



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 24, 2020**



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 electronically via the Go To Meeting conferencing service and began at 7:04 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 2020 Meeting Dates was published in the Courier News and Bernardsville News on December 5, 2019 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:

Present: Mayor Skinner, Council President Corigliano, Councilman Caminiti, Councilwoman Dietrich, Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Smith, Councilman Sweeney

Absent: (none)

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

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

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

No one from the public spoke.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Caminiti stated that he would like to update everyone on the Government Energy Aggregation (GEA) program. He stated that he has been working in recent weeks to finalize the paperwork for this project. It appears that we will be working with the Hunterdon County Cooperative and we will be receiving a reduced rate from a third-party supplier on the electricity generation portion of our power bill. It seems as if the cost will be about 8.3 cents per kilowatt hour. He explained that the resident can look at their electric bill and compare what they are being charged now and see if it compares to the 8.3 cents.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on COVID-19

Mayor Skinner stated that he wanted to start out with thanking all of the Borough employees and the first responders for all that you have been doing. He stated that we are in uncharted territory right now and we are all figuring out this terrible health emergency together. He then thanked the Borough Council for



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their support and everyone's efforts, he thanked the public for their cooperation in everything that everybody's doing to combat this together and for working together.

Mayor Skinner explained that the Municipal building is closed to the public, but is open business. He stated that the Administrative staff is working alternate days, 2 days on, 2 days off. The DPW staff is working with a split crew and they are also 2 days on and 2 days off. We are doing this to reinforce and ensure social distancing.

Mayor Skinner stated that all playground equipment, basketball courts and tennis courts are closed to the public however, the parks are open. He also stated that all board and commission meetings except for Council meetings are cancelled. We will be doing the Council meetings virtually until further notice.

The Emergency Services are fully functional and responding to calls he explained. He said that as of an hour ago per the Somerset County website, in the state of NJ there is 3,675 cases with 44 fatalities, 106 cases in Somerset with 22 fatalities. There is 1 case in the Borough with fortunately no fatalities.

Mayor Skinner stated that he encourages everyone to practice social distancing and stay six feet apart. He stated that this is a new virus and we are learning new things about it every day. He said to clean surfaces, wash your hands frequently either with soap and water or sanitizer. Cover your coughs and sneezes. If you are sick stay at home and if at all possible, work from home.

Mayor Skinner then asked the OEM Director, Kingsley Hill if there was anything that he would like to add. Mr. Hill stated that there is a National Emergency Declaration and a State of Emergency Declaration, the Borough has not declared an emergency at this point. He stated that grocery stores and drug stores are opened in the area and stocked. He said that the delis and restaurants in the Borough are open for takeout.

He reiterated that the Police, First Aid Squad and Fire Department are all responding to calls. We have heard that some people are not answering the questions truthfully to the dispatcher when placing the call for fear that they will not respond. He explained please be truthful when answering the questions, this way you are not putting any of the first responders in harms way and they will be properly suited up when they arrive to your home.

Mr. Hill explained that Matheny is low on supplies especially the PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). He stated that a lot of Matheny's residents are autoimmune compromised and breathing compromised.

He would like to get the residents that are offering to help their neighbors together and organized. In this way, there is no duplication of efforts.

Mr. Hill stated that they are trying to keep the residents informed and that everything is being posted on the Boro website and sent out with a PGNotify notice. He is also posting most pertinent information on NextDoor.

There was discussion regarding PGNotify and a reminder to the residents to sign up for PGNotify to receive the most up-to-date information.



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Mayor Skinner reiterated that the Governor has asked everyone to stay in their primary homes and not travel to their second homes.

OIC Ferrante stated that he has spoken with the surrounding town's Chiefs to arrange for mutual aid if needed from Bernardsville and Far Hills and reciprocate if it is needed on their end.

Mayor Skinner thanked everyone for their input.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS

There was no business.

ORDINANCES

Mayor Skinner stated that the Public Hearing for Ordinance 1086-2020 An Ordinance to Set the Compensation of the Mayor, Borough Council Members, Department Heads and Municipal Employees has been postponed to the April 7, 2020 Mayor & Council Meeting. No notice needs to be published.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 68-20 – Resolution of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone Adopting Volume 1, Chapter 1 "Rules and Regulations" of the Peapack-Gladstone Police Department General Orders was read. Motion was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Councilman Smith asked Mr. Bruder if we approve the new regulations by approving this resolution tonight, are we committing ourselves to a time table for the promotional test? Mr. Bruder stated that nothing in the rules and regulations speaks to a time table for the promotional test. He stated that no this would not have any impact on the scheduling of the test. Councilman Sweeney stated that in light of the COVID-19 issues that the police are dealing with, the potential impact on the officers who are going to need to prepare for the test, it would not be fair to go forward with the test at this time. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 69-20 – Resolution Repealing the Old Volume 1, Chapter 1 "Rules and Regulations" adopted 1988 of the Peapack-Gladstone Police Department General Orders was read. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 70-20 – Resolution for Appropriation Reserve Budget Transfers was read. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Council President Corigliano. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 71-20 – Resolution to Appoint Glen Hartzler as Temporary Electrical Inspector was read. Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 72-20 – Resolution to Appoint Kenneth Rogers as Temporary Building Inspector was read. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Smith. Said motion was passed unanimously.



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Resolution No. 74-20 – Authorizing the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone to Extend the Grace Period for First Quarter Residential Sewer Accounts to April 30, 2020 was read. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Council President Corigliano. Said motion was passed unanimously. Mr. John Bruder, Borough Attorney stated that he spoke with the Division of Local Government Services today and they indicated that the State Legislature is going to be considering legislation that would similarly allow, within the discretion of a municipality the right to extend the grace periods on 2nd quarter property taxes. So that maybe something for the Council to consider at the next Mayor & Council meeting.

Resolution No. 75-20 – Resolution to Refund Lienholder for Redemption of Lien #19-00004 on Block 20, Lot 1.05 was read. Motion was made by Councilwoman Dietrich, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 76-20 – Mayoral Appointments for the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone to the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for the year 2020 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Councilman Sweeney stated that we have a few applicants that have applied to be members of CERT, on the list for tonight 2 of 3 applicants do not have CERT training from the County. James Heck is the only applicant that has completed the training. Kingsley Hill, OEM Coordinator stated that he has received an email from the County stating that they can do internal training for now as opposed to do the County training. He then continued to say they would still need to do the County training, but they can receive the basic skills now. In order to be a fully qualified CERT member and get your vest from the State, you actually have to attend an in-person training and become certified. He said that he would like to bring these gentlemen on board so that they can help with grocery shopping, picking up medicine for residents that are in self isolation or in quarantine. We have gone through the background checks for these on the resolution tonight. There was a question of liability to the Borough, if these members are not trained properly and if they were to get hurt are, they covered under the Borough's workers comp? John Bruder, Borough Attorney stated that he does not feel calling them a member of the CERT team is appropriate at this time, because they have not been trained or certified. Council President Corigliano suggested the following modification to the resolution "Messrs. Hillsinger and Perez's membership in the CERT team shall become effective upon their certification by the Somerset County OEM office. These members may be considered as OEM volunteers until that time." Motion was made by Councilman Sweeney to pass this resolution with the change to it from Council President Corigliano, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

BILLS LIST

Resolution No. 73-20 Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List in the amount of \$263,756.54 was read. Motion was made by Councilwoman Dietrich, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – 3 MINUTES PER PERSON – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Mayor Skinner asked if anyone from the public would like to speak.

No one came forward.



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The Mayor asked if any of the Council members had any other item to discuss. Councilman Caminiti stated that himself, Sarah Jane Noll, Zoning Officer and Nancy Bretzger, Borough Clerk would be on a webinar tomorrow morning regarding the traffic counter that was installed at Matheny.

Mayor Skinner thanked the Borough Clerk for setting up this virtual meeting for the Council.

Randy Bahr, Administrator stated that a Local Finance Notice that the Homestead rebate that people would receive for the 2nd quarter tax payment has been put on hold. The appropriation was rescinded by the State due to the COVID-19 emergency and they are holding it in case it is needed to pay for the emergency at this time.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilwoman Dietrich, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, that this meeting be adjourned at 8:28pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk