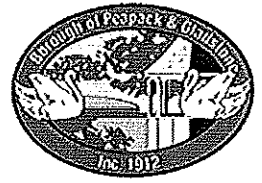




**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at the Municipal Complex, 1 School Street, Peapack, New Jersey and began at 7:02pm.

Mayor Muller called the meeting to order. Borough Clerk Nancy A. Bretzger read the Sunshine Notice "Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Adequate notice of 2017 Meeting Dates was published in the Courier News and Bernardsville News on December 22, 2016, and posted at the Municipal Complex and the Borough Library. Action may be taken."

Mayor Muller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Present: Mayor Muller, Council President Suriano, Councilman Caminiti, Councilman Corigliano, Councilman Simpson and Councilman Smith

Absent: Councilman Lemma

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 150-2017 – Authorization for Executive Session for Certified Specified Purposes – Personnel & Litigation – "Affordable Housing" was read. Motion was made by Council President Suriano, seconded by Councilman Smith. Said motion was carried unanimously.

The public portion of the meeting was opened again at 7:32pm.

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

No one from the public came forward

Resolution No. 151-2017 An Resolution to Cancel the Unexpended Balance of the Reserve for Improvements to Liberty Park Pond in the Amount of \$68,829.05 and Return the Canceled Balance to the Capital Improvement Fund was read. Motion was made by Council President Suriano, seconded by Councilman Caminiti.

Council President Suriano explained the resolution is to broaden the use of the monies on improvements to Liberty Park.

Said motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Lemma arrived at 7:50pm.



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ORDINANCES

Councilman Lemma moved to Table the Public Hearing for **Ordinance 2017-1045** – Ordinance Amending Chapter XI Building and Housing Adding Sub-Chapter VI Property Maintenance, seconded by Council President Suriano.

Councilman Lemma explained that in review of the ordinance it was realized that there were two legal defects within the ordinance. The Council would be working on changing those and reintroduce the ordinance at a later date.

Said motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Suriano introduced Ordinance 2017-1046 – An Ordinance Appropriating Certain Monies Held by the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone for Improvements to Liberty Park. Council President moved to pass the Ordinance at first reading, seconded by Councilman Lemma. Said motion was carried unanimously. Council President Suriano stated that Ordinance 2017-1046 is introduced and shall be published in summary in the Bernardsville News and the Public Hearing for said Ordinance shall be held on October 24, 2017 at 7:30pm or shortly thereafter.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 152-2017 Accepting the Resignation Notice of Vicki L. Mangulson was read. Motion was made by Council President Suriano, seconded by Councilman Corigliano. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution No 153-2017 Authorize the St. Luke's Episcopal Church to Hang Banner was read. Motion was made by Council President Suriano, seconded by Councilman Simpson. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution No 154-2017 Resolution Urging the State Legislature to extend the 2% CAP on Police and Fire Arbitration Contract Awards was read. Motion was made by Council President Suriano, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 155-2017 Appeal of Sewer Charges on Block 20, Lot 1.02, Account #930-0 was read. Motion was made by Council President Suriano, seconded by Councilman Corigliano.

Councilman Smith asked if this was a business or resident? Council President Suriano stated that it was a business. Said motion was carried unanimously.



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Resolution No. 156-2017 Accepting Resignation Notice of Ruth Spae, Land Use Board Secretary was read. Motion was made by Council President Suriano, seconded by Councilman Smith. Said motion was carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS

Permission to Proceed to apply to NJ Department of Transportation for a Grant for Milling and Improvements to Mosle Road (Sect. 2) and Highland Avenue (entire lane). Councilman Smith explained that he along with Scott Hanna, Bill Ryden and Tom Skillman rode through the roads of the Borough and noted in order the conditions of the roads for improvements and repairs. They decided that Mosle Road (Sect. 2) and Highland Avenue (entire lane) were the roads that they should apply to the DOT for a grant. The state allows you to apply for two different projects and they usually only give a grant for one of the projects.

Resolution 158-2017 Approval to submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Mosle Road (Sect. 2) Resurfacing Project was read. Motion was made by Council President Suriano, seconded by Councilman Smith. Said motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 159-2017 Approval to submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for portions of Highland Avenue Resurfacing Project was read. Motion was made by Council President Suriano, seconded by Councilman Smith. Said motion passed unanimously.

Permission to Contact the County for Potential Replacement of Holland Avenue (east of Rt. 206).

Councilman Smith explained that Holland Avenue is a County Road and he would like to approach the County and ask for them to repair and resurface Holland Avenue (east of Rt. 206) in 2018. The Council agreed that the County should be asked.

Update on old County DPW lot on Holland Avenue

Councilman Smith explained that he received informal notice from the County that the old County DPW lot will be turned over to the Borough prior to year-end.

The Council asked if a survey has been done and if there are any environmental concerns. Councilman Smith said he would be in touch with County Engineer and ask if a survey has been completed.

Update on Funding for the design of Liberty Park

Councilman Smith stated that the Open Space Advisory Committee has granted their consent to fund Liberty Park design costs from the Open Space Trust Fund. The Council stated that they appreciate the input from the committee.



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The Council discussed where the monies should be taken from for the Carter VanDyke agreement for their design work on Liberty Park. The Council decided to use the existing monies from the Capital Improvement Fund.

Council President Suriano said that he will advise the Open Space Advisory Committee that the funding will not be coming from the Open Space Trust fund.

Councilman Smith stated that the LOI (Letter of Interpretation) is progressing.

Councilman Smith stated that a new item emerged from the Environmental Committee. Raritan Headwater Association will be donating 350 trees to be planted at Rockabye Meadow Park. The Environmental Committee along with Raritan Headwater Association will be planting the trees. The Environmental Committee has asked Tom Skillman to dig the holes with a backhoe. They will reimburse the Borough for his overtime. Councilman Smith stated that the work was to begin on October 10 so he would like to have a resolution accepting the donation of trees from Raritan Headwaters Association. The reason this item was not on the agenda and now has some urgency is because the Raritan Headwater Association announced the aforementioned donation last night, and the preferred timing for planting trees is now. Councilman Smith verbally made a resolution for approval tonight.

Resolution 2017-160 – Approval to Accept Grant of 350 Trees from Raritan Headwater Association be planted at Rockabye Meadow Nature Preserve was read. Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. All voted yes except for Council President Suriano who voted NO on procedural grounds.

The Mayor stated that the Council would take a 5-minute recess at this time. The meeting reconvened at 8:38pm.

Approval of Application for Use of Municipal Facilities by the Peapack & Gladstone Woman's Club for the Gymnasium on Thursday, October 19, 2017 7:00pm -10:00pm for a Candidate's Debate Night

Council President Suriano and Councilman Smith recused themselves from this discussion and have left the dais in consideration of this application. Mayor Muller stated that the Woman's Club has made this application for use of the Gymnasium to hold a Candidate's Debate night. Since there are two Council seats available and three candidates running, the Woman's Club would like to have a forum for the community to ask questions. What is up for discussion is the use of municipal facilities for such an event.

Councilman Simpson asked if they think a lot of people will turn up. He said that he is not sure that he likes this idea it be held in a public building. He feels this is a political event and it should be held in one of the churches within the Borough.

Councilman Lemma feels that this is a bipartisan event, and he approves it should be held in the building. Councilman Caminiti said he thinks this a proper facility to hold the event. Councilman Corigliano said that he was initially uncomfortable with this, but this is a small town and limited spaces where something of this nature can be held. This is a fair event and his concern is how the custodian



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will be paid. It was stated that the Woman's Club would be covering that cost. Mayor Muller stated that this is an opportunity to meet the candidates and he would support the use of this building.

Peggy McFarland – 50 Mendham Road – Mrs. McFarland stated that the majority of debates take place in a school. Since there is no school in the Borough, she feels this is an appropriate place to hold the debate. She does not see this as a misuse of public buildings. She feels that there will be supporters that show up for each candidate.

John Skinner – 20 Pottersville Road – Mr. Skinner said that he has not seen any other use of the public facility under such scrutiny.

Councilman Corigliano states that in order for this to be fair, he thinks that Dr. Suriano would be a capable unbiased and objective moderator. He thinks that this should be made a condition of the use of the facility. Councilman Lemmas states that he has the highest regard for Dr. Suriano but that the Republican and Democratic committees each have a moderator present.

Mrs. McFarland – 50 Mendham Road – She feels that you are stepping on the toes of the Woman's Club. She feels that the Council should not make the condition.

Mayor Muller asked if all were in favor of approving the use of the gym by the Women's Club for purposes of conducting a political debate and without any conditions attached? All answered yes excluding Councilman Smith and Council President Suriano who had recused themselves from this matter. Said motion was carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Finance – Council President Suriano said that he has asked the Department heads to work on their 2018 budget.

Sanitation & Sewer – Mr. Bruder stated that the Interlocal service agreement is still pending and they are working on it. The only change is to look at the fees and the fees will be determined by STAB. He is looking to speak with the Bedminster Administrator and a STAB meeting will be held sometime in November.

Borough Property – Councilman Simpson explained that the library renovation is on hold until after the November election, because the State of NJ has a question on the ballot for monies to be used for library improvements. The thought being that should the referendum pass, then the Friends of the Library, in consultation with the Borough, can see if they can get any other monies from the stated.

Fire – Councilman Caminiti stated that there is no report at this time.

Police & Information Systems – Councilman Corigliano stated that the first meeting of contract negotiations is being held October 5. The police department held a task force drill at FinPro. He stated that Council President Suriano and himself attending the Governing Associates of Somerset County meeting and it was a very valuable event to attend.



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Roads & Transportation – Councilman Smith stated that the local roads paving project has been milled and repaving are completed. The stop lines just need to be repainted

Zoning & Construction – Councilman Lemma stated that Mr. Fania has resigned as the Zoning Officer. Councilman Lemma and Councilman Corigliano have looked into a firm that works for Bernardsville to determine if that firm can assume the responsibility of zoning enforcement for PG until the end of the year. In the interim, the committee will be investigating long-term options for the Borough.

Legal – Mr. Bruder stated that there is no report at this time.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Bahr explained that Mr. Ryden, Borough Engineer has done specs and the bid should be going out for the generator install at the sewer plant. The bid will be advertised next week.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Muller said that he is looking for the Commissions and Boards Chairs to let him know what members will continue to participate in 2018. He is looking to have a meeting with PSE&G and the homeowners to inform them about the steps to have gas installed to their home.

BILLS LIST

Resolution No. 157-2017 Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List in the amount of \$730,596.01 was read. Motioned by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Lemma. Said motion was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – 3 MINUTES PER PERSON – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

John Skinner – 20 Pottersville Road – Mr. Skinner wanted to know the design phase of the pond. He said that he heard that the swans will be destroyed. He stated that the disposition of the swans need to be done humanely. The Council stated that they were looking into all options to relocate the baby swans with no intention of euthanizing them.

Mrs. McFarland – 50 Mendham Road – She said that she had some question regarding the discussion of repaving on Highland Avenue. Councilman Smith explained that the DOT gives grants every year to the municipalities to fix a road. The municipality can submit up to two grant requests per year. The DOT decides what roads will be completed. They tend to go with the through roads.



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EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council Reconvened Executive Session at 9:41pm.

The public portion of the meeting was reopened at 10:21pm.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Simpson, that this meeting be adjourned at 10:22pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy A. Bretzger".

Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk