to know them and their hunting abilities. They follow all the New Jersey State, Division of Fish and Wildlife Regulations and they hunt from removable elevated tree stands. The stands go up in August and are removed at the end of the hunting season around the middle of February. Shooting from elevated stands is probably the safest because any shot they take is going towards the ground. Prior to every season each hunter must qualify at their range. They must make sure their weapons of choice are sited in. Some townships want them to use shotguns, some township's want archery only. It is up to the township.

Council President Sweeney stated for our town the council prefers archery.

Mr. Mehne stated that most hunters use cross bows which is similar to using a rifle. It is a very good tool.

Mayor Corigliano asked what is the process once a deer is down?

Mr. Mehne explained they field dress it and it is removed immediately from the property and then it is taken to a butcher or the hunters butcher it themselves. They donate deer to a lot of organizations. None of the deer goes to waste.

The question was asked if more than one deer can be killed. Mr. Mehne stated the rules and regulations allow a hunter to shoot more than one deer a day. You could shoot two deer at once and remove them from the property and then come back and shoot more.

Mayor Corigliano asked about the archery regulations information. This comes from the DPA website. Mr. Mehne explained the Zones that the state is divided into.

Discussion ensued on whether residents would be allowed to participate in the culling.

Mr. Mehne said they could take a resident who wanted to join and they would come in as an Associate member and be on probation until they met all the requirements. He said this should be done before the season.

Councilman Quartello asked about the deer dressings. Are they removed with the deer?

Mr. Mehne said sometimes they are and sometimes we go back the next day but they are gone because of coyotes or other predators in the area. If the town wants us to remove them, we can do it.

Councilwoman Murphy stated that she did her own research and found out that the population of white tail deer in New Jersey has been climbing since 2015. She understands the need to control the population but she just wants to be sure they are careful about being safe.



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John Bruder asked if any towns have asked to just harvest doe?

Mr. Mehne stated that he does not recall any town specifying only killed doe. He did say that when the season begins you have to shoot a doe first before you can shoot a buck.

Discussion ensued with Mr. Mehne and the council expressed a consensus to bring back the deer culling program.

A discussion ensued on obtaining a contract for services provided by Blue Ridge Sportsman. Mr. Mehne stated they use waivers.

The consensus of the council was to have Council President Sweeney and John Bruder work on a draft contract to present to the Council.

Geese Discussion-

Councilwoman Murphy stated she spoke at length to USDA about the Borough's current situation with this kind of non-migratory Canadian geese that have been living at Liberty Park pond for years and years. She told USDA that they have tried all kinds of methods to deter these geese.

USDA's suggestion based on all of their experience with this throughout the years is through lethal management euthanizing.

Councilwoman Murphy explained to the Council that this would need to be done during their molting season which is typically in June when they can't fly. USDA would come in and get the geese and take them away and humanely euthanize them. You also still need to do nest and egg management in the spring. USDA would charge between \$1200 to \$2000 which is similar to what we have paid to adle the eggs. To capture the geese is between \$6500 to \$7000 and in general new geese should not come back for at least 5 to 8 years.

Councilwoman Murphy stated it is becoming more of a health issue now with them roaming the town. USDA would like to know by late fall if we decide to do this.

Discussion ensued with councilmembers.

Mayor Corigliano feels it will be important to explain to our residents what we are doing and why we are doing it. If the people understand our rationale, it will go a long way. He asked Councilwoman Murphy to put some bullet points together for the upcoming newsletter that will be going out in September.

The consensus of the council is for Councilwoman Murphy to move forward on this.



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Council President Sweeney mentioned that there will be a resolution with a contract and there will be an opportunity for the public to speak at that time.

MINUTES

Mayor Corigliano asked for a consent agenda for the 3 sets of minutes First Executive Session Meeting from June 27, 2023, Second Executive Session Meeting from June 27, 2023 and Regular Meeting Minutes June 27, 2023 motion to approve the 3 sets of minutes by Councilman Lemma; seconded by Councilwoman Murphy roll call taken, said motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 1125-23 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CAPITAL ORDINANCE 1123-2023 FINALLY ADOPTED ON JUNE 13, 2023, IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO APPROPRIATE \$40,000.00 FOR 700 Mhz TRUNKING RADIOS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Councilwoman Murphy made motion to open public hearing for Ordinance 1125-23; seconded by Councilman Lemma, roll call taken; said motion was passed.

No public Comment

Councilman Lemma made motion to closed the public hearing for Ordinance 1125-23; seconded by Councilman Quartello, roll call taken; said motion was passed.

Council President Sweeney made motion to adopt Ordinance 1125-23; seconded by Councilman Quartello, roll call taken; said motion was passed.

Mayor Corigliano stated that Ordinance 1125-2023 is adopted and shall be published by title only in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the law.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 148-23 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DAINA GULBIS'S RESIGNATION FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 149-23 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN DISTRACTED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM JULY 1-31, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 151-23 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO RBK PAINTING, LLC FOR EXTERIOR WORK ON THE BOROUGH'S FIRE HOUSE

RESOLUTION NO. 152-23 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF CONTROL PANEL FROM RAPID PUMP AND METER SERVICE CO., INC. FOR THE TRIMMER LANE PUMP STATION

RESOLUTION NO. 153-23 RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE GRACE PERIOD ON THE 2023 THIRD QUARTER TAX INSTALLMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 154-23 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A RESIGNATION LETTER FROM JONATHAN APGAR AS A LABORER FOR THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK AND GLADSTONE

RESOLUTION NO. 155-23 AUTHORIZATION FOR JOHN KEMP TO BECOME A RIDING MEMBER OF THE PEAPACK & GLADSTONE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



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RESOLUTION NO. 156-23 *RESOLUTION APPROVING MILLING AND PAVING ON RAMAPO WAY, WILLOW AVENUE, DEWEY AVENUE, HILLCREST AVENUE AND RESURFACING THE FIREHOUSE PARKING LOT*
Motion made by Councilwoman Murphy; seconded by Councilman Quartello for Consent Agenda vote for Resolutions R-148-23, R-149-23 and R-151-23 to R-156-23, roll call taken, motion was passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 150-23 *RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH EMERGENCY VEHICLE RESPONSE (EVR) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR A CUSTOM CHASSIS PUMPER APPARATUS FOR THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT*

Motion made by Councilman Lemma; seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich to adopt Resolution

Discussion:

Councilwoman Murphy stated there are some last-minute concerns that this particular company doesn't have a lot of experience with this type of pumper style. She wanted to know if we pass this resolution does it bind us to this company?

Mayor Corigliano stated that it does not bind us to the contract but to the company. He said it is the first time he is hearing that a member has an issue with it so we will table it.

Councilman Lemma will write a letter to the committee per this. He brought up the last company they used for a fire truck was not a good experience.

BILLS LIST

RESOLUTION NO. 157-23 *Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List Total Amount: \$918,685.08*

Motion made by Councilman Quartello; seconded by Council President Sweeney, roll call vote taken, said motion passed.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Lemma stated for the police department, Nicole Horne was sworn in at the last meeting. She has started her field training and it is going smoothly. The first police car has been painted and they are just waiting for the decals.

Councilwoman Murphy gave a report on property. She stated they took down a very large dead tree adjacent to the tot lot which will open up the lot.

Mayor Corigliano said he received a phone call from Rodney Bradshaw, the Superintendent of the school district. Mr. Bradshaw likes to meet with the new Mayors. Mayor Corigliano was



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very impressed with him. Mr. Brashaw was with Dell Rand Township for 10 years and he had a good relationship with the municipal government down there. Mayor Corigliano expects to see the same here. Mayor also expressed his concern with inaccurate numbers being reported relating to students who should not be attending. Mr. Bradshaw explained the audit process and he promised to review it. Mayor stated he enjoyed Mr. Bradshaw's views and his rationales and desires of how he wishes to run the school district.

Council President Sweeney suggested it would be a good idea to have Mr. Bradshaw come meet the Council. Years past they had the Superintendent and a representative come to a meeting a discuss the budget. It would be good to implement that again.

Mayor's Executive Summary

Mayor stated everyone will take a look at the draft Police Ordinance again. John Bruder will formalize the Animal ordinance with Councilwoman Murphy. Council President Sweeney will handle the deer culling contract working with Councilwomen Murphy and Weible and John Bruder. Councilwoman Murphy will move the ball along for the Geese dilemma. Don Lemma will work with the fire committee with the contract for the fire truck design.

Public Comment

Amy Cain spoke on the feral cat issue. She has been in Gladstone for 29 years. She lives across the street from the feral cats. She wasn't making a big deal about it until someone in the neighborhood got hookworm which is hard to get and feels it is attributed to cat feces. She can't go in her garden beds because they have become litter boxes for these cats. She said that they are faced with health issues because of these animal issues. She thanked the Board for working on this ordinance but she doesn't think the issue will stop if people are feeding the cats. The Board reassured her they are working on this and help is on its way.

Councilwoman Weible will reach out the Board of Health to follow up with things.

Peter Cuttone stated he is opposed to the outside source when he knows we have the resources within our community to solve the issue on our own. He would like to opportunity to make a formal proposal to the Council to provide the town with a resident based culling solution that incorporates private land as well as public lands.

Mayor Corigliano asked him to send his contact info to Council President Sweeney and he will get back to you.

Councilman Lemma asked where we were with the restriping of the roads that were repaved.



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Councilwoman Murphy did reach out to Brad Fagan who had reached out to the county representatives about three weeks ago and because of the bad weather it was pushed out.

Councilman Quartello will follow up with the county representatives.

With no further business, Mayor Corigliano closed the meeting at 8:46pm. Motion made by Councilwoman Dietrich and seconded by Councilman Quartello.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bretzger
Nancy Bretzger, Borough Clerk