

The April 22, 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.

Deputy Township Clerk Lisa Consulmagno 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
Councilwoman Melissa Florance-Lynch
Councilman David Kohle
Councilman Vincent Siracusa

Absent:

Deputy Mayor Kyle Russell

Also Attending:

Adam Brewer, Township Manager
Robert Oostdyk, Esq., Township Attorney
Lisa Consulmagno, Deputy Township Clerk

There were approximately 10 members of the public in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS. There were no presentations.

REPORTS FROM VOLUNTEERS.

- Randy Shamber of PROPEL, requested a commitment from the Council on the previously requested PRIDE proclamation and on permission to place flags in the parking lot, requested police presence at this year's festival and asked if the cost of the police could be waived. Members of the council agreed to waive the fee and allow flags as they were permitted last year (one week following the date of the festival).

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Peter Schmitt expressed concern about the lack of communication between members of various political parties, suggested the Republican and Democratic tents be placed next to each other at the next Hoe Down and recommended members of the Council and the community consider finding ways to facilitate communication.
- Jeff Siebert objected to the lack of communication regarding a new dog park at Lyman Park, expressed concern about its proximity to playground equipment, the size of the dog area, the mess in the area and other issues.
- Wanda Ramirez expressed the opinion that no consideration was given to the use of the space at Lyman Park by children and families and objected to the potential odor arising from dog waste and the lack of maintenance by the Township.

Mr. Brewer provided background on issues and goals that led to the decision to move the dog park to Lyman Park, acknowledged the lack of notice, and contact information for questions about flood areas.

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. 2025-05; ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION IN THE FORM OF A CLOTHING ALLOWANCE OR STIPEND FOR MEMBERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK

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

There were no public comments.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, 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, Mr. Siracusa, Mayor Driesse.

Against: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Mrs. Russell.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION - Ordinance No. 2025-06; ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$ 1,524,350 FOR FINANCING THEREOF

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

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

Against: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Mrs. Russell.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION - Ordinance No. 2025-07; ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK WATER UTILITY, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$300,000 FOR FINANCING THEREOF

On a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, the ordinance was approved for introduction by the following vote:

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

Against: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Mrs. Russell.

RESOLUTIONS.

- **R2025-101**, Supporting the Submission of a Request for Community Project Funding to the Office of U.S. Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill for the project to Upgrade the Brooklawn Sanitary Sewer Pump Station.
- **R2025-102**, authorizing release of deposits for construction in a Township Right of Way.
- **R2025-103**, authorizing Tax Office refunds, overpayments or cancellations.
- **R2025-104**, approving payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the **April 17, 2025** Bill List and 2018 FEMA Elevation Escrow list

On a motion by Mr. Siracusa, seconded by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, **Resolutions R2025-101 through R2025-104** were adopted by the following vote:

For: Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Kohle, Mr. Siracusa, Mayor Driesse
Against: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Mrs. Russell.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION. There were no discussion items.

REPORTS AND NOTICES. There were no reports or notices.

COUNCIL REPORTS.

Mrs. Florance-Lynch:

- Flood Control Advisory Committee met and reorganized. Ken Hardaker will be Chair and Nick DeStefano Vice Chair. The committee discussed the status of flood elevations.
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee reminded residents that the age for participation in the Senior Olympics was reduced to 60.
- Attended a grand re-opening of Kearney Bank earlier this evening.
- A grand opening of Café Classico is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th at 10:00 a.m., after the Little League Parade.
- Plans to attend a municipal round table by the Morris County Chamber of Commerce regarding available grants and initiatives for small business.
- Chamber of Commerce is looking at some business grant opportunities specifically for beautification.
- 200 Club of Morris County announced 200 Club scholarship recipients including Pequannock student Sean Moore. There will be an event for the scholarship winners on May 12th at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy.
- Pequannock Valley Rotary thanks the DPW for their work installing the Rotary's bike rack.
- Attended the Mayor's River Cleanup a week ago.
- The New Bridge Gala is Thursday, May 8th. Noted the event honors Sheriff Gannon and questioned if members of the Council would be interested in taking out an ad. Members of the council expressed support.
- Requested status on the plans for Relay for Life event on June 7th.
- Unico's Taste of the Town is May 6th,
- Pequannock Valley Rotary is holding a Senior luncheon on May 21st.

Mr. Kohle:

- The 5th grade TREPS program had a great turnout with a lot of great ideas.
- Fire Co. No. 2's Fish and Chips Dinner was May 11th.
- April 16th was the Morris County League of Municipalities dinner. The talk by Morris County Prosecutor Robert Carroll was on auto theft.
- Little League Parade is this Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Siracusa

- Parks and Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committees both met earlier this month.

Mayor. Driesse

- River Cleanup was rainy but successful.
- TREPS was a great event with 72 groups of kids participating.
- Thanked Deputy Township Clerk Lisa Consulmagno for covering the meeting in the absence of the Township Clerk.
- At the Kearny Bank Grand Opening, a comment was made regarding their positive experience

with the Township's Building Department.

- Encouraged people to sign up and donate for Relay for Life.
- Requested residents speak to their children about electric scooter safety and drivers to be aware and careful.

PUBLIC COMMENT. There were no public comments.

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

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, **Resolution R2025-105**, authorizing an Executive Session to discuss 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 7:45 p.m. followed by the Executive Session during which the following took place:

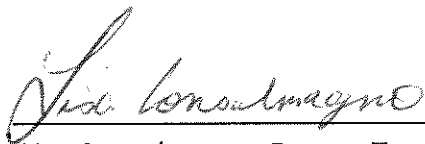
- The Council met with the assigned insurance defense council assigned in the matter of Pascack Valley Learning Center v. Township of Pequannock. A discussion ensued regarding the initial review of that complaint. The only action item which resulted from that discussion is the attorney will be providing further communication as time goes on.
- The Township Manager advised the Council of potential issues with the funding on the Flood Elevation Program and direction was given as to how to address potential loss of funding in that matter.

The closed session was completed at 8:50 p.m. at which time the public meeting was reconvened.

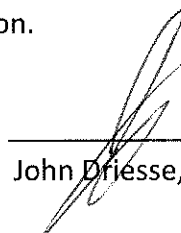
Township Attorney Oostdyk summarized the Executive Session discussion. No formal action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m. without objection.



Lisa Consulmagno, Deputy Township Clerk



John Driesse, Mayor