



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 25, 2023**



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at the Municipal Complex, 1 School Street, Peapack, New Jersey and virtually via GoTo Meeting and began at 7:08p.m.

Mayor Corigliano called the meeting to order. Borough Clerk Nancy Bretzger read the Sunshine Notice "Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Adequate notice of 2023 Meeting Dates was published in the Courier News and Bernardsville News on December 8, 2022 and posted at the Municipal Complex and the Borough Library. Action may be taken."

Mayor Corigliano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call indicated the following present: Councilwoman Dietrich, Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Quartello, Council President Sweeney, Councilwoman Weible and Mayor Corigliano

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

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

No public comment

OLD BUSINESS

Councilwoman Murphy stated that based on Councilman Quartello's inquiry about the light on the flag pole, Brad Fagen, Director of DPW told her they were not able to find a light strong enough at the base of the light pole, so they purchased a solar light that they clamped half way up the pole. It was installed today.

NEW BUSINESS - None

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS

●GotoMeeting

Discussed to continue having GotoMeetings as part of the meetings or just do the YouTube simulcast.

Councilman Quartello is in favor of keeping GotoMeeting sessions. He feels it is an important component for those who may not be able to attend in person. He does understand the point that if someone wants to address the Council, they should come in person but does understand that sometimes one cannot come in person.

Councilman Lemma feels there has been a lot of technical problems with GotoMeeting. He feels the YouTube simulcasts should continue. He strongly feels if one wants to address the Council, they should attend in person.



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Councilwoman Dietrich would like to keep both platforms and try to iron the kinks out of the technical issues with GotoMeeting.

Mayor Corigliano feels GotoMeeting be used on an as needed basis. He does believe the default should be in person. He said there have been technical difficulties and it's because it was not designed for how we have been using it. He is in favor of stopping GotoMeeting and only use by requests only.

Council President Sweeney is in favor of some type of interactive platform. He would like to explore other options.

Councilwoman Murphy feels the interactive platform is beneficial to the town and would like to explore other options.

Councilwoman Weible does agree there have been many technical difficulties. She also hasn't seen many people on GotoMeeting that are attending the meetings or speaking. She does like the idea of exploring other options.

Nancy Bretzger stated there would be an advertising issue if it was done on an as needed basis. There needs to be notice of 48 hours.

Borough Attorney John Bruder stated the only legal issue is the advertising situation. He has used GotoMeeting, Microsoft Team and Zoom and he feels Zoom far exceeds the other two.

The consensus of the Council is to continue with GotoMeeting and in the interim Nancy Bretzger will explore other options.

Councilwoman Murphy brought up the geese issue. They got a quote from a company about handling the geese issue. She would like to move forward with the contract. It is \$450 a year and then \$1500 a year to addle eggs and removes nests. The other option is to humanely collect them and euthanize them for \$3500. She doesn't think the residents would like that idea.

The consensus of the Council was to put the anti-geese lights back, spray and perform addling and removable of nests.

The Park House was a discussion. Demolish the building and then build a structure to house restrooms would be much cheaper than modify the house.

There was a discussion on having the fountain lit up but it was decided they will concentrate on focusing on all the elements they paid to have done and looking right first.



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The DPW has been working on the Nelson tract trail and it is coming along nicely. Greenacres sign will be moved but we need to name the park. Councilwoman Murphy will act on this project.

●**Road Signage**

One of the items on the Mayor's punch list was Road Signage. Councilman Quartello has looked into it and he presented his findings to the Council.

The objective for this evening is to establish if the Council would like to pursue with this project, if so, he has an opinion on vendors based on his research and to get a consensus on style and color.

He said when you see signs like this in person it really does make an impact. East Hanover, NJ is an example.

He said the only thing that is consistent about our street signs is that they are not consistency. He said this is an easy way to bring some beautification to the town. with the proposals that he has seen there is an opportunity to reduce the number of posts as well. These signs also increase legibility.

His ideas for funding would be leverage existing NJ/Federal grant monies and available funding from NJ Highlands (should PG decide to join).

He has narrowed down his search to Signature Streetscapes, Capital Street Signs and Forsite and with a range in pricing. His presentation showed the different signs. He likes the brown with white lettering.

The police will have input regarding the traffic signs being combined with street signs. DOT may have requirements as well.

Councilman Quartello personally liked Signature Streetscapes. They have been very responsive and their pricing looks good.

Councilwoman Dietrich said that Bernardsville has done some new street signs and suggested to look at their signs and see if they used a state contract.

Currently there are 120 street signs and they are on 80 posts.

Mayor Corigliano is in favor of doing this. He really wants to find a way to do it. Paying for it will present some challenges.

After discussion, the consensus of the Council is to have Councilman Quartello move forward with more research especially funding.



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MINUTES

Mayor Corigliano asked for a motion to approve the Regular meeting minutes on April 11, 2023; motion made by Councilwoman Murphy; seconded by Council President Sweeney, roll call taken, said motion passed.

He then asked for a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes on April 11, 2023; motion made by Council President Sweeney and seconded by Councilwoman Weible, Roll Call vote. Said motion passed.

ORDINANCE

Mayor Corigliano asked for a motion and second to open the Public Hearing for **Ordinance 1121-2023 – AN ORDINANCE BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE’S CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REPEAL CHAPTER 27 FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION SECTION 27-1 to 27-5 TO ADOPT A NEW CHAPTER FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION; TO ADOPT FLOOD HAZARD MAPS; TO DESIGNATE A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Council President Sweeney moved to open the hearing for Public Comment for **Ordinance 1121-2023**, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Roll call vote, said motion was carried unanimously. Mayor Corigliano opened it to the public for any comments. No one came forward.

Councilman Quartello moved to close public comment for **Ordinance 1121-2023** seconded by Council President Sweeney. Roll call vote, said motion was carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Murphy moved to Adopt **Ordinance 1121-2023**, seconded by Council President Sweeney. Roll call vote, said motion was passed unanimously.

Mayor Corigliano stated that “**Ordinance 1121-2023** is Adopted and shall be published by title only in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the law”

Mayor Corigliano asked for a motion and second to open the Public Hearing for **Ordinance 1122-2023- AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR, BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES**

Councilman Lemma made a motion to introduce Ordinance 1122-23; Councilwoman Quartello seconded the motion, roll call vote; said motion was passed unanimously.

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

Council President Sweeney moved to close public comment for **Ordinance 1122-23**, seconded by Councilman Lemma. Roll call vote, said motion was carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Dietrich asked if this can be done before the budget is adopted.



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Mayor Corigliano stated every year an Ordinance needs to be passed that states the minimum and maximum salaries for every position in the Borough. This is apart from the budget.

Councilman Quartello moved to Adopt **Ordinance 1121-2023**, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Roll call vote, said motion was passed unanimously.

Mayor Corigliano stated that “**Ordinance 1122-2023** is Adopted and shall be published by title only in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the law”

RESOLUTION NO. 92-23 RESOLUTION TO AMEND 2023 BUDGET

Councilman Quartello motioned to Adopt Resolution 92-23, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich, roll call taken, said motion passed.

Mayor Corigliano stated when the Borough’s auditor looked through the budget that was prepared we got a modest increase in our Energy Tax Receipts of about \$1,7000 which is a slight difference that we have received over the last 7 years so there needs to be a modification to reflect the new amount and file it with the state.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2023 BUDGET

Councilwoman Murphy motioned to open the public hearing, seconded by Councilwoman Weible, roll call taken, said motion passed.

Councilman Quartello motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Lemma, roll call taken, said motion passed.

Mayor Corigliano presented the 2023 budget. Mayor addressed where Borough Taxes go, 32.43% to Borough, 46.76% to School, 20.82% to County. A projected tax rate of \$1.79 as we still have not received the actual tax rate from the school or the county so this number may adjust slightly. In 2023 the ratable went up substantially. In 2022, total assessments were \$785,120,100.00 and in 2023 they were \$823,106,400.00. The average assessed property in town went from \$784,336 to \$827,654 over 1,011 taxable properties. The average assessed property owner will pay a municipal tax of \$4,555.00 in 2023 and a total tax bill of \$14,811. He said the average tax bill in Somerset County is \$10,504.00 and New Jersey’s average tax bill is \$9,490 in 2022. Our tax rate of \$1.79, however, is lower than Somerset County’s tax rate which is \$2.37. Total appropriations are \$7,221,319 (budgeted expenses to operate the Borough and it includes grant monies received) and Total revenues is \$2,691,275 which means we need to raise \$4,530,044 through taxation. Besides reserves uncollected, the largest appropriations would be Police and Health care. Capital projects for 2023, Municipal projects \$424,201, Sewer \$38,550 and Open Space and Recreation, \$54,800. The Borough Council vigorously strives to a pay as you go policy. It is the Mayor’s intent for the Borough to be debt free by 2029.

The Sewer Utility is separate area of the budget. It funded by User Fees and shared service revenue. 2023 Appropriations are \$1.530M.



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State Statute mandates CAPS on appropriations on the tax levy. 2% Levy Cap and 2.5% Appropriations Cap, however it is complicated because there are items inside the calculation and outside the calculation.

Mayor thanked Councilman Quartello and acknowledged Dale Melville, CFO in attendance.

Dale stated the budget presentation was very clear and easy to understand.

He extended thanks to the Borough Council, Department Heads keeping the numbers tight, advisories, and the new auditor.

RESOLUTION NO. 93-23 RESOLUTION TO READ THE 2023 BUDGET BY TITLE ONLY Councilman Quartello motioned to adopt the resolution to read the 2023 Budget by title only, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, roll call taken, said motion passed.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 94-23 RESOLUTION FOR MAYORAL APPOINTMENT FOR THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE TO THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Councilman Quartello motioned to adopt the resolution; seconded by Councilman Sweeney, roll call taken, said motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 95-23 RESOLUTION NAMING OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES OF THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE AND AUTHORIZING SIGNATORIES ON DEPOSITORY ACCOUNTS

Councilman Quartello motioned to adopt the resolution; seconded by Council President Sweeney,

Councilman Quartello stated the Council went out for Banking RFP's and it was narrowed down to two finalists. First Bank and TD Bank. The committee consisting of Nancy Bretzger, Mayor Corigliano, Dale Melville and Councilman Quartello met with both banks. Dale looked to each of the banks services and platforms and the Committee decided First Bank was the right choice for the Borough.

Mayor Corigliano stated that both banks gave us terrific presentations. It was a very hard decision. The packages were almost identical. He did say that TD Bank did a superior job with their proposal and presentation to us.

Roll call taken for Resolution No. 95-23, said motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-23 RESOLUTION FOR AUTHORIZATION MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) WITH PBA LOCAL 139

Councilman Lemma said that the grievance was filed and was addressed and they came to an amicable resolution with the PBA. Also, this will take effect with the balance of the contract so new hires will benefit from the negotiations.

Councilman Lemma motioned to adopt the resolution 97-23, seconded by Councilwoman Weible, roll call taken, said motion passed.



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RESOLUTION NO. 98-23 RESOLUTION FOR THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE TO JOIN THE SOUTHERN SKYLAND REGIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE FUND EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023

Council President Sweeney read the resolution into the record. He motioned to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy,

Council President Sweeney stated for the record we are leaving the State Insurance Joint Insurance Fund and going with Southern Skyland Regional Health Insurance Fund which is also the same fund utilized by Somerset County and 300 other towns. The Borough and its employees will recognize a reduction in our health insurance premiums of 4 to 7% from the 2022 numbers.

Councilman Lemma stated the benefits are equal or better to what we have currently.

Attorney John Bruder stated a small numeral iv be added to the resolution reflect that we are leaving the State Health benefits plan effective June 30, 2023.

Councilman President Sweeney amended his motion to add number iv, authorizing the Borough to leave the State Health Insurance JIF as of June 30, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Roll call taken, said motion carried.

RESOLUTION No. 99-23 RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A FUND COMMISSIONER

Council President Sweeney read the resolution into the record. He motioned to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich, roll call taken, said motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 96-23 Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List Total Amount: \$115,212.70

Councilwoman Murphy motioned to approve the Bills List seconded, by Councilwoman Weible, roll call taken, said motion passed.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Finance- Presented earlier.

Sanitation & Sewer – No report.

Borough Property- Councilwoman Murphy stated she mentioned her items earlier in the meeting.

Fire/First Aid Squad – No report.

Police- Councilman Lemma stated they acted on the grievance this evening.



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Roads & Transportation- No report.

Zoning & Construction- No report.

Legal- No report.

Administrator's Report – Nancy Bretzger stated as of today 195lbs of food have been collected and donated to the food bank in town. The competition amongst the towns goes until May 5th. There will be a box by the first aid squad on Saturday for the Town Wide garage sale and after the competition is over we will keep a box in Town Hall for any further donations.

Mayor's Executive Summary-

Mayor will get Nancy Bretzger a copy of the Affordable Housing Rehabilitation manual.

Councilman Lemma will look into the CBA issue discussed in Executive.

Nancy Bretzger is going to look into other options for virtual meetings.

Nancy Bretzger will instruct Brad to reinstall the goose lights and restart the remediation services.

Councilwoman Murphy will look into an architect for the park house.

The Mayor acknowledged the group of residents and out of town volunteers who came and did the spring clean up a week ago Saturday. A large amount of trash was picked up out of the stream despite the fact it was done last year.

Mayor Corigliano stated he will not be at the first Council meeting in May, Tuesday May 9th. Deputy Mayor John Sweeney will officiate.

Councilman President Sweeney motioned to adjourn the regular meeting and go back into Executive Session, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Corigliano stated there will be no action taken coming out of Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bretzger, Borough Clerk