



**MAYOR & COUNCIL**  
**THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**MAY 14, 2024**

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The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 in person and began at 7:02PM.

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 December 14, 2023 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.

Mayor Corigliano sworn in Police Officer Gino M. Schifano

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

Nickie Dawson, 825 Brown Road Bridgewater, NJ gave an update on her efforts to address the cat issue in the Borough. Over the last few months, at one location that had numerous nuisance complaints, they have altered 12 cats, 1 cat was euthanized for injuries, 1 kitten was trapped, fostered and subsequently placed for adoption. At another location which was a high nuisance complaint area, they altered 8 cats. Four were pregnant and their pregnancies were terminated which will reduce future population dramatically. She asked the Council to see if they have given any thought to potentially changing the language for the feeding ban ordinance. She said she is happy to provide some language to them to consider. She also asked the Council if they could provide funding for this effort to continuing. So far it has been funded by a private individual.

Mayor Corigliano stated the Council has not yet considered revising the language, but unfortunately what you have been dealing with is not the only cat issue in town. He suggested that she continue to correspond with Councilwoman Weible with any suggestions she may have. As far as funding, we are voting on our budget tonight and we did not include any numbers in it for trap, neuter and spay. It has been a very tight budget year for us.

Ms. Dawson stated that in reaching out to Animal Control, she did confirm that there have been no additional nuisance complaints and they are happy to continue working on this project in the Borough.

Councilwoman Weible stated that she was the one who adopted the cat. She thanked them for all of their efforts to work with us and that we truly appreciate it.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- *Geese Remediation: Discussion of Meeting with NJ Animal Rights League Representatives*



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Council President Sweeney stated that on May 8<sup>th</sup>, the Borough Property Committee which included Chair Eric Quartello, Second Chair John Sweeney, and Jamie Murphy, prior year Chair, Will Allen, DPW Supervisor, and Nancy Bretzger, Borough Administrator met with Doreen Fraga of the New Jersey Animal Protection League and their landscape designer at Liberty Park. The discussion focused on three different issues. The first involved the riparian buffer around the pond so the geese cannot access the water. The Borough pointed out to them the existing riparian buffer has had the plants replaced at least two times. Even when we fenced it in, the geese were eating the plants. The group did recommend some indigenous plants and our DPW department and our Environmental Commission will be reviewing this. They commented on the wire fencing around the islands that it was not high enough and they would access the islands from the water. In terms of our riparian buffer, when we do plantings we are going to have to put in a bigger fence and for a longer period of time. The second was the lawn area. The group was critical of the lawn because the geese will eat almost every type of lawn grass, they also felt that mature trees in the lawn area would eliminate the view from the pond, we are not going to take the lawn out, it has been a working park for years. The third issue is on repellants. Noise will not keep the geese away, train sirens went off while we were there, the emergency whistle blew while we were there, the geese were not roused. We have put in strobe lights at night because they cannot shut their eyes and that has not worked well either. We have used an organic spray, that also has not worked. They recommend a spray product called Flock Free and we compared the ingredients and they do have different active ingredients. We committed to try the Flock Free product.

Councilwoman Murphy stated they did mention a certain type of grass that has barbs at about 9 inches off the ground, again it is a working park where people want to picnic and sit and this type of grass, was felt, would not be a good idea. They also said we would have to ask the surrounding residents to change their grass as well. This is not an option.

Mayor Corigliano read his prepared statement again to the public and for the newcomers to the meeting. He said the statement has not changed. He said however, they are very open-minded people and if we can somehow find a way through a new repellent to get the geese out of the park, they would be very happy with that. The statement reads as follows:

**Borough of Peapack & Gladstone**

**Borough Statement on Geese Remediation**

The Borough Council appreciates those expressing their opinion regarding the infestation of the invasive species of geese that have inhabited Liberty Park. Indeed, the infestation has been a vexing issue for the Borough for some twenty years now. It is not a new issue.

The Borough has tried every reasonable, humane effort to discourage these animals from occupying our Park. Some have worked temporarily, but none have provided a permanent solution. When the park was renovated, our landscape architect designed a riparian buffer for the pond but the geese ate the plantings – multiple times. After very careful consideration and with some reservation, we have opted to



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have the population of these invasive animals removed by the USDA. Despite hearsay to the contrary, the USDA solution gives the Borough the best chance of managing the infestation.

The Borough asks everyone to please remember the circumstances regarding our Park. The Park and its pond are not a natural habitat, but rather a fully man-made development. It is simply too small to support a population of up to 60 geese in a way that is compatible with safe and enjoyable use by our residents.

Remediation measures of these creatures is an accepted practice. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has stated that a manageable population of Canadian Geese in New Jersey is 41,000; the current population of these birds in New Jersey is estimated to exceed 70,000. There is clearly an overpopulation issue, which leads to the spread of disease and degradation of the environment. We also recognize that we will need to employ non-lethal deterrents once the entrenched population is removed.

But first and foremost, the nature of the birds that have inhabited Liberty Park are a safety risk to our community and this, very simply, is our concern. Their behavior and excrement are a threat to Park users, both human and animal. Further, they affect the water quality in the pond to the extent that the Borough needs to treat the water to prevent large algae blooms. It is unfortunate that these birds have chosen the Park to make their home, however their presence is simply incompatible with safety and enjoyment by our residents.

That concluded this report.

**NEW BUSINESS- None**

**● PRESENTATION & PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2024 BUDGET**

***MAYOR CORIGLIANO AND COUNCILMAN QUARTELLO PRESENTED THE 2024 BUDGET***

*Mayor Corigliano stated that for 2024 the tax collected dollars that they collect from our residents will be distributed as follows:*

*32.8% of the tax dollars will go to the operations of the Borough, which includes the operation of the Borough as well as its Open Space Trust Fund*

*46% estimated will go to the school district*

*20.87% will go to the County for the three county items he just outlined.*

*He said the bulk of what is collected from our residents goes to school with roughly equal parts going to the county and the municipality.*

*We are expecting to levy nearly \$15Million in taxes from our residents this year. Of that we will allocate \$4.652million to Borough Operations, \$260,000.00 to Open Space and Recreation Trust Fund, almost \$7Million will go to the school and the remaining of the money will go to the County.*

*What this really shows is what our assessments are. This year our tax assessor assessed the entire Borough at \$868,000,000. The bulk of that is residential at \$614,000,000,*



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*\$91,000,000 in farm/residential and \$147,000 in commercial properties and a small amount for farmland.*

*The average residential household in this town assesses at \$874,000.00 and that is up from \$827,000.00 last year.*

*As a point of comparison, last year the total tax paid on a residential property in Peapack & Gladstone was \$14,710.00; this year we are budgeting that it will be approximately \$15,069.00 and increase of about 2.4%.*

*The average tax bill in Somerset County as a whole including all 21 towns is \$10,900.00. However, the tax rate is lower than almost every other town in Somerset County. We are projecting a tax rate of \$1.723 and the average is \$2.035.*

*For the municipal budget, we are budgeting \$7.35million in expenses to run this government. We expect to subsidize this \$7.35million with \$2.7million from these sources including our fund balance.*

*He said the Borough uses a fund accounting method, by statute. He said we operate on a cash basis. By statute we are required to budget for RUT, Reserve for Uncollected Taxes which means that we do not expect to collect all of our taxes every year and we are required to budget for that.*

*There is also a sewer utility. We have about 900 homes and business that feed waste water into our sewer system. That is a separate entity. The users get billed for that.*

*He spoke on the Capital fund and what the Borough purchases out of the fund such as firetrucks, equipment for DPW, etc.*

*He showed a Fund Graph for the other municipal departments and said everything is set by statute. The most is spent from the police department or safety, healthcare, buildings and grounds, capital improvement fund, principal and interest and reserve for uncollected taxes.*

*There are about 700-line items that the Budget Committee examines to make sure we are giving our residents the best value for their dollar and making sure we are operating this government efficiently.*

*He spoke on Capital projects and how they are funded. He mentioned the capital improvement projects for this year. He said they are expecting to spend another \$312,000 for capital improvements in open space and recreation improvements.*



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He then spoke about the sewer utility. *They expect sewer expenses to be about \$1.44million this year. This is funded through feescollected from our sewer users. They are anticipating a sewer increase next year. Two years ago, they reduced the sewer fees and two years before that the sewer fees were reduced. Our costs keep climbing and the cost to treat the water keeps going up. This year they will be spending approximately \$253,000 in sewer capital improvement projects. This will include a pumping station that we share with Far Hills and Bedminster that helps move the waste water to a treatment plant.*

*In summary, state laws require mandatory caps on how we expense and how we levy. There is a 2% levy cap and 2.5% appropriation cap. This means with the exception of the legislators down in Trenton write ins, we simply cannot increase our expenses by a wild amount. We are capped by how much we can increase them this year.*

Sheila Carter, 1 Ridge Road, Peapack, asked how much was budgeted for the geese and asked about the tennis courts. Mayor Corigliano answered her question on the geese and stated that the courts are used enough to justify renovating and possibly relocating them. They will be also be striping them for pickleball as well.

Dami Carter, 6 Perry Street, asked how does the money get into the surplus fund.

Mayor Corigliano stated the money is replenished in one of two ways. Either we sell a large asset. For an example, eight years ago when he was on the Council they sold a home on a park that they bought. The home was used in a Soap Opera for about 10 to 15 years. The show ended and the home was no longer being used. The home was starting to fall into disrepair so the property committee decided to sell the property and they netted \$500,000 from the sale. The second place where we collect money is coming under budget. We are budgeting statutorily for a reserve for uncollected taxes. We are budgeting \$970,000 this year. Which is reasonable and approved by our Auditors. We really will not be collecting much less than that so we will have a surplus at the end of the year. There will be an excess and that money will go back into the fund balance.

Marylynn Schiavi, 106 Wehrli Road, Long Valley, asked how much the Council has spent over the last few years attempting to deal with the geese?

Mayor Corigliano said he did not have that number at his fingertips. He said it would involve an extensive analysis to go back and see what they have spent. He did say they spent nearly a \$1million dollars to renovate the park just under 2 years ago which included a number of geese remediation measures. Over the years we have had dogs, sprays, flashing lights, treatment to the water in the pond so he would say the number is not insignificant.



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David Smith, 107 Mosle Road, Peapack said it was nice to see the comparison vs. last year regarding the budget.

With no more questions regarding the budget, Mayor Corigliano thanked everyone for their patience and respect.

**RESOLUTION NO. 91-24 RESOLUTION TO READ THE 2024 BUDGET BY TITLE ONLY** motion made to approve this Resolution by Council President Sweeny, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, roll call taken, said motion passes unanimously.

Motion to open the public hearing on the adoption of the 2024 budget made by Councilwoman Murphy, Seconded by Councilman Quartello, roll call taken, said motion passes unanimously.

No public had any comments.

Motion to close the public hearing on the adoption of the 2024 budget made by Council President Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, roll call taken, said motion passes unanimously.

Motion made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Council President Sweeney to adopt the 2024 budget, roll call taken, said motion passes unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 92-24 RESOLUTION FOR CANCELLATION OF CAPITAL APPROVEMENT AUTHORIZATIONS**, motion made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Council President Sweeney to approved this Resolution, roll call taken, said motion passes unanimously.

Mayor Corigliano asked the Friends of the Library to come forward.

Carol Lane, 1 Hillyard Lane, Gladstone read a prepared statement and presented the Council with a \$670,000 check for their renovation of the library. She stated this opportunity would not have been possible without support from all former and current members of the Friends Library Advisory Board, Borough Council, Borough Administration, SCLSNJ, including our wonderful library staff and architect, Anthony lovino of Arcari and lovino.

**RESOLUTION NO. 93-24 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATION OF \$670,000 FROM THE "FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY" FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE BRANCH OF THE SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM** motion made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Weible to approve the Resolution, roll call taken, said motion passes unanimously.

**MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS**

- Raffle License Application 03-2024 for Matheny School and Hospital, Inc. for a 50/50 raffle to be held on June 8, 2024 at Matheny School



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- Raffle License Application 04-2024 for Matheny School and Hospital, Inc. for 2 Superbowl tickets to be held from June 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Matheny School

The council consents to these raffles.

Councilwoman Murphy brought up the Bamboo in Komline Park. There is an island of bamboo in the park that is growing very rapidly. The environmental commission feels it is an invasive species and it needs to be removed before it takes over. Removable of bamboo is very arduous. Brad Fagen feels the job is too large for DPW. It does require some level of expertise. We will be going out for bid to compare prices.

The other item she brought up was the crosswalk at Main and Willow. She met with the Borough Engineer a few times about this and came up with a design. They have submitted this to the County. They are waiting for County approval and once they have that, they will go out for bid for the project. She explained that when you are crossing from the Cocolux side to Willow Avenue side and drivers are coming it is hard for them to see. On the Cocolux side of the street, we will do a cement bump out with ADA compliant walkway.

### **MINUTES**

Motion by Councilman Sweeney to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2024, seconded by Councilwoman Weible, roll call taken, said motion passes; Councilman Quartello abstained due to absence of meeting.

### **ORDINANCES**

**PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 1138-2024 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XII, TITLED "FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION" OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES SUBSECTION 12-1.8., TITLED "NON-LIFE HAZARD USES" AND SUBSECTION 12-1.9., TITLED "PERMITS"**

Motion made by Councilwoman Murphy to open for public hearing; seconded by Councilman Quartello, roll call taken, said motion passes unanimously.

No public comment.

Motion made by Council President Sweeney to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, roll call taken, said motion passes unanimously. Motion made by Council President Sweeney to adopt Ordinance 1138-2024; seconded by Councilwoman Weible, roll call taken, said motion passes unanimously. Mayor Corigliano stated that Ordinance 1138-2024 is adopted and will be published by title only in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the law.



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**PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 1139-2024 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4, POLICE REGULATIONS, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK AND GLADSTONE, TO ADD A NEW SECTION 4-9 ENTITLED "RESIDENT SAFETY AND PROTECTION"**  
Motion made by Councilman Quartello to open for public hearing; seconded by Councilman Sueta, roll call taken, said motion passes unanimously.

No public comment.

Motion made by Councilwoman Weible to close the public hearing; seconded by Councilman Quartello, roll call taken, said motion passes unanimously. Motion made by Councilwoman Sueta to adopt Ordinance 1139-2024; seconded by Councilwoman Weible, roll call taken, said motion passed unanimously. Mayor Corigliano stated that Ordinance 1139-2024 is adopted and will be published by title only in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the law.

**PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 1141-2024 AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR, BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES**  
Motion made by Councilman Quartello to open for public hearing; seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, roll call taken, said motion passes unanimously.

No public comment.

Motion made by Councilman Quartello to close the public hearing; seconded by Councilman Silva, roll call taken; said motion passes unanimously. Motion made by Council President Sweeney to adopt Ordinance 1141-2024; seconded by Councilwoman Weible, roll call taken, said motion passes unanimously. Mayor Corigliano stated that Ordinance 1141-2024 is adopted and will be published by title only in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the law.

**INTRODUCTION OF 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**

Motion to introduce this ordinance made by Council President Sweeny, seconded by Councilman Quartello, roll call vote taken; said motion passes unanimously. Mayor Corigliano stated that Ordinance 1142-2024 has been introduced and shall be published in summary the Bernardsville News and the public hearing will be held on June 6, 2024 at 7:00PM or shortly thereafter.

**INTRODUCTION 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 Councilwoman Sueta to introduce this ordinance, seconded by Councilman Silva, roll call vote taken; and said motion passes unanimously. Mayor Corigliano stated that





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Ordinance 1143-2024 has been introduced and shall be published in summary in the Bernardsville News and the public hearing will be held on June 6, 2024 at 7:00PM or shortly thereafter.

**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 Councilwoman Murphy to introduce this Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Quartello, roll call vote taken; said motion passes unanimously. Roll call vote taken; said motion passes unanimously. Mayor Corigliano stated that Ordinance 1144-2024 is introduced and shall be published in summary in the Bernardsville News and the public hearing will be held on June 6, 2024 at 7:00PM or shortly thereafter.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 94-24** *AWARD OF BID FOR THE PEAPACK & GLADSTONE LIBRARY RENOVATIONS TO WESTCRAFT BUILDERS*

**RESOLUTION NO. 95-24** *RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE COUNCIL TO FIX AND DETERMINE ANNUAL SALARIES, WAGES OR COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE FOR 2024*

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-24** *AUTHORIZATION FOR NATHAN HACHEY TO BECOME A JUNIOR FIREMAN OF THE PEAPACK & GLADSTONE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT*

**RESOLUTION NO. 97-24** *RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF SEASONAL EMPLOYEES FOR RECREATION'S 2024 SUMMER CAMP AND OTHER SUMMER PROGRAMS*

**RESOLUTION NO. 98-24** *RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH PRINCETON HYDRO, LLC FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR AN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE MANAL FOR LIBERTY PARK POND DAM (NJDEP#25-302)*

**RESOLUTION NO. 99-24** *RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT (OPRA) AND THE SWIFT PASSAGE OF S-2930/A-4045*

**RESOLUTION NO. 100-24** *RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO WEATHERPROOFING TECHNOLOGIES, INC. FOR THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE MUNICIPAL BUILDING PHASE I ROOF RESTORATION*

**RESOLUTION NO. 101-24** *RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO USE THE 1998 STERLING DUMP TRUCK FOR TRAINING PURPOSES*

**RESOLUTION NO. 102-24** *RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE NO. 725 CONCERNING UNLAWFUL OCCUPANCY OF DWELLINGS AND SUPPLEMENTING TITLE 2C OF THE NEW JERSEY STATUTES OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**RESOLUTION NO. 103-24** *RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF HSL 16-LM TELLURIDE LIGHTS MANUFACTURED BY AURORALIGHT FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF LIGHTS IN LIBERTY PARK*

**\*ADDED RESOLUTION NO. 105-24** *RESOLUTION TO APPOINT MATTHEW DILORIO AS SEASONAL TO THE BOROUGH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS LABORER*



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*\*ADDED RESOLUTION NO. 106-24 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF A DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS EASEMENT UNDER THE MUNICIPAL PLANNING INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM OVER BLOCK 6, LOT 3 (SMITH FARM)*

Motion made by Council President Sweeney to approved Resolution No. 94-24 to 98-24, 100-24 to 102-24, 105-24 to 106-24 as consent agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, roll call taken, said motion passes unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 99-24 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT (OPRA) AND THE SWIFT PASSAGE OF S-2930/A-4045**

Motion made by Councilwoman Murphy to approve this resolution, seconded Council President Sweeney,

**Discussion**

Councilwoman Weible stated that she is afraid if these changes pass, it will go the other way and residents might not be able to get information they are requesting.

Nancy Bretzger stated that the changes are mostly affecting commercial business so they cannot repeatedly ask for the same information and using the information for marketing purposes.

Borough Council, Steve Warner stated that it is not law as of yet and the resolution is to support it to becoming law. But it is primarily targeted at harassment and substantially impairing the performance of government functions by commercial entities whose motives are not transparent in government. The revisions still very much favor the requestor but it mitigates against the abuses that some requestors are engaging in.

Roll call vote, said motion passes with Councilwoman Weible abstaining.

**RESOLUTION NO. 103-24 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF HSL 16-LM TELLURIDE LIGHTS MANUFACTURED BY AURORALIGHT FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF LIGHTS IN LIBERTY PARK**

Motion made by Councilwoman Murphy to approve this resolution, seconded by Council President Sweeney,

**Discussion**

Councilwoman Murphy asked if these were the under the bench lights that haven't been working?

Nancy Bretzger stated this is the up lighting on the trees that when we got hit by the lightening last year and blow out the transformer, it blew out all of those lights. They are specialized lights and it took a while to find a company that can be a distributor for them. She is going to look into the bench lighting to make sure that is included.

Roll call vote; said motion passes unanimously.

**BILLS LIST**

**RESOLUTION NO. 104-24 Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List Total Amount: \$1,574,990.85**



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Council President Sweeney made a motion to approve the Bills List, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, roll call taken; said motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Quartello recognized Detective Ortiz, the first aid department and the fire department for their response to the traumatic injury this past week which saved the individuals life.

Nancy Bretzger stated tomorrow morning at 10AM they will be doing a bid opening for our solid waste and bulk collection for the next three years.

**Mayor's Executive Summary**

No items for this evening.

**Public Comments on Agenda items only.**

Marylynn Schiavi, 105 Wehrli Road, Long Valley expressed that the Council maybe has turned a corner and will be not be gassing the geese in June?

Council President Sweeney stated that would not be correct. We are open to the possibility of not doing it if this repellent works. We have tried numerous repellent measures over the years and we have been informed by the experts that this repellent will work.

Ms. Schiavi said that she did have a chance to talk to the USDA District Supervisor and they talked about a number of options and even though this is difficult, it may be possible to round up the geese and relocate them.

Councilwoman Murphy stated that she did speak with the USDA a number of times and asked the same question. The USDA affirmed to her that because the state of New Jersey has an over population of the geese and especially because there is an outbreak of avian influenza, that relocating the birds anywhere within the State and within State lines is not feasible. She did speak with several people about that. She said she will look into it again.

Scarlett Campbell, 54 Mt. Harmony Road, Bernardsville read a prepared statement expressing her displeasure of gassing the geese.

Valerie Pawlowki, 61 Main Street, Peapack spoke on using drones to redirect the geese to another area.

Councilwoman Murphy stated they John Smith is still having a problem with the geese. She said she will look into this.

Paul Viggiano, 123 Main Street, Peapack stated that the town has built an environment that you have a responsibility to. He continued his disagreement with the proposed of removal.



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Macella Walsh 54 Mendham Road, Gladstone is supportive of keeping the geese.

Taylor Vaughn, 149 Main Street, spoke in support of gassing the geese. She said they are very messy. They cannot use their back yard.

Elizabeth Jonach, 7 Franklin Court, Bernardsville, NJ stated that getting the geese to go somewhere else is a possibility. She feels that the NJ Animal Control has a vested interest in seeing the geese live. She doesn't think a month would be enough time. She requested the Council to give a moratorium on this and explore finding another place for them.

Carolyn D. (couldn't understand the last name) 68 Anderson Hill, Bernardsville, expressed her displeasure of killing the geese. In favor of a moratorium.

Susan Rubright, 14 Ridge Road spoke about the geese poop. Her husband found something called Tow & Collect in Canada. You tow it behind a vehicle such as a riding mower and it picks up the poop. They are about \$5,000 apiece.

Karen Rogers 7 West Avenue, Gladstone stated that Peapack is getting a bad reputation. People are texting her that don't normally text her and asking her what is going on.

Camille DiCarlo, 353 North Road, Chester commends the town on their efforts in trying to control the geese. She mentioned there is a Facebook page for Peapack and on this page there have been pictures of a handful of geese in the park, not 50, a few droppings, geese being peaceful to the children, joggers and walkers and quotes from neighboring towns.

Jennifer Douglas, 200 Old Army Road, Bernardsville, is opposed to gassing the geese.

Jessica Patero, 12 Ridge Road, Gladstone, is opposed to gassing the geese and asked to delay it so you can look into for options.

Elizabeth Wallace, 427 Fox Chase Road, Chester, is opposed to gassing the geese. Strongly in favor of a moratorium.

Lucy Humonston-Parry (not sure of spelling on last name) 33 Potomac Drive, Basking Ridge, is opposed to gassing the geese and the addling of the eggs.

Jacki Braun, 63 Main Street, Peapack, is opposed to gassing the geese. She mentioned the redevelopment project on Lackawanna Avenue and wanted to know if that was an alternative motive to get rid of these geese and possibly fill in part of the pond?

Mayor Corigliano stated this is absolutely not true. DEP ruled Liberty Pond is a collection pond. The pond had to stay in its original shape and configuration when the park was remodeled.



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Councilwoman Murphy spoke on the euthanasia of the geese. She said no one wants to do this. This is the suggested route. The American Veterinary Medical Association does a consensus on the best methods of euthanasia for all animal types. Most of them are inhaled for birds. Most of the birds are unconscious within 20 to 30 seconds. It depends on the how much is inhaled, the rate of increase of concentration, etc. There are certain factors that make it as humane as possible. She said that she does not want there to be misinformation that this is an exceedingly cruel way of euthanasia. Because there is no real great option and this is the accepted best option and we would not choose otherwise and it does not take 30 minutes of suffering as it has been stated. It is a relatively short time for them to become unconscious and then several minutes to pass away.

Cindy D. (did not get the last name), 21 Railroad Rd, Far Hills had lived in town for 21 years. She was not aware of how many geese there were and came to visit to check it out. She said she saw about 12 geese in the park and 8 by the basketball court. She spoke about the geese police and how Spring Lake, NJ have used them. Is opposed to gassing the geese.

Ashley Comb, 73 Haul Road, Bernardsville, is opposed to gassing the geese.

James Ciata, 14 St. Johns Drive Gladstone is opposed to gassing the geese.

Mayor Corigliano said it is easy to make that correlation between the redevelopment with Lackawanna Avenue and the geese but it has absolutely nothing to do with this. They are two separate issues.

Mary Catchen, 47 Highland Avenue complained about the stoic faces the Council displayed during the public comments.

Mayor Corigliano stated that the people sitting up at the Dias with him give greatly of their time and to their town. Their interests are not only for the residents but all of our constituents. Councils are appointed in all towns to make the very difficult decisions and I hope you can appreciate these folks sitting up here. They have the health, safety and wellbeing of our residents in the forefront of their minds.

Mark Sweetwood, 59 Mendham Road, Gladstone is opposed to gassing the geese. He said his biggest problem is that you created a man-made water park and you expect nature not to embrace it. He is very troubled with this.

Mrs. Sweetwood is opposed to gassing the geese.

Cynthia Vega, 39 Jamestown Rd. Basking Ridge, is surprised by the lack of openness with the Council and she can't believe they have tried every single option presented. She said she feels what the Council is saying is completely irrelevant and it is making her very angry.



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Ken Jonach, 7 Franklin Court, Bernardsville, read a poem. He would like the Council to work on removing the geese now and not killing them. He is in favor of a moratorium. Spoke on some animals that have tested positive for influenza.

Mayor Corigliano thanked everyone for speaking. He thanked everyone for their suggestions and they will digest them and come to a decision.

With no further business, Council President Sweeney made a motion to adjourn at 9:25pm, seconded by Councilwoman Weible, roll call taken; said motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bretzger, Borough Clerk