

The April 8, 2025 meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Pequannock, Morris County, New Jersey was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Meeting Room located at 530 Newark-Pompton Turnpike; Mayor John Driesse 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 and Daily Record newspapers; and distributed to all persons requesting notice in accordance with Township policy."

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

Present:

Mayor John Driesse
Deputy Mayor Kyle Russell
Councilwoman Melissa Florance-Lynch
Councilman David Kohle
Councilman Vincent Siracusa

Absent: None

Also Attending:

Adam Brewer, Township Manager
Julie McIvor, Township CFO
Raymond Sarinelli Jr., Township Auditor
Robert Oostdyk, Esq., Township Attorney
Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk

There were 11 members of the public in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS.

- 2025 Municipal Budget: Mr. Brewer presented the proposed 2025 Municipal Budget.

REPORTS FROM VOLUNTEERS.

- Bob Friedman of the Pequannock Historical Society reported there will be an open house at the Martin Berry House on Saturday, May 3rd as part of Pathways to History Tour, thanked the Township for the work they've done on the grounds, and expressed interest in the evaluation of landscaping for the Martin Berry House that is currently in progress.
- Randy Shamber, on behalf of PROPEL - Pequannock Residents of Pride, Equity and Leadership reported on recent activities and planned events, requested the Council issue a Pride Proclamation for the month of June and approve the placement of flags in the garden in front of Town Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Megan Dempsey expressed support for PROPEL's request for a Pride Proclamation and flags.
- Tina Iaccheo thanked all those involved in preparing the budget and complimented the "balance", forward thinking and detail provided.
- Will Sloomaker expressed support for the Fire Department's Turkey Trot which is on the evening's agenda for approval.

MANAGER'S REPORT. Township Manager Adam Brewer reviewed the Manager's report for the meeting, providing information on several of the evening's agenda items.

PUBLIC HEARINGS.

PUBLIC HEARING - Ordinance No. 2025-03, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK (101 CHATFIELD DRIVE) NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13, ET SEQ

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, the Public Hearing was opened without objection.

There were no public comments.

On a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mr. Kohle, the Public Hearing was closed without objection.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Russell, the ordinance was adopted by the following vote:

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Kohle, Mrs. Russell, Mr. Siracusa, Mayor Driesse.

Against: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None

PUBLIC HEARING - Ordinance No. 2025-04, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 152 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK AND REVISING FEES FOR CERTAIN PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Mrs. Russell, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, the Public Hearing was opened without objection

There were no public comments.

On a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mrs. Russell, the Public Hearing was closed without objection.

On a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mr. Kohle, the ordinance was adopted by the following vote:

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Kohle, Mrs. Russell, Mr. Siracusa, Mayor Driesse.

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

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION - Ordinance No. 2025-05, ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION IN THE FORM OF A CLOTHING ALLOWANCE OR STIPEND FOR MEMBERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK

Township Manager Brewer reviewed the background of the ordinance.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, the ordinance was approved for introduction by the following vote:

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Kohle, Mrs. Russell, Mr. Siracusa, Mayor Driesse

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION OF THE BUDGET

- **R2025-94**, authorizing self-examination of the Municipal Budget for the Year 2025.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, **Resolution R2025-94** was adopted by the following vote:

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Kohle, Mrs. Russell, Mr. Siracusa, Mayor Driesse

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

- **R2025-95**; approving introduction of the 2025 Municipal Budget.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, **Resolution R2025-95** was adopted by the following vote:

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Kohle, Mrs. Russell, Mr. Siracusa, Mayor Driesse

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

RESOLUTIONS (CONTINUED)

- **R2025-96**; authorizing an agreement between the Township of Pequannock Police Department and the Mental Health Association to Establish Joint Participation in the ARRIVE Together Program
- **R2025-97**, approving the designated special event permit application (Fire Department 5K Run)
- **R2025-98**, authorizing Tax Office refunds, overpayments or cancellations.
- **R2025-99**, approving payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the **April 3, 2025** Bill List and 2018 FEMA Elevation Escrow list.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, **Resolutions R2025-96 through R2025-99** were adopted by the following vote:

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Kohle, Mrs. Russell, Mr. Siracusa, Mayor Driesse

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION. There were no discussion items.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

- Correspondence: Note Sale Award
Mr. Brewer reviewed the terms of the note sale.
Township Auditor Raymond Sarinelli complimented the quality of the Township's long term budget plans and noted the results are reflected in the favorable terms of the note sale.

COUNCIL REPORTS.***Mrs. Florance-Lynch:***

- Senior Citizen's April 1st bus trip to the Hunterdon Playhouse was well received. There will be a senior dance on June 7th.
- Shred Day is scheduled for May 10th.
- Chamber of Commerce is holding a Shop the Town Day on Saturday, June 14th.
- Relay for Life is June 7th.
- Work is ongoing at the Train Station Museum.
- Planning Board is scheduled for May 12th.

Mr. Kohle:

- Thank you to those volunteering at the Mayor's River Cleanup.

Mrs. Russell

- Library Fest was well attended
- Questioned if the blue line in front of the municipal building could be repainted. Members of the Council agreed and directed Mr. Brewer to do so.

Mr. Siracusa

- Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee will be providing the Council with recommendations for the pickleball courts.
- Will be attending the 44th Infantry Brigade welcome home ceremony on Saturday, April 12th.

Mayor. Driesse

- River Cleanup is Saturday.
- Requested repainting of yellow curbs.
- Shout out to the volunteers who contribute to the various committees in the town.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Mary Kay Schmermund noted the success of the Library Fest, and that this is National Library

Week, expressed support for PROPEL's proclamations and support for pride flags in the parking lot for the full month of June and objected to the repainting of the blue line in front of the municipal building.

- Matt Iaccheo thanked the Council for approving the fire department's 5K run and noted volunteers are welcome.
- Mr. Siracusa brought attention to PROPEL's Mental Health Initiative and encouraged those who need support to seek help.

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

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Russell, **Resolution R2025-100**, authorizing an Executive Session to discuss the Litigation of Pascack Valley Learning Center v. Township of Pequannock and Matters of Attorney Client Privilege was unanimously adopted.

The public portion of the meeting was recessed at 7:44 p.m. followed by the Executive Session during which the following took place:

- Council was apprised of a new lawsuit, filed under the caption Pascack Valley Learning Center v. Township of Pequannock, and direction was given as to next steps.
- Council was updated on the status of negotiations regarding payment of delinquent sewer bills by the Lincoln Park Airport and its tenants, and direction was given.

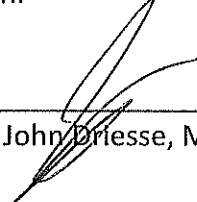
The closed session was completed at 8:20 p.m. at which time the public meeting was reconvened.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Siracusa, seconded by Mr. Kohle, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m. without objection.



Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk

John Driesse, Mayor