



**MAYOR & COUNCIL**  
**THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**JUNE 6, 2024**

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The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Thursday June 6, 2024 in person and began at 7:00PM.

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 2024 Meeting Dates was published in the Courier News and Bernardsville News on April 18, 2024 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 Murphy, Councilman Quartello, Councilman Silva, Councilwoman Sueta, Council President Sweeney, Councilwoman Weible and Mayor Corigliano

Also present were: Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk/Administrator, Steven Warner, Esq., Borough Attorney.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – no comments

**OLD BUSINESS**

● Geese Discussion

Property Committee member Councilman Quartello gave an update. He stated that DPW employees have been spraying the Flock-Free product, spraying it weekly. It is recommended monthly, but the DPW team has been applying it weekly for the first month. In addition to spraying at the pond, they have been spraying at the municipal field, the ball field and the Sara Kay lot.

Unfortunately to date, there has been no evidence of deterring the geese. At the last meeting, it was suggested we try a drone so a provider was sourced and they were able to hear these geese two miles downstream, though they had returned by the next morning. The Borough later learned from our biologist consultant that harassing wild life via drone is illegal in the state of New Jersey so the use of drones was discontinued after two sessions.

The Borough was also introduced to the Barnyard Sanctuary, located in Columbia, NJ as a potential site to relocate the geese. Councilwoman Murphy has reached out to the USDA to inquire about this option and whether the USDA would participate. The USDA biologist was adamant that relocation within such close proximity would not work. Resident Canadian geese most always travel back to their homes and their nesting location. Our USDA contact has dealt with a relocation and indicated that given the small size of the State, relocation is rare and not typically effective. An example was cited of a town in New York trying to do the same thing by relocating their geese. They transported them down to South Carolina and the geese had returned prior to the truck that brought them down there returning back. In speaking with the President of Barnyard Sanctuary, Tamala Lester, Councilman Quartello found out that they will not restrict wildlife or perform any clipping or netting to contain the geese there in an effort to keep them there. Relocation was also discussed and it would need to be done during the molting season when the geese can't fly which is quickly approaching (mid-June to early July). If it was thought that a relocation could work, there are permits that are required for this practice and the Federal review process requires



**MAYOR & COUNCIL  
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 6, 2024**



a minimum of sixty days which would take us out of the molting season. It was determined that relocation is not a practical option at this time.

Councilwoman Murphy added that the USDA stated that they were fairly adamant that relocation within the state of New Jersey would likely not be successful. It is just too small of a State. The biologist said even in larger States it does not work. She said once they are resident Canada Geese their biology sends them back home. She did speak with the person from the previous meeting that did use the drones just to confirm that he did say these geese came back about a month later after their flight feathers returned.

Council President Sweeney said the bottom line is that the USDA doesn't relocate within New Jersey, and simply the deterrents are not working and we are not going to cancel the USDA remediation contract.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Murphy gave an update on the new trails one on Brook Street and Jacobs ladder at the top of Highland down to Lake Road. She stated that DPW has to work on putting small parking areas at both trail heads. They don't require any professional work. It is similar to the parking at Komline. The survey is done for Jacob's ladder and DPW will do the work.

**MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS – none**

**ORDINANCES**

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 1142-2024** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER XXIII, "LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE" OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK AND GLADSTONE CREATING THE SENIOR LIVING CAMPUS ZONE

Mayor Corigliano stated that the Public Hearing for Ordinance 1142-2024 has been postponed to the July 16, 2024 Mayor and Council meeting at 7:00PM.

**PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 1143-2024** PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK AND GLADSTONE, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY, AND APPROPRIATING \$600,000.00 IN THE GENERAL CAPITAL FUND, \$312,560.00 IN THE OPEN SPACE TRUST AND \$253,850.00 IN THE SEWER CAPITAL FUND THEREFORE FROM VARIOUS FUNDS OF THE BOROUGH

Motion made by Council President Sweeney to open up the public hearing for this ordinance; seconded by Councilman Quartello; roll call vote taken; said motion passed unanimously.

No public comment.

Motion made by Councilwoman Murphy to close the public hearing for this ordinance; seconded by Councilwoman Weible; roll call vote taken; said motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Council President Sweeney to adopt this ordinance; seconded by Councilwoman Weible; roll call vote taken; said motion passed unanimously.



**MAYOR & COUNCIL  
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 6, 2024**



Mayor Corigliano stated that Ordinance 1143-2024 is adopted and shall be published by title only in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the law.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 1144-2024 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING CERTAIN MONIES HELD BY THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE FOR THE PEAPACK & GLADSTONE BRANCH OF THE SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM RENOVATION PROJECT OF \$80,000.00**

Motion made by Council President Sweeney to open up the public hearing for this ordinance; seconded by Councilwoman Weible; roll call taken; said motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Andrea Kappler, Holland Ave, Peapack thanked the Borough for getting us to this point and she is very excited to see the new library open up.

Motion made by Council President Sweeney to closed the public hearing for this ordinance; seconded by Councilman Silva; roll call taken; said motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Council President Sweeney to adopt this ordinance; seconded by Councilman Silva; roll call taken; said motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Corigliano stated that Ordinance 1144-2024 is adopted and shall be published by title only in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the law.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 107-24 RESOLUTION NOTICE OF INTENT TO PETITION THE HIGHLANDS COUNCIL FOR PLAN CONFORMANCE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 108-24 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2024 BUDGET FOR A LIBRARY DONATION PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948**

**RESOLUTION NO. 109-24 AWARD OF BID FOR THE COLLECTION OF SOLID & BULK WASTE TO INTERSTATE WASTE SERVICES FOR THE CONTRACT TERM OF THREE YEARS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027**

**RESOLUTION NO. 110-24 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BRIAN HAIG TO BECOME A RIDING MEMBER OF THE PEAPACK & GLADSTONE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 111-24 RESOLUTION FOR RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025-ESSEX HUNT CLUB, INC.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 112-24 RESOLUTION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR BAMBOO REMOVAL SERVICES**

**RESOLUTION NO. 113-24 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN 2024 MEMORIAL DAY SAFE PASSAGE EVENT FROM MAY 24, 2024 TO MAY 27, 2024**



**MAYOR & COUNCIL**  
**THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**JUNE 6, 2024**



**RESOLUTION NO. 114-24 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN DISTRACTED DRIVE FROM JUNE 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2024**

**RESOLUTION NO. 115-24 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PEAPACK & GLADSTONE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE TO DONATE HISTORICAL ITEMS TO THE SOMERSET HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 116-24 RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT FOR PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY GENERATION SUPPLY SERVICES BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE AND IDT ENERGY, INC. LICENSE # ESL-0081**

**RESOLUTION NO. 117 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT OF SALE WITH PG AFFORDABLE HOUSING INC. AND THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK AND GLADSTONE**

Motion made by Councilman Quartello and seconded by Councilman Silva to vote on Resolutions 108-24 to Resolutions 117-24 as a Consent Agenda. Roll call taken, motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 107-24 RESOLUTION NOTICE OF INTENT TO PETITION THE HIGHLANDS COUNCIL FOR PLAN CONFORMANCE**

Motion made by Council President Sweeney to open the resolution up for discussion; seconded by Councilwoman Weible

**Discussion**

Council President Sweeney clarified that this resolution is not for us to enter into the Highlands but rather start the process of a feasibility study to join Highlands.

Mayor Corigliano stated that the Highlands is willing to fully fund the analysis required to assure conformity of Borough laws with Highlands regulations. Our request will go on their agenda this month to fully fund those costs.

Roll call taken; said motion passed unanimously.

**BILLS LIST**

**RESOLUTION NO 118-24. Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List Total Amount: \$339,548.61**

Councilwoman Murphy questioned the amount from Business Information Systems for \$1,025.00.

Nancy Bretzger stated that it is the yearly maintenance fee for the sound system in the Council room and the sound system in the Gymnasium.

Councilman Silva asked about the Deer park water fee.

Nancy Bretzger stated the amount is for the water and the water cooler.



**MAYOR & COUNCIL**  
**THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**JUNE 6, 2024**

---



Councilwoman Murphy made a motion to approve the Bills List, seconded by Councilman Quartello, roll call taken; said motion passes unanimously.

**Mayor's Executive Summary**

**Public Comments on Agenda items only.**

MaryLynn Chiavies, 106 Waverly Road, Long Valley, NJ used to live across from the Peapack Pond. Wants to know what is the sense of urgency? How are they going to prevent a new flock of geese from coming to the pond? And does it have something to do with the fact that condos are going up across the street?

Councilwoman Murphy stated that this is something we have been dealing with for over 20 years and with the new park renovations and trying to keep the park clean, we built a well that comes from the aqueduct underneath so all the water we lost from the Peapack Brook is coming from the aqueduct so that is our water source. The water is being contaminated by the excessive geese poop and the number of geese that we have it making it extremely difficult to keep the water clean. Councilwoman Murphy stated they will keep maintaining the deterrents after these geese are removed which will include spraying of the repellent agents, the flashing lights that go all day and night. If we would see new geese coming into the park, we will do geese police and some other things to remove them before they become resident geese. In the fall during planting season, we will try to create the best riparian buffer that we can, in the space that we have. The far side of the pond is doing much better. The geese don't seem to go over that way so we are going to try and mimic what is on that side.

Devon Sweeney, Farm Cottage Road, Gladstone, stated that the name of the Park is Liberty Park and it was donated to remember the veterans of the Great War and over the years we have added more and more stones to commemorate people from our town who made a great sacrifice. The names on the stones are people who still live in town. As we talk about something like geese remember what that park is there for. It is not a sanctuary for animals, it is there so we as a community can remember. He said on Memorial Day there was a service and he mentioned today is D-Day.

Susan Rubright, 14 Ridge Road, commented on D-Day as well. She said both her Uncle and Grandfather served in both respective wars. She went on to the geese issue and stated that it looks like over the past 3 meetings you have tried to vet the concerns and issues and possible fixes of not having to exterminate the geese. She mentioned that at the last meeting she did bring something that is used on farms to pick up the goose poop. She was a little disappointed that no one paid much attention to that suggestion. She said ultimately it is the Council's decision none the less it is heart breaking. She appreciates that they have given the public a chance to speak.

Paul Viggiano, 123 Main Street, Peapack stated that he has asked for the environmental study from the biologist to look at the impact of removing the geese. He said don't mess with nature, it will come back to you.

Jacqueline Braun, 63 Main Street, Peapack spoke on the bond between animals and humans and she can't understand why they don't understand how cruel the gassing is. Why can't you give us another year to work together to figure this out.



**MAYOR & COUNCIL**  
**THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**JUNE 6, 2024**

---



Briana Feinstein, Fairlawn, NJ, Bergen County, spoke at hearing about the culling of the geese. Spoke on the cruelty of the geese. Said we should be teaching our kids to respect nature.

Karen Rogers, 7 West Avenue, Gladstone, spoke on the permit you can get to transport the geese. It can be obtained online from the Fish and Wildlife. If we can get someone with a permit since we have the trailer and the place, that is one possibility.

Mayor Corigliano stated that the reasons were discussed earlier of why this cannot be done. He reiterated that while Barnyard Sanctuary is a reputable place, it is not a viable option for relocating the geese.

Lynn Perry, 59 Main Street, Peapack appreciates the Council giving us the opportunity to speak and presenting some other options. As a person of faith, this is very upsetting to her.

Mayor Corigliano stated that she is correct in stating that we hold human beings in higher regard than animals and it is our responsibility for the health and wellbeing of our residents.

Doreen Fraga, Saddlebrook, NJ Animal Protection League of New Jersey submitted their proposal in offering to pay for Nancy Minage to develop her habitat modification proposal to work with her, implement it and they are offering to pay for Flock Free, the commercial grade with the invisidy. A different one from the one that is not working for Borough. There are two different types of Flock Free. We are offering for Nancy Minage to come in and do the riparian buffer. She handed her proposal to Councilman Quartello.

Councilwoman Murphy stated that when they spoke with Nancy when they had their meeting at the park, they mentioned the constant food source of the grass and she did not give a viable option because he said there really is not a grass that we can plant. She did mention that there was one that we had to keep 9 inches tall with barbs on the top and all the surrounding homes and businesses would need to get new grass. This is a suburban park that people want to have picnics and community events. We can't have 9-inch grass and expect neighbors and businesses to make all these changes. And truly we are taking all the ideas you gave us and we want to do some of the things. We want to plant a new and better riparian buffer to deter further geese. That was our plans when we redid the park. We even kept it fenced in so the geese would not eat it and we have even replanted it two more times. We will look at the proposal and take everything mentioned into consideration.

Erica Jonak, 7 Franklin Court, Bernardsville, NJ wanted to know what you want to do all the remedies on your own and not take the help of the Animal Protection League. She wanted to know why they wouldn't put the deterrents in before killing the geese.

Jennifer Douglas, 200 Old Army Road, Bernardsville handed out presentations and gave a QR code to all in the audience so they have a copy of the presentation as well. She compiled a comprehensive assessment of best practices on an integrated geese management program. She wanted the Council to know that there are 1,000 case studies of where towns have gotten rid of their geese.

Wendy Rostelli, Society Hill in Basking Ridge, and in the middle of three retention ponds and up until a couple of years ago they probably had 1,000 geese. She said they have the geese police come in about once a week and she said they have no to a handful of geese.



**MAYOR & COUNCIL  
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 6, 2024**



Andrea Kronek, Holland Avenue, Peapack has lived here for 30 years and this has been a problem for 30 years. She thanked them for using trusted fact-based resources to make this tough decision. She thanked them for recognizing that these geese are an invasive species that is destroying the healthy environment that the Council has worked so long to get back to. She thanked the Council.

Toby Duff, Apgar Avenue, Gladstone, thanked the Council. She said they have been very gracious in listening to all sides of the argument and hearing all side of opinions. She said she walks through the park every day, sometimes multiple times during the day but it has gotten to the point that she cannot walk there with her dog because there are tons of geese and goose pop and not just in the park. Her son can't play basketball because of all the goose poop on the court. She said she knows it is a very difficult decision and she thanked them.

Camille DeCarlo, North Road, Chester, NJ said as she reflected on the past three meetings she was confident that the Council and the campaign for the geese wanted the same thing. They have spoken to Senator Cory Booker who has the facts of what we have been discussing and supporting documentation. The fact that back in April, you were offered a monetary proposal and you refused it. She said if that had happened back in April you would have no geese now because it was the correct method that was needed to keep the geese away. No one has been given a reason as to why that proposal was ignored. She doesn't understand why they did not take the suggestions back in April.

With no more public comments, Mayor Corigliano closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

With no further business, Council President Sweeney motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nancy A. Bretzger*  
Nancy Bretzger, Borough Clerk