



**MAYOR & COUNCIL  
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 7, 2020**

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The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 electronically via the Go To Meeting conferencing service 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 2020 Meeting Dates was published in 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

**MAYOR'S UPDATE ON COVID-19**

Mayor Skinner stated that he was starting the meeting off with a quick update on COVID-19. The Mayor stated that the Borough is continuing with the Municipal Building being closed to the public, the staff is working but we are closed to the public. He explained that the Public Works and Administrative Staff were working alternating days and still getting to all the work. He stated that Borough work is still getting done and that everybody is doing a great job, considering the circumstances. The Police Department he said is working under normal rotation and they are all 100% healthy right now.

He stated that the Fire Department and First Aid and Rescue are staffed by volunteers and they are fully operational. Mayor Skinner said that he just wanted to remind everyone that when any of the first responders respond to calls, they will be wearing their personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect themselves and the public.

The Office of Emergency management has been working diligently as a clearinghouse for municipal departments and tracking the use of PPE. They are also in constant contact with Somerset County OEM which helping us obtain PPE's for the first responders as well as Matheny.

Mayor Skinner stated that as this afternoon we had 18 residents test positive for COVID-19 with 1 fatality. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost a loved one and for those that are sick with this virus.

Mayor Skinner asked the residents to continue with our diligence in continuing social distancing and washing your hands constantly



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Mayor Skinner stated that the Governor signed an Executive Order to close all State and County parks as of 8:00pm tonight. Unfortunately, this includes Natirar. He stated that the Borough is going to keep our parks open for the time being. If it becomes overcrowded and people are not social distancing, then they will be closed. We will be limiting the parking by the parks, to help eliminate crowds.

Mayor Skinner reiterated again that everyone should still be practicing social distancing and washing hands constantly.

**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.

James Heck – Mr. Heck stated that he commends the Mayor for trying to keep our parks open. But he can attest that people are not being smart about it, and he thinks maybe we try to keep them open and put signs up to remind people that they need to be a little bit better about the social distancing. Hopefully, people will listen and the parks will not have to be closed.

**MINUTES**

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Regular Meeting minutes of March 10, 2020. Council President Corigliano motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilman Sweeney. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Executive Session minutes of March 10, 2020. Councilwoman Dietrich motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Regular Meeting minutes of March 24, 2020. Council President Corigliano motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. There were some comments from Councilman Caminiti on grammatical errors. Errors were noted and will be changed before final print. Said motion was passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to speak about at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Murphy stated that a resident asked if there was a chance of forgiving late fees on the May tax payments if they are not paid on time. She asked if this is something that can be considered. Council President Corigliano stated that a resolution was passed at the last meeting to extend the grace period for the April 1<sup>st</sup> residential sewer payments to April 30, 2020. Mr. Bruder, Borough Attorney stated that the Governor has not passed any Executive Orders regarding the tax payments because the municipalities are still required to pay the counties and schools whether we collect the payments or not. The Borough would need to come up with the shortfall. He also mentioned that the Borough could be



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held responsible for making up the difference to the lien holders if the interest percentage is lowered. He has a call to the Division, he is waiting for a call back.

**MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS**

Councilman Smith asked if he could continue the discussion on the parks. He stated that since we are keeping the parks open, he would like to see if we could put up signs to have everyone walking the loop around the park the same way. There was discussion and the Council agreed. Councilman Smith stated that he would speak with Scott Hanna in the morning and have him get the signs up.

Councilwoman Dietrich asked about closing some of the streets for parking around the parks to help limit the number of people at the parks at one time. She also asked about closing some streets to vehicular traffic for people walking. She asked particularly about Park Avenue between Lackawanna and Main Street. There was discussion about shutting down Park Avenue and it was decided by the Council to close Park Avenue until the State of Emergency is lifted.

Mayor Skinner asked for a motion and second to have a resolution to close Park Avenue between Lackawanna Avenue and Main Street until the State of Emergency was lifted by the Governor. Motion was made by Councilwoman Dietrich, seconded by Council President Corigliano. Motion was passed unanimously.

Council President Corigliano explained that he would like to discuss the letter that was received from a resident on Holland Avenue regarding a road opening on the newly paved road. The resident needs to install a gas line to their home to upgrade the utilities and was asking for relief. The letter indicates that they were not aware of the surfacing until three days before the work being done. She states in the letter that Public Service says they most likely will not need to open the road, they should be able to tunnel under it. Public Service has made assurances if they do have to open the road, they will restore it as it was. There was discussion regarding this request. It was decided that the Council did not feel comfortable with approving this request at this time, since the Borough Code states that a newly paved road could not be opened for 3 years from the completion date without additional information from the Borough Engineer. The Council stated that they would speak with the Borough Engineer to see if there is some way that this project can be favorable for the Borough and the resident.

**ORDINANCES**

Mayor Skinner asked for a motion and second to open the Public Hearing for **Ordinance 1086-2020 – An Ordinance to Set the Compensation of the Mayor, Borough Council Members, Department Heads and Municipal Employees.**

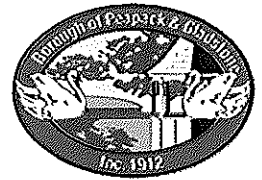
Councilman Camniti moved to open the hearing for Public Comment for **Ordinance 1086-2020 An Ordinance to Set the Compensation of the Mayor, Borough Council Members, Department Heads and Municipal Employees**, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Smith stated that this ordinance is to salary ranges for employees and since we are adding a title of DPW Front Line Supervisor we need to have a salary range for this title. Councilwoman Murphy



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asked if this was the only reason, we are doing this ordinance at this time. Councilman Smith stated that yes this is why we have this ordinance at this time.

Mayor Skinner opened it to the public for any comments. No one came forward.

Councilman Caminiti moved to close public comment for **Ordinance 1086-2020** An Ordinance to Set the Compensation of the Mayor, Borough Council Members, Department Heads and Municipal Employees, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Smith moved to Adopt **Ordinance 1086-2020** – An Ordinance to Set the Compensation of the Mayor, Borough Council Members, Department Heads and Municipal Employees, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Skinner asked for a motion and second to open the Public Hearing for **Ordinance 1087-2020** – Calendar Year 2020 – Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Council President Corigliano moved to open the hearing for Public Comment for **Ordinance 1087-2020** Calendar Year 2020 – Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14), seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Corigliano explained that this Ordinance is to set a CAP Bank for the Borough to use if it is needed to balance the budget. Mayor Skinner asked if there were any questions from the public. No one came forward.

Councilman Caminiti moved to close public comment for **Ordinance 1087-2020** Calendar Year 2020 – Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14), seconded by Councilman Sweeney. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Corigliano moved to Adopt **Ordinance 1087-2020** – Calendar Year 2020 – Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14), seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Skinner asked for a motion and second to open the Public Hearing for **Ordinance 1088-2020** – An Ordinance Amending Chapter XXIII, Titled "Land Development" of the Revised General Ordinances Subsection 98(c), Titled "Other Penalties"

Councilman Sweeney moved to open the hearing for Public Comment for **Ordinance 1088-2020** An Ordinance Amending Chapter XXIII, Titled "Land Development" of the Revised General Ordinances Subsection 98 (c), Titled "Other Penalties", seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Corigliano explained that this Ordinance is changing the fee structure for certain violations to allow the fee to be assessed on a daily basis by the zoning officer. Mayor Skinner asked if anyone from the public had any questions. No one came forward.



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Councilwoman Murphy moved to close public comment for **Ordinance 1088-2020** An Ordinance Amending Chapter XXIII, Titled "Land Development" of the Revised General Ordinances Subsection 98(c), Titled "Other Penalties", seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Corigliano moved to Adopt **Ordinance 1088-2020** – An Ordinance Amending Chapter XXIII, Titled "Land Development" of the Revised General Ordinances Subsection 98 (c), Titled "Other Penalties", seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution No. 77-20** – Authorization Approving Final List of Volunteer Members of the Peapack & Gladstone Fire Department and the Peapack & Gladstone First Aid and Rescue Squad who Qualify for Contributions under the Borough LOSAP Program in the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone, County of Somerset was read. Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Mayor Skinner stated that this is a retirement program for the volunteers of these two organization's as a way to say thank you for the service that they provide on a volunteer basis. Councilman Smith stated that he was asked by a couple of first responders, whether we increase the maximum amount that is deposited. He stated that he just wanted in the minutes, that the Borough every year increases the maximum amount that is deposited by the state allowance. Said motion was passed unanimously.

**Resolution No. 78-20** – Mayoral Appointments for the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone to the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for the Year 2020 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

**Resolution No. 79-20** – Appointing Barry Wilbur as Electrical SubCode Official for the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was read. Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

**BILLS LIST**

**Resolution No. 80-20** Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List in the amount of \$208,091.35 was read. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. 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.

Ruth Williams – 29 Highland Avenue – Ms. Williams addressed the Council regarding her letter presented earlier and stated that she has spoken with Public Service and they will be trying to use their pneumatic gopher tunneling device and try to tunnel under roadway. If they have to open to road and they will put



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the road back exactly as it is. She also stated that the only notice that was received was 3 days before the paving was take place and over the weekend. She stated that there was no input from the residents on Holland Avenue about having the road paved. With the paved road residents and others are driving at a much higher rate of speed up and down the street. She said she thinks a bump in the road would be a good thing and slow the drivers down. Ms. Williams stated that to have the work done now while everyone is stuck in their homes is a good time, because there is minimal traffic on the road. She also mentioned that the ordinance does not mention that the road cannot be opened only for an emergency.

Mayor Skinner thanked Ms. Williams for her comment and stated that the Borough would be in touch with the Borough Engineer to see what can be done to help her. Mayor Skinner reiterated to her that we did not say no and we did not say yes, we said that we are going to speak with the Borough Engineer. Ms. Williams thanked the Council for their consideration.

Mayor Skinner asked if anyone else had any comments. No one came forward.

The Mayor asked if any of the Council members had any other item to discuss.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich, that this meeting be adjourned at 8:02pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk