



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2025**



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 in person at Borough Hall, 1 School Street, Peapack, NJ and began at 7:06pm.

Mayor Corigliano called the meeting to order. Borough Clerk Nancy A. Bretzger read the Sunshine Notice "Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Adequate notice of 2025 Meeting Dates was published in the Courier News and Bernardsville News on December 26, 2024, and posted at the Municipal Complex and the Borough Library. Action may be taken."

Mayor Corigliano asked the public to silence their cell phones and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call indicated the following members present: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Quartello, Councilman Silva, Councilwoman Sueta, Council President Sweeney, Councilwoman Weible, and Mayor Corigliano. Also Present were: Steven Warner, Esq., Borough Attorney and Borough Clerk/Administrator Nancy Bretzger,

Mayor Corigliano noted a change in the agenda. He called upon Chris Edwards from the Somerset County Business Partnership (SCBP) for a presentation. Chris Edwards came to the podium to speak on behalf of the Regional Chamber of Commerce. He began by explaining the work he does on behalf on the organization. One of the programs he detailed was the 40 under 40 Award. He came tonight to honor Councilman Eric Quartello who won the award for 2024. Councilman Quartello was not able to accept the award in December 2024. He encouraged everyone in the audience to check out SCBP.org to see the other 39 winners of the award. Councilman Quartello stated he apologized for being unable to attend the ceremony at the time, but he appreciated Chris Edwards for coming to the meeting to present it to him directly. Chris Edwards mentioned a few other events coming up.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Corigliano opened the meeting to the public for comments. An unknown audience member asked if the geese were on the agenda, which Mayor Corigliano confirmed. No one else came forward.

OLD BUSINESS

Tennis Courts

Councilman Quartello spoke up first about the courts stating he has been behind on his information due to some issues coming up in December, but would confer with Councilwoman Murphy to move the project forward.

Geese

Councilman Quartello continued the discussion on exploring an alternate program to remediate the geese population Quartello continued by explaining they were looking for a company/organization that



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would be more vigilant in what they would do for the Borough in the future. He would work with Councilwoman Murphy interviewing firms that provide such services. Councilwoman Murphy stated she had looked into Geese Chasers who use kayaks to chase the geese out of the water, addle the eggs, trained border collies, etc. She compared the pricing between them and the USDA and found cost made more sense to go with Geese Chasers or another organization, because the USDA does not provide the same frequency of service. Councilman Quartello also stated that Geese Chasers are available year-round, whereas the USDA only operate from March until October.

Speed Limit – Main St./Peapack Road

Councilman Silva spoke about a change in the speed limit. He explained that Far Hills did change the speed limits in certain sections. Bringing them down to around 25/35 miles per hour, depending on the location. He explained that the speed limit when you're pulling out of Main Street goes from 25, to 35, to 45, back down to 35, to 25 as you go into Far Hills. With the increase in traffic flow due to Natirar and other reasons, it is felt that a change on the Peapack section of the road is warranted. Silva went on to say we could request the County bring the speed limit to 35 all throughout the Natirar area, and then it would be more consistent and fix the speeding issues. Council President Sweeney says it makes sense to him since there isn't much length between the 35 mph, to the 45 mph. Councilman Silva said if everyone agrees he will take it to Somerset County the following day. He believes this will create a better safety traffic situation there. Council President Silva also mentioned he had been on a Zoom meeting with the County, and they are looking to make the roads safer for all vehicles and people on the roads. Councilwoman Weible said initially she wasn't agreeable to the idea of changing the speed limits, but since it's such a small area (under 3/4 of a mile) that changing the 45 mph might be beneficial. Council President Sweeney mentioned that 85% of the drivers on the road are already under the speed limit on that road, and changing it would enforce the speed limit. Councilman Silva stated after spending time with the residents of the area, it made sense to cut the speed limit down in the area.

Councilwoman Murphy added on to old business, that the Purchase Order was encumbered for the work for the revised Main Street Crosswalk at Willow.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS

Facilities Usage Application from the Peapack & Gladstone Branch of SCLSNJ to use Gymnasium/Auditorium for Baby/Toddler Story times on Wednesday mornings 10:15 – 11:00am on January 8, 15, 22, 29 and February 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2025; Conference Room 3 for Disability Social Hour on Monday, January 27 and February 24, 2025 6:00 – 7:30pm; Book Discussion Group on Tuesday, January 28 and February 25 3:00 – 4:30pm



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Mayor Corigliano confirmed that the Council had no issues with the application. Everyone on the Council concurred with the application for approval.

Facilities Usage Application from the Knights of Columbus for use of the Gym on January 25, 2025 from 4:00PM to 5:30PM and February 15, 2025 from 2:00PM to 3:30PM for a Free Throw Contest – Nancy Bretzger

Mayor Corigliano confirmed that the Council had no issues with the application. Everyone on the Council concurred with the application for approval.

Facility Usage Application from the Somerset Hills Ball Club for use of the Borough's ball fields from March 25-November 1, 2025, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays from 5:30- 8pm. Scheduling will be done through Recreation – Nancy Bretzger

Mayor Corigliano introduced the application to the Council. Council President Sweeney stated this was consistent with their other applications every year. Mayor Corigliano also stated he was fine with waiving the application fee due to them being a non-profit. Everyone on the Council concurred with the application for approval, as well with Mayor Corigliano's statements about the fee waiving.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Corigliano asked for an approval for the Minutes of the December 17, 2024 Regular Meeting and the Approval of the Executive Session on December 17, 2024. Council President Sweeney motioned , Councilwoman Murphy seconded the motion, The motion passed with Councilman Quartello abstaining.

Mayor Corigliano asked for an approval for the Minutes of the ReOrg Meeting on January 2, 2025. Councilman Quartello motioned, Councilwoman Murphy seconded the motion, The motion passed with Councilwoman Weible abstaining.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Corigliano asked the Council to take a look at the Resolutions being passed and gave them time to look over them. In response it was asked for **Resolutions 31-25** and **32-25** to be removed from the consent agenda together, as well as **Resolutions 40-25**. **Resolutions 29-25 to 30-25** and **Resolutions 33-25 to 39-25** were motioned to be passed by Councilwoman Murphy, and seconded by Councilwoman Sueta. Roll Call was taken and the resolutions were passed unanimously.



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RESOLUTION NO. 29-25 RESOLUTION TO REFUND LIENHOLDER FOR

REDEMPTION OF LIEN #24-00003 ON BLOCK 12, LOT 14

RESOLUTION NO. 30-25 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH WESTCRAFT BUILDER'S INC., FOR CONTINUATION OF WORK TO BE COMPLETED ON THE LIBRARY RENOVATIONS PROJECT

RESOLUTION NO. 33-25 RESOLUTION FOR MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS FOR COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS FOR THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE FOR THE YEAR 2025 – FIRE AND POLICE CHAPLIN

RESOLUTION NO. 34-25 RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH DANIEL W. LINCOLN, R.A., LLC FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE DEMOLITION AND RENOVATION OF THE BOROUGH'S PARK HOUSE

RESOLUTION NO. 35-25 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN FEBRUARY 2025 DISTRACTED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT MOBILIZATION – FEBRUARY 9 – 22, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 36–25 RESOLUTION APPROVING APPROPRIATION RESERVE BUDGET TRANSFERS

RESOLUTION NO. 37-25 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE AND THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET FOR RECYCLING PICK-UP – JANUARY 1, 2025 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 38-25 RESOLUTION TO AWARD CONTRACT TO GLEN MILLER ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING, INC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLATION OF IT RACK AND DATA WIRES INSTALLED TO RENOVATION LIBRARY

RESOLUTION NO. 39-25 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GRIFFITH ALLIED TRUCKING LLC, TO SUPPLY GASOLINE FOR ALL BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE VEHICLES

RESOLUTION NO. 31-25 RESOLUTION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PAY WESTCRAFT BUILDERS, INC. FOR WORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIBRARY RENOVATION PROJECT – PAYMENT NO. 3

RESOLUTION NO. 32-25 RESOLUTION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PAY WESTCRAFT BUILDERS, INC. FOR WORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIBRARY RENOVATION PROJECT – PAYMENT NO. 4

Mayor Corigliano mentioned that Payment Number Three was pulled from a previous meeting, and was asking for it to be passed with Payment Number Four. Councilwoman Murphy quickly confirmed that these are two separate payments, one being from a previous month and the other being from tonight. Clerk Nancy Bretzger confirmed that this was concurrent with the date that the workers stopped working with the fire. Councilwoman Murphy continued by asking if this was the correct timeline for payments. Clerk Nancy Bretzger and Borough Attorney Steven Warner both confirmed this information. Mayor Corigliano confirmed he has no issue with payment number three, however stated we have a settlement agreement with the contractor which was voted on already. Payment number four concurs with work beginning the following day from the meeting. Mayor Corigliano stated he considered holding it off for another meeting. Clerk Nancy Bretzger stated that they were due, and owed the payment, plus the architect had approved the work already. Council President Sweeney stated he



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believed they should pay it due to already having a settlement agreement in place. Borough Attorney Steven Warner confirmed that our next meeting would be in three weeks. He also confirmed that the dates would line up for Payment Four to go through. Councilwoman Murphy agreed that if the work was completed and confirmed by the architect then she is fine with payment, but was just surprised by the timeliness of it. Clerk Nancy Bretzger explained what was involved with the payment including supplies. Councilman Silva asked if there was a worst-case scenario, which Mayor Corigliano confirmed there wasn't a very serious one. Mayor Corigliano then asked for a motion for **Resolutions 31-25 to 32-25**.

Councilman Quartello motioned to pass both resolutions, and was seconded by Councilman Silva. Roll Call was taken and the resolutions were passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 40-25 RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO THE AMENDED FAIR HOUSING ACT COMMITTING THE BOROUGH TO ROUND 4 PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE NEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS

Mayor Corigliano asked for a motion to pass **Resolution 40-25**. Council President Sweeney motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Before taking Roll Call Mayor Corigliano took the time to explain to the audience why this was being pulled for discussion. He stated that this was a very important resolution that it was required by state statute that it be passed by January 31st. It is a result of the Borough's analysis of numbers presented by the state for the Borough's Affordable Housing obligation from July 2025 to June 30th 2035. Mayor Corigliano called for a Roll Call vote, which passed unanimously.

BILLS LIST

RESOLUTION NO. 41-25

Mayor Corigliano asked for any Council Member who had an issue with any bill that was on the Bill Payment List. Seeing none, he then requested the total amount be read to the public. Clerk Nancy Bretzger read the amount was \$928,099.07. Mayor Corigliano asked for a motion to pass the List. Councilman Quartello motioned , seconded by Councilman Silva. The Roll Call passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President Sweeney started his report by talking about meeting with Chief Ferrante about the Police Committee. He stated at a prior meeting they needed to replace in-car cameras for the Police Department. He clarified that the cameras they had talked about are no longer required because the officers have body worn cameras, but there was a consensus that the replacement cameras both better protect the public and officers. The new cameras would allow a full view of the scene, whereas the body worn cameras block out sections depending on the point of view. Chief Ferrante asked the Council to add the cameras to the 2025 budget. Council President Sweeney went on to talk about similar cameras they had talked about using on public places. He went on to speak about needing to purchase five



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different cameras. Councilwoman Murphy added that Officer Caruso asked if we could get the cameras lent to us as a trial, and Council President Sweeney stated we would need to budget them out for the future. Councilman Quartello asked for clarity if these would be an annual payment, not a one-time

purchase. Council President Sweeney and Councilwoman Murphy confirmed that they would be similar to a contract. Councilman Quartello stated the benefits he knows about the cameras, and

Councilwoman Murphy confirmed that she also likes the system. Council President Sweeney confirmed that these products would be competing with the other expenditure products in the budget. He also spoke about a car that could be donated to the officers, as well as possibly getting a temporary officer to join the staff. Mayor Corigliano and Councilwoman Murphy asked if the car would go into rotation of use with the other Police Cars with the station. To which Council President Sweeney confirmed. He then talked about health insurance benefits and they agreed with the Borough. Finally, he mentioned it was a collective bargaining year and the process would begin shortly.

Councilwoman Murphy spoke about property and talked to the architect for the Park House. She spoke about the small house located at Liberty Park, and mentioned that the Borough formerly rented it out to a dentist. She mentioned a few options like restoring the house for the Historical Preservation Committee. There weren't any solidified plans for the small building, but she would keep the Council and the public noted on the progress of it.

Mayor Corigliano asked about setting a Special Meeting for the 2025 Budget. It was concluded that a special budget meeting be set for February 20, 2025 at 6:30 PM. He then spoke about his time in November at a Conference for Mayor's and handed out guidebooks on being a Councilmember for the Council.

MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

He confirmed that both Councilman Silva and Council President Sweeney were working on their projects and that the tennis courts, geese and speed limit discussions are in progress.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Camille DeCarlo, 533 North Road Chester, said she was delighted to be present because of the decision to use non-lethal methods to deter the geese. She said it would be a positive benefit for the Borough. She spoke about the experts that attended the previous year and gave a timeline to follow. In February, nesting begins for the geese. She asked the Council if they were using Flock Free, to which the Council confirmed. She said that is perfect for what they are looking to do. She spoke about the native plants



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and buffering, plus potential fencing that would need to be added. She said that if there isn't already, signs should be posted along the park to exclaim that there are no feeding geese. The Council

Confirmed there are signs located in the park. She mentioned that Kentucky Blue Grass is what the geese love most, and that Flight Turf would be the best deterrent. She also added that there is a potential for the Borough to benefit financially at Liberty Park. Lavallette, NJ has a program that allows dogs to freely run throughout the park for a fee. She concluded her comments shortly after.

Elizabeth Jonac, Franklin Court Bernardsville, followed up on the previous speaker. She brought a sheet of paper with some strategies to keep the geese from having nests. She mentioned a company called Duty Calls which is a company they could clean the walkways. She mentioned we could plant sound devices within the park that are sonic, so people won't hear them. She concluded her comments afterwards. The Mayor appreciated the suggestions provided, but advised that the Borough has no intention of placing a fence around the perimeter of the pond or replacing the grass lawns with tall, spiked grass.

Stefan Yelenik, 1 Main Street, came to thank the Mayor & Council for taking his pleas of the speed limit seriously. He spoke about the Natirar project in 1998 when it was brought to the Land Use Board. They performed a traffic study at the time and a lot has changed since 1998. He mentioned that Far Hills may not have kept their side of the deal according to his estimations. Though some people have gotten slower since the change in speed limit, he also notices people going faster in some situations which may have made it worse. He spoke about a Hit-and-Run incident that occurred in the 45-mph area. He found it difficult to get out of his driveway, but wasn't sure if any other neighbors have felt the same. Mayor Corigliano mentioned that he saw he came in late, and maybe missed what they had discussed at the time. After it was explained that it was their recommendation to change it to 35mph down from 45, he also mentioned that it was up to Somerset County to make it happen. Mr. Yelenik mentioned that the County had told him, that they wanted a recommendation from the Borough Council and they would consider it afterwards. He gave the public some math of what bringing the speed limit down from 45 to 35 mph means. He concluded his comments shortly afterwards.

Jennifer Douglas, 200 Old Army Road Bernardsville, first congratulated Councilman Quartello on the 40 under 40 Honor that was bestowed upon him. She exclaimed that she was thrilled to hear about the news about the geese. She is happy to hear about the humane ways the Borough is looking to deal with them. She mentioned that the dogs are a temporary solution to the geese, and that changes to the Habitat would keep them out for the foreseeable future. She mentioned there are cost effective ways to deal with them, and hoped there was a way they could work together in the future. She talked about



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the love for the community and wants to help in any way she can. She ended her comments shortly after.

Jacquelyn Braun, 63 Main Street, thanked the Council for finding a reasonable solution to both the geese and the speed limit changes. She has noticed the speeders and the traffic has increased in the coming years. She spoke about a ride along trip she had with Officer Morris at the time, and rode for several hours. She asked for more cameras, and whatever it took to make it safer for the officers. She concluded her comments shortly after.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business being brought forth, Councilman Quartello made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 PM. It was seconded by Councilman Silva. Roll Call was taken and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy A. Bretzger

Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk