

The January 26, 2021 meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Pequannock, Morris County, New Jersey was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom Webinar; Mayor Kyle Russell presiding.

Township Clerk Carol Marsh read the following statement for inclusion in the meeting minutes: *"In accordance with the requirements of New Jersey's Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was included in the Annual Meeting Notice which was filed in the Office of the Township Clerk; posted on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building; published as legal notice in the Suburban Trends newspaper; and distributed to all persons requesting notice in accordance with Township policy. Information on remote access was posted on the bulletin board, front door and accessible entrance of the Municipal building and on the Township's website."*

Mayor Russell led the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a prayer and a moment of thanks for those individuals serving our nation.

Present:

Mayor Kyle Russell
Deputy Mayor Melissa Florance-Lynch
Councilwoman Ryan Herd
Councilman David Kohle
Councilman Richard Phelan

Absent: None

Also Attending:

Adam Brewer, Township Manager
Robert Oostdyk, Esq., Township Attorney
Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk

There were 26 members of the public in attendance via ZOOM.

Mr. Brewer provided information on procedures for public participation in the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS. There were no presentations.

REPORTS FROM VOLUNTEERS.

- Joe Wells, 5 Washington Street, expressed surprise the County did not include access into Aquatic Park from the NYS&W Trail in their final design, provided thoughts on reasons it might not have been included, and urged the Council to advocate for the access.
- Tom Andrea, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Chair, stated the Township Manager would need direction from the Council regarding access to Aquatic Park. Mr. Andrea expressed his opinion that progress on the project should not be held up but that access might be included as a change order and without it there is no good way to access the trail.
- Jay Wanczyk, Historic District Commission Chair, provided some history about Aquatic Park access and recommended a "stub" of asphalt be provided near the whistle post as a safe entrance.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Paul Mahler, 29 Arundel Road, stated he represented the "PROPEL" (Pequannock Residents of Pride, Equality, and Leadership) organization, read a letter regarding the events that took place at the Capitol Building on January 6th, listed positions of the group, and requested the Council issue a statement denouncing the actions taken by certain groups on January 6th, issue a statement accepting the results of the November 2020 election, and authorize the formation of a social equity council.
- Randy Shamber, 15 Van Riper Avenue, read an additional letter from PROPEL regarding the November election, calling on the Council to issue a statement on the election, the January

6th event and racism. Mr. Shamber expressed support for the actions recommended by Mr. Mahler and offered his assistance in the matter.

MANAGER'S REPORT. Township Manager Adam Brewer reviewed the Manager's report for the meeting, noting a potential schedule for budget meetings, commented on the potential benefits of the NYS&W Trail, suggested the Township pursue access to Aquatic Park at the next most expeditious point without impacting the start of the project and suggested he communicate to the County that access is a priority but getting the project built is the major priority with access possibly provided at a later date. Mr. Brewer reviewed agenda items and provided status on the Pompton River desnagging project.

PUBLIC HEARINGS. There were no public hearings.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS. There were no ordinances presented for introduction.

RESOLUTIONS.

- **R2021-59**, awarding a contract for a Concession Provider for Various Events of the Parks and Recreation Department to Thin is Inn d.b.a. Columbia Inn in accordance with the Request for Proposals.
- **R2021-60**, approving Change Order No. 1 for the Pompton River Desnagging project increasing the contract with Grade Construction of Paterson, NJ by \$6,410.57 to a revised contract price of \$115,000.
- **R2021-61**, authorizing the sale of certain property owned by the Township of Pequannock (Block 2306 Lot 20) not required for public purposes pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12013(a).
- **R2021-62**, authorizing the cancellation of the Reserve for Site Improvements Trust Fund.
- **R2021-63**, authorizing the acceptance of a hold harmless agreement from Freddy and Maryann Bingler (Block 3301 Lot 22, 170 Boulevard).
- **R2021-64**, authorizing Utility Office refunds, overpayments or cancellations.
- **R2021-65**, authorizing release of deposits for Special Sales.
- **R2021-66**, authorizing release of designated Escrow Deposits
- **R2021-67**, approving payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the January 21, 2021 Bill List and 2016 FEMA Elevation Escrow list.

Following a question on the bills list, the Council requested purchase order 85411 be removed from the list.

On a motion by Mr. Herd, seconded by Mr. Phelan, **Resolutions R2021-59 through R2021-67 (as modified by the removal of PO 85411)** were adopted by the following vote:

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Herd, Mr. Kohle, Mr. Phelan, Mayor Russell

Against: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION. There were no discussion items.

REPORTS AND NOTICES. There were no reports or notices.

COUNCIL REPORTS.

Mrs. Florance-Lynch

- Economic Development Advisory Committee will meet tomorrow evening at 7:30 via Zoom. An agenda and email have been distributed.
- Flood Control Advisory Committee will meet for the first time this year on the 2nd Thursday of

in February.

- Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee's first meeting of the year will be held Feb 1st at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Herd:

- Complimented DPW for their work prepping all the roads

Mr. Kohle:

- Fire Company 2 had their Zoom meeting on January 14th.
- On January 22nd attended tour of the TBSA (Two Bridges Sewerage Authority). Anyone interested in a tour should contact either Councilman Kohle or the TBSA.

Mr. Phelan:

- No report.

Mayor Russell:

- Library Board held a successful virtual meeting. Members of the board remain the same, as will members of the Environmental Commission.
- The Mayor's River Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday April 10th,
- Complimented DPW for their road work
- Parks and Recreation is looking for life guards.
- Requested the Township consider communicating danger of gas for those who lack a sense of smell from Covid.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Tom Andrea, 6 Elm Road thanked Mr. Brewer, Mayor and council for providing permission to pursue access to Aquatic Park, and stated the next Parks and Recreation Advisory meeting will be held on February 2nd to avoid a conflict with another meeting.
- Sharon Taylor, 19 Libby Avenue, requested information on fluctuations in budget costs from 2020 to 2021, on the status of returning to in-person meetings and on the attendance at in-person meeting vs remote meetings, suggested the council consider maintaining the possibility of attending remotely and recommended the council recognize the contributions of volunteer first responders.
- Megan Dempsey, 10 Della Avenue, speaking for the Pequannock Democratic Committee, expressed support for the statements made earlier by Mr. Mahler and Mr. Shamber and for establishing a social equity council.
- Grace Johnson, 16 Romondt Road, requested information on how the Township would handle information regarding bus trip to Washington DC on January 6th.
- Karen Kamp, 40 Banta Avenue, requested information about the statement requested by Mr. Mahler and the potential timing of the statement.
- Jay Wanczyk 26 Poplar Avenue, thanked the Council for their support in pursuing access to Aquatic Park.

Mr. Brewer reviewed the Township's past practice for allowing the use of Township Parking lots.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. There were no minutes presented for approval.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION.

Mr. Oostdyk explained the procedure for entering closed session.

On a motion by Mr. Phelan, seconded by Mr. Kohle **Resolution R2021-68**, authorizing an Executive Session to discuss Potential Litigation was unanimously adopted.

Mayor Russell stated no action would be taken following the Closed Session.

The public portion of the meeting was recessed at 8:03 p.m. followed by the Executive Session during which the following took place:

- The Council was brought up to date on a pending litigation matter and direction was given to the Manager and Township Attorney.

The closed session was completed at 8:14 p.m. at which time the public meeting was reconvened.

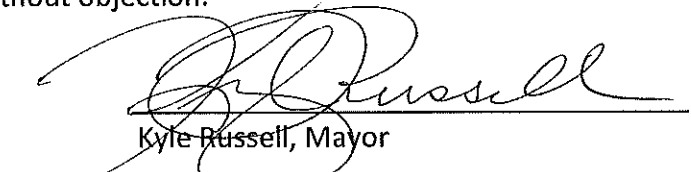
Township Attorney Oostdyk summarized the Executive Session discussion. No formal action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mr. Herd, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. without objection.



Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk



Kyle Russell, Mayor