



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2019**



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at the Municipal Complex, 1 School Street, Peapack, New Jersey and began at 7:01 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 and Councilman Sweeney

Absent: Councilman Smith

Also present were: Christopher Tietjen, Administrator, Mr. Brian Bontempo, Esq. and Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 175-19 – Authorization for Executive Session for Certified Specified Purposes – Contract Negotiations – (a) Affordable Housing was read. Motion was made by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Public Meeting reconvened at 7:32 p.m.

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

Mayor Skinner asked if anyone has any non-agenda items to speak about.

Carol Bianchi – JCP&L representative – Ms. Bianchi wanted to introduce herself and make sure that the Council has her contact information. JCP&L is planning to improve their infrastructure and has gotten approval from the BPU to spend \$97 million. There was a question regarding the Jackson Ave. poles. Councilman Caminiti thanked Ms. Bianchi for being proactive. There was a question asked if JCP&L can send update emails for just this area and not surrounding municipalities when addressing outages. Ms. Bianchi said that she will look into that.

Ken Tiger – Saint Johns Drive – Mr. Tiger thanked his wife and Mayor Skinner for supplying us with refreshments for the election. He asked the Council to supply the election workers and to consider buying them dinner. The Council was advised by Clerk Bretzger that providing food or beverages to the poll workers is not permitted by election law as it could be considered influential. Mr. Tiger then asked about Saint Johns Drive and Mr. Tietjen explained that he has heard from the attorney for the Sisters; and that there is supposed to be patching of the potholes this year and paving of the road in the Spring. Mr. Tiger asked if the deed that states they are supposed to be maintaining the road can be used and the town fix the road and put a lien on the property.



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Councilwoman Murphy moved to open the hearing for Public Comment for **Ordinance 1082-2019** An Ordinance Amending Chapter II, Titled "Administration", Article V, Titled "Boards, Committees and Commissions" of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, by Providing for the Creation of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), seconded by Councilman Sweeney. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Skinner asked if anyone from the public had any questions or comments. No one came forward.

Councilman Sweeney moved to close public comment for **Ordinance 1082-2019** An Ordinance Amending Chapter II, Titled "Administration", Article V, Titled "Boards, Committees and Commissions" of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, by Providing for the Creation of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Corigliano is asking if it is the right step in putting this Ordinance through. He is wondering if this is putting an additional burden on the Borough and pool of community volunteers. There was discussion amongst the Council regarding this ordinance. It was asked if the County CERT team would be a better use of resources. The County does provide the training courses for free. It was asked what the financial burden would be on the municipality. It was stated that it is a minimal cost to have the CERT.

Councilman Sweeney moved to Adopt **Ordinance 1082-2019** – An Ordinance Amending Chapter II, Titled "Administration", Article V, Titled "Boards, Committees and Commissions" of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, by Providing for the Creation of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Skinner asked for a motion and second to open the Public Hearing for **Ordinance 1083-2019** – An Ordinance of the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone Requiring Background Checks on all Adult Volunteers Seeking to Participate in Borough Programs or Events Which Involve Minors.

Councilwoman Murphy moved to open the hearing for Public Comment for **Ordinance 1083-2019** An Ordinance of the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone Requiring Background Checks on all Adult Volunteers Seeking to Participate in Borough Programs or Events Which Involve Minors, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Skinner asked if anyone from the public had any questions or comments.

John Kappler - 25 Holland Avenue – Mr. Kappler asked if all of the volunteers who participate in stream cleanup would need to have background checks. Mr. Bontempo stated that with the wording of the ordinance they would need to be done. There was discussion regarding volunteers who need to be fingerprinted.

Councilman Sweeney stated that he and Mr. Bruder worked on this ordinance together and that we need to give Mr. Bruder direction as to what changes are needed. Councilman Sweeney feels that this needs to be in place and not put on hold. Councilman Caminiti thinks that Mr. Kappler has a point with about the



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stream cleanup volunteers. Councilwoman Murphy stated that the Environmental Commission has quite a few events and this requirement would result in no volunteers.

It was suggested by Councilman Corigliano that the Council pass this tonight so that the coaching volunteers can continue and have Mr. Bruder make changes after the new year.

Bill Muller – Pottersville Road, Gladstone – Mr. Muller stated that he thinks that John Kappler's intent is good with what he said. He continued that if the Borough has a hard time getting the coaches to comply this will open a Pandora's box. Mr. Muller does not feel that the volunteers should be vetted.

Andrew Pfitzenmayer – 5 Brook Street – Mr. Pfitzenmayer stated that there needs to be a clarification on the wording. He said that it does not specify what happens after the reports come back. Councilman Sweeney stated that it would be discretionary and on a case by case basis. Mr. Pfitzenmayer stated that since there is not wording on that maybe it should be added. Councilman Sweeney stated that if the wording is on there, it may deter anyone trying to volunteer. Council President Corigliano stated that the determination would be made at the discretion of the Administrator.

Councilman Sweeney moved to close public comment for **Ordinance 1083-2019** An Ordinance of the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone Requiring Background Checks on all Adult Volunteers Seeking to Participate in Borough Programs or Events Which Involve Minors, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Sweeney moved to Adopt **Ordinance 1083-2019** – An Ordinance of the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone Requiring Background Checks on all Adult Volunteers Seeking to Participate in Borough Programs or Events Which Involve Minors, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Skinner introduced **Ordinance 1084-2019** – An Ordinance Appropriating Certain Monies Held by the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone for the purchase of Digital Speed Signs. Councilwoman Murphy moved to pass the Ordinance at first reading, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich.

Said motion was passed unanimously. Mayor Skinner stated that Ordinance 1084-2019 is introduced and shall be published in summary in the Bernardsville News and the Public Hearing for said Ordinance shall be held on December 17, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. or shortly thereafter.

Mayor Skinner introduced **Ordinance 1085-2019** – An Ordinance Amending Chapter XV, Titled "Streets and Sidewalks" of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, By Providing for the Recovery of Costs of Cleanup of Hazardous Materials. Councilman Sweeney moved to pass the Ordinance at first reading, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy.

Said motion was passed unanimously. Mayor Skinner stated that Ordinance 1085-2019 is introduced and shall be published in summary in the Bernardsville News and the Public Hearing for said Ordinance shall be held on December 17, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. or shortly thereafter.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.



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NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS

Donation of Block 1, Lot 5.03 (1.9 acres) to the Borough – Mayor Skinner stated that he was approached by the owner of the property at 295 Main Street, located near Jackson Ave., it is the Chessen property. He stated that the property has berms where the railroad was formerly located and it is a landlocked piece of land, surrounded on all sides by other homes. Mr. Tietjen explained that he researched this and determined that the property is up for a tax sale, and there is an oil tank and a sewer easement on the property. Council was asked if there is interest in exploring a donation of the property. Council President Corigliano stated that it is completely surrounded by residential homes and has no value or use to the Borough as it is not attached to any other public property. Councilman Sweeney agreed that it is of no value to the Borough and will cost some monies to acquire. The Mayor and Council agreed to think about this and discuss at the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 176-19 Resolution Accepting a Resignation Letter from Michael Calafiore, Special Class II Police Officer was read. Motioned by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 177-19 Resolution Calling for Study Commission to Review the Open Public Records Act was read. Motioned by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was passed unanimously.

BILLS LIST

Resolution No. 178-19 Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List in the amount of \$1,029,268.04. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – 3 MINUTES PER PERSON – AGENDA ITEMS

Ken Tiger – St John’s Drive – Mr. Tiger stated that he doesn’t think that the public needs to hear about the complaints of what is right and wrong in the minutes. He asked if this can be done on a memo and given to the Clerk. He continued that if it is a correction about context then it could be discussed in public. The acting attorney stated that it should be done in public so that it is on the record.

John Kappler – 25 Holland Ave. – Mr. Kappler stated that he is following up on ordinance 1083-2019 and asked what he should tell the Environmental Commission. Councilman Caminiti offered to go to the meeting and explain to the Commission what the ordinance is all about. Council President Corigliano said that Mr. Tietjen will be in touch with him to set up the program. Mr. Kappler also asked about the potential



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property donation that was discussed earlier and if anyone would like to look at it. The Council said that this is private property and you just can't go and walk on it.

Bill Muller – Pottersville Road – Mr. Muller asked about the Chessen property and stated that it could possibly be in wetlands. Mr. Muller stated that he thinks the Council should stay away from it.

Mayor's Note:

Mayor Skinner said that he spoke with the Headmaster of Gill St. Bernard's and that the girls' tennis team won the State championship and the boys' soccer team won the County and State championships. The School took five wins in total.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich, that this meeting be adjourned at 8:45 p.m. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk