

The May 13, 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
Robert Oostdyk, Esq., Township Attorney
Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk

There were 12 members of the public in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS. There were no presentations.

REPORTS FROM VOLUNTEERS:

- Robin Jones, Open Space Advisory Committee Chair, reported on issues discussed by the Open Space Advisory Committee and activities of the Committee.

Mrs. Russell provided information on a ballot question for the November election which would provide for the use of Open Space funds for stewardship.

Mr. Brewer provided information on issues related to Aquatic Park access and property acquisitions.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Carl Nielsen and Bob Egan, speaking on behalf of the Sunset Grill, provided their perspective of issues surrounding the billing of water and sewer at the Lincoln Park Airport, objected to the terms of a recently executed agreement with the Township of Pequannock and requested the timeframe for payment of back services be increased to 5 years and the interest be waived.
- Emma and Chloe of Girl Scout Troop 96818, reported on the progress of their Silver Award, helping Monarch Butterflies Recover and making Pequannock Township a Monarch City USA town.
- Henry Samek provided information on the history of the Senior Campus Living project, now Cedar Crest and requested information regarding the people involved.
- William Sloomaker requested permission to install a free "Little Library" at Greenview Park.
- Wanda Ramirez objected to the lack of oversight regarding dogs at Lyman Park.

Mr. Brewer also recommended that, if it was the Council's desire to consider the request regarding the water and sewer bills at the Sunset Pub, the resolution approving the agreement be removed from the agenda and the matter discussed in Closed Session. Mr.

Brewer also commended the Girl Scouts for their comments, suggested the Council direct him to work with Mr. Sloomaker on plans for a "Little Library", and provided status and information on the Lyman Park dog park.

2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET - PUBLIC HEARING

- **R2025-106**, to read the budget by title.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, **Resolution R2025-106** 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 - 2025 Municipal Budget

Mr. Brewer thanked those involved in the budget process and reviewed highlights of the proposed budget.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, the Public Hearing on the **2025 Municipal Budget** was opened without objection.

There were no public comments.

On a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mrs. Russell, the Public Hearing on the **2025 Municipal Budget** was closed by the following vote:

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

2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET ADOPTION

- **R2025-107**, adopting the 2025 Municipal Budget

On a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, **Resolution R2025-107** was adopted by the following vote:

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

MANAGER'S REPORT. Township Manager Adam Brewer reviewed the Manager's report for the meeting, repeating his appreciation for those involved in the Municipal Budget process and reviewing items on the evening's agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING - 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 Mrs. Russell, seconded by Mr. Kohle, the Public Hearing was opened without objection

There were no public comments.

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

On a motion by Mr. Siracusa, 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. 2025-07; 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 Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Russell, 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.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION - Ordinance No. 2025-08; ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SALARIES AND PAY RATES FOR DESIGNATED OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Russell, 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.

- **R2023-108**, approving the designated special event permit application (First Aid Squad Oktoberfest).
 - **R2025-109**, approving the designated special event permit application (Holy Spirit Annual Carnival).
 - **R2025-110**, Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the 2025 Solid Waste Utility Budget Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L.1948)
 - **R2025-111**, approving Change Order No. 1 for the Pompton Plains Train Station renovation increasing the contract with Alden Bailey Restoration Corp of Ridgefield, CT by \$4,524.88 to a revised contract price of \$329,334.88
 - **R2025-112**, authorizing an application to the Morris County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program
 - **R2025-113**, authorizing the execution of a Management Agreement with the Morris County Park Commission authorizing the continued use of an area contiguous with the Pompton Rail Trail, accessed by Marvin Road and located on Block 306, Lot 5
 - **R2025-114**, authorizing a Professional Services Agreement between the Township of Pequannock and Dykstra Walker Design Group
 - **R2025-115**, authorizing the execution of an agreement concerning sewer use payment delinquency
 - **R2025-116**, approving payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the **May 8, 2025** Bill List.
- Mayor Driesse stated that Resolution R2025-115 would be removed from consideration.

On a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, **Resolutions R2025-108 through R2025-114 and Resolution R2025-116** 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.

▪ **2026 NJ DOT Municipal Aid Application**

Members of the Council discussed various aspects of the application and made recommendations for amendments..

REPORTS AND NOTICES. There were no reports or notices.

COUNCIL REPORTS.

Mrs. Florance-Lynch:

- Little League Parade and Opening Day was a great success.
- Martin Berry House was open for the Pathways of History Tour on May 3rd with 104 visitors reported.
- Improvements to the Railroad Station are going well.
- April 29th at 3:00 p.m. is the opening of the Pompton Valley Pedestrian and Bikeway Path.
- Chamber of Commerce is holding a Shop the Town event on Saturday, June 14th from 10 to 3. There will be an opening ceremony at 9:30 a.m. at Panther Park.
- Unico's Taste of the Town was a success.
- Pequannock Valley Rotary is holding a free luncheon for Seniors on May 21st and hosting a 5K run on June 8th.
- Pride Fest is Saturday, June 7th at Greenview Park.
- Relay for Life is Saturday, June 7th at 5:00 p.m.
- There is an Eagle Scout for Matt Scienski on Sunday, June 8th.
- Shred Day was last weekend.
- Holy Spirit Carnival is June 3rd to June 7th.
- Attended the NewBridge Gala last weekend.

Mr. Kohle:

- Wished luck to all the Little League, softball and baseball coaches and reminded everyone to have fun!
- Fire Co. No. 1 met on May 2nd. They are looking forward to the November 27th Turkey Trot and looking for sponsors, volunteers and runners.
- Unico's Taste of the Town was a huge success.
- NewBridge Gala was very well attended.
- Congratulations to Morris County Sheriff James Gannon.
- Chilton Hospital is holding a Memorial Day service on Thursday, May 22nd.
- Memorial Day Parade is Monday, May 26th.
- Friday May 16th is Pequannock Company 2's Cigar night.
- Requested a letter to a local business regarding trash in front of the building.
- Holy Spirit Carnival is June 3rd to the 7th,
- Requested status on the cleanup of downed trees at Foothills Park.

Mrs. Russell

- Environment Commission's Bio Blitz was very popular.
- Upgrades to the library will be discussed by the architects at the May 21st meeting.

- Officiated at the marriage of Asia and Anthony and wished the couple well.
- August 5th is National Night out.
- Fireworks are June 27th
- First Aid Squad's Oktoberfest is September 27th. The Squad is still operating with only one ambulance. Total calls for April was 107 with 34 to Cedar Crest. In March there were 109 total calls with 38 to Cedar Crest. For February, 86 in total with 36 to Cedar Crest, and in January 104 total with 46 to Cedar Crest.

Mr. Siracusa

- Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee discussed how to mitigate the risks of ebikes in the parks.
- Expressed appreciation for Rob Jones' thorough recap of the Open Space Advisory Committee activities and issues.

Mayor. Driesse

- Thanked the staff for their work on the budget.
- Noted the Train Station looks great.
- Shout out to a Pequannock resident being recognized by Morris County for his service in the United States Navy.
- Will be walking in Relay for Life.
- Reported the Little League Parade was awesome, recognized the First Aid Squad and Fire Department for their presence at this and so many events, and local students for their support of the players.

Requested information on unsightly objects in residential and commercial areas which was provided by Mr. Brewer.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Wanda Ramirez questioned why the onus is on residents to monitor Lyman Park when the Park is not open but also not locked.
- Henry Samek commented on plans for Sunset Road and on the state of the road near West End Avenue.
- Robin Jones requested information on resolution R2025-113 and on the location of the new dog park and asked if a speed monitor would be useful for monitoring possible speed issues on Brooklawn Avenue. Requested information on the term of Open Space consultant Frank Pintos's contract and asked if there is a reason to approve minutes at the end of the minutes.
- Dana Witzak expressed appreciation for the river cleanup, objected to the placement of piles of sticks on open lots, expressed concern about large dogs in an unmonitored park and about the tactics and requirements of itinerant vendors.

Mr. Oostdyk and Ms. Marsh provided information on the registration of itinerant vendors and Mr. Brewer commented on the issue of speeding on Brooklawn Avenue and on the contract information for the Open Space Advisory Committee's consultant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

On a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, minutes of the March 25th and April 8th regular meetings and the March 25th budget workshop meeting were unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Russell **Resolution R2025-117**, authorizing an Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations related to Property Acquisition and Insurance Consultants and Matters of Attorney Client Privilege was unanimously adopted.

The public portion of the meeting was recessed at 8:45 p.m. followed by the Executive Session during which the following took place:

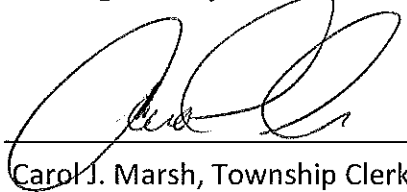
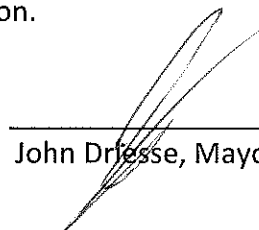
- The Council discussed a property acquisition issue where the Council confirmed to the Township Manager they had no issue with the Open Space Advisory Committee seeking easements for the continuation of the Riverwalk and the manager agreed he would work on a letter to be sent by the Open Space Committee to that effect.
- An issue of contract negotiation was discussed addressing contractual issues and direction was given to the Township Manager.
- An issue of potential litigation of the sewer billing for the Sunset Pub at the Lincoln Park Airport was addressed and direction was given as to a potential amendment to the agreement.

The closed session was completed at 9:04 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 Mrs. Russell, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. without objection.


Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk
John Driesse, Mayor