



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2019**



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at the Municipal Complex, 1 School Street, Peapack, New Jersey and began at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Skinner called the meeting to order. Borough Clerk Nancy A. Bretzger read the Sunshine Notice "Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Adequate notice of 2019 Meeting Dates was published in the Courier News and Bernardsville News on December 13, 2018, and posted at the Municipal Complex and the Borough Library. Action may be taken."

Mayor Skinner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call indicated the following present: Mayor Skinner, Councilman Caminiti, Council President Corigliano, Councilwoman Dietrich, Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Smith, Councilman Sweeney

Not present: None

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 62-19 – Authorization for Executive Session for Certified Specified Purposes – Litigation – Manfred Oster v. Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was read. Motion was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Public Meeting reconvened at 7:32 p.m.

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

Mayor Skinner asked if any member of the public wish to speak about non-agenda items.

Ken Tiger – St. Johns Drive, Gladstone – Mr. Tiger stated that there was an accident with a DPW dump truck on Mosle Road during the snow storm. Mr. Tietjen explained to Council that the truck went off an embankment and it took two wreckers to pull it back. He noted that there was no damage to the vehicle and no one was injured. Mr. Tiger said that the embankment is dangerous and asked why the town isn't putting a guard rail on that section of the road. There is no shoulder on the road. He would like the Council to think about putting a guard rail there. Mayor Skinner stated that the Roads Committee and the Police Department will look at the road to see what can be done.

MINUTES

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Budget Meeting minutes of March 7, 2019. Councilman Caminiti motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Council President Corigliano. Said motion was passed unanimously.



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Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Regular Meeting minutes of March 12, 2019. Councilman Smith motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Councilman Caminiti made note of two changes that were needed on page two. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Executive Session Meeting minutes of March 12, 2019. Councilman Sweeney motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Liberty Park Improvements – Councilman Smith noted that Resolution 63-19 pertains to the dam in the park. He stated that the linden trees that line Main Street are approximately 100 years old and a County horticulturist stated that the trees are healthy and sees no limits to their lifespan. Carter van Dyke wants to do an artistic pruning of the trees to raise the canopy and make the entranceway to the park look nicer. The other option is to remove them and plant grass. The Council agreed that the trees should be saved. There are a couple of trees including a dead ash tree and cedar arborvitae that are too close to the Scout cabin that will be removed from the park. Councilman Smith would like to have the various committees meet with Carter van Dyke but this would incur a cost. Councilwoman Murphy stated that the Environmental Commission met the other night and that group thinks that the committees that have an interest would like to meet with Carter van Dyke to go through the plan with them and their questions and input. Councilwoman Dietrich suggested that the property committee meet with the various committees instead, so that the property committee can then provide their input to Carter van Dyke. The Council gave consensus.

Mayor Skinner discussed that the police are still trying to reach out to the family to do some recognition for the youth that called into 911 for the fire on Old Chester Road back in January.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed State Marijuana Legislation – Council President Corigliano stated that the committee met and made a plan that included having a meeting at the end of April with the residents for public comment. The legislation did not get voted on so this will likely be delayed to at least the end of the year from the State. The discussion will be tabled for now.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS

Facilities Usage Application from Gran Fondo for use of Liberty Park for Rest Stop for Bike Race on September 8, 2019.

Bill Ruddick - Executive Director of Gran Fondo from Boonton NJ - Mr. Ruddick stated that the group currently has a request in with the Bevel property to have the rest stop there but it's currently up for getting rented out and if the tenant doesn't want them there, they may not be allowed to use it. Mr. Ruddick asked about having a contingency plan. Mayor Skinner asked if it would make sense to close off Park Ave. and set up on the grass in the park. Mr. Ruddick asked about the municipal parking lot but Council expressed concern about School Street traffic. Councilwoman Dietrich asked what the route was



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because she brought up the fact that the event is scheduled for a Sunday and wanted to address any noise and traffic concerns on behalf of the churches. Councilman Smith stated that at the time of the race there could be construction happening at the park. Council also discussed the number of portable toilets. The discussion then went back to the rest stop being located in the municipal building lot. Council gave concurrence to review the application in August to have the rest stop in the municipal building lot and close School Street if this contingency plan is needed.

Local Government Week, April 7-13, 2019. Council President Corigliano noted that the week of April 7th through 13th is "Celebrate Local Government Week" and he proposed that this be recognized. He wants to have a post on PG Notify, a resolution, and a reception on April 9th. The Council concurred that they would like to do it.

Resolution Welcoming New Business – Council President Corigliano stated that there is a new business in town as of last Monday. He asked the Council if it would be appropriate to welcome the new business with a resolution. There was a concern that if they do this now they have to make sure to do it for every new business that comes into town. Council thought it was a good idea but did not give consensus.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 63-19 Resolution to Enter Into an Agreement with Princeton Hydro for the Purpose of the Liberty Pond Dam Inspection was read. Motioned by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. There was discussion regarding the cost of the project. Council asked for another estimate for this project. Motion was made to table the resolution by Council President Corigliano, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 64-19 Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application to American Water for their Environmental Grant Program in Regards to Liberty Park Pond Water Quality Improvements was read. Motioned by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Sweeney. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 65-19 Mayoral Appointment for the Environmental Committee for the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was read. Motioned by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 66-19 Resolution Authorizing Retirement Agreement with Mary Robinson, Chief Financial Officer/Tax Collector was read. The resolution was not introduced and tabled at this time.

Resolution No. 67-19 Authorizing Borough Police Department to Participate in Somerset County Distracted Driving Crackdown April 1-21, 2019 was read. Motioned by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 68-19 Resolution to Enter Into an Agreement with Apgar Associates for Surveying & Engineering Services for Bridge Site on Block 29, Lots 1 & 11 – Old County DPW Site (Holland Avenue) was read. Motioned by Councilwoman Dietrich, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Council President Corigliano stated that this was directed by Council but noted that the money has not been encumbered. There was discussion regarding the bridge and the trail's location. Councilman Smith said that he had a



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conversation with Ron Kennedy, the chairperson of the Trails Committee, and he cautioned that he's working with the County planner and the Borough should look at the County's approach to connecting trails. Councilwoman Murphy stated that we haven't identified an option to finish the last bit that would connect to Natirar, which is most important in her opinion. Council discussed that this is too preliminary to move on because of these issues. Rockabye bridge was discussed also. Motion was made to table the resolution by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 69-19 Resolution of the Governing Body Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964" was read. Motioned by Council President Corigliano, seconded by Councilman Smith. Councilman Smith asked the Borough Clerk to do some research regarding this title and report back to the Council. Mr. Bruder explained the resolution and Title VII. Said motion was passed unanimously.

BILLS LIST

Resolution No. 70-19 Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List in the amount of \$548,595.30. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Finance – Council President Corigliano stated that the next meeting in April will be the 2nd reading and adoption of budget.

Sanitation & Sewer – Councilwoman Murphy stated that she has no report.

Borough Property – Councilman Caminiti stated that apart from what was already discussed concerning Liberty Park, there was a conference call with Matheny regarding the traffic counter. The next call is scheduled in two weeks and the Borough expects action. He said the roof repairs for the municipal building to address the leaking should be completed shortly. He continued that there was a meeting last week with the Somerset County Library System (SCLS) concerning renovations and the insurance coverage for special activities that use the Council chambers. The Borough needs to give the SCLS the current status of the use as designed and planned by the Friends of the Library.

Fire – Councilman Smith stated that he and Councilwoman Murphy attended the monthly business meeting of the Fire Department and special meeting review of 2018 of the First Aid Squad. He wanted to report that in 2018, the First Aid Squad responded to 374 calls and transported 241 patients. In addition, their response time is ten minutes, in the 90th percentile for the County. Council expressed that the First Aid Squad is doing a great job.

Police – Councilman Sweeney stated that the Attorney General's directive regarding immigrants that involves local police went in to effect last week. It states that if the police pick up an illegal immigrant, they are supposed to help with paperwork to make them legal. He said that there is an arrangement with Bernards Township and we are in compliance with the directive. The second item he brought up is that we don't do a police blotter in the newspaper and he would like to reinstitute one. He said that this



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way residents can see that the police are doing more than writing speeding tickets. He will contact the Officer In Charge (OIC) regarding this. Councilman Smith stated that he has gotten much positive feedback about the OIC's communication on Nextdoor. Council President Corigliano stated that Mr. Tietjen provided excellent communication concerning Willow Ave. paving.

Roads & Transportation – Councilwoman Dietrich thanked Mr. Tietjen, Ms. Bretzger and the OIC regarding the roads work. She stated that Willow Ave. will be repaved by this Friday. She discussed the two bids that came in for Mosle Road, with work anticipated to be done in May.

Zoning & Construction – Mayor Skinner stated that he has no report.

Legal – Mr. Bruder said the legal matter with Gill St. Bernards was recently settled and the Borough now needs to introduce an ordinance at the next meeting regarding this settlement. He stated that at Pacesetter there is another batch of trees that will be planted right away. He continued that he is looking into the dedication of the street to the Borough.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Tietjen stated that he will bring a personnel policy update to Council at the second meeting in April. In addition, Timetrak should be in operation by the end of April.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Skinner stated that he has no report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – 3 MINUTES PER PERSON – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Peggy McFarland – Mendham Road – Ms. McFarland referred to the discussion regarding the Gran Fondo event where it was made a requirement to consult with the churches. She asked if this is the right approach because she does not feel that the churches should have a veto right. Council discussed that it wasn't the intention to get the churches' concurrence, it is about giving notice for events. Ms. McFarland stated that she took this as a requirement. Council discussed that when they are approving an event they need to check off all the boxes.

CONTINUED EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Council President Corigliano, seconded by Councilman Caminiti, that this meeting be adjourned at 9:03 p.m. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy A. Bretzger

Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk