

The May 27, 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 (via phone)
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 22 members of the public in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS.

- American Legion Post 242 Commander Jim Van Dyke, Mayor John Driesse and members of the Township Council recognized Colleen McMahon as Pequannock American Legion Citizen of The Year for 2025

REPORTS FROM VOLUNTEERS.

- Bob Friedman reported the Pequannock Historical Society is holding a talk on the history of the Morris Canal on Tuesday, June 3rd at 7:30 in the American Legion Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Lorraine Robertson expressed support for the Council's position in the matter of the Pascack Valley Learning Center Inc., and provided a summary of opinions opposing their 60 Sunset Zoning Board of Adjustment application.
- Sandy LaCorte expressed approval of the process by which the Board of Adjustment considered the 60 Sunset application and respect for statements made by members of the public, and urged the Council to support the Board's decision.
- Rich Walter expressed support for comments made by Lorraine Roberts and Sandy LaCorte and encouraged the Council to familiarize themselves with everything that happened and to "put in the effort" to uphold the decision.
- Paul Mahler provided information from a Rutgers Law School treatise and other sources and expressed his opinion that the Council's decision will be difficult but that there are grounds to defend the decision of the Zoning Board of Adjustment on the 60 Sunset application.
- Bob Friedman suggested the Council look at the transcripts of the 60 Sunset application for any relevant statements regarding religious instruction or the exercise of religious services.
- Jeff Seibert requested status on the Lyman Park dog park, objected to the use of the dog park area in spite of reports that it was closed, questioned why dogs are allowed in the park

despite signs saying they are not, expressed concern about the effect of the dog park on the value of his home and objected to the lack of notice regarding the relocation of the dog park to Lyman Park.

Mr. Oostdyk commented on the process regarding 60 Sunset.

Mr. Brewer provided status on the Lyman Park dog park.

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 and adding scheduling information on the completion of the Greenview Park sports courts.

PUBLIC HEARINGS.

PUBLIC HEARING - 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 Mr. Siracusa, the Public Hearing was opened without objection.

There were no public comments.

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

On a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, 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. There were no ordinances presented for introduction.

RESOLUTIONS.

- **R2025-118**, certifying that the members of the Governing Body have reviewed the Annual Report of Audit for the Year **2024**.
- **R2025-119**, approving the Corrective Action Plan for the 2024 Municipal Audit.
- **R2025-120**, authorizing the use of the Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of a Commercial Grounds Equipment.
- **R2025-121**, authorizing the purchase of two 2025 Chevy Tahoe PPVs from designated vendors awarded contracts by the New Jersey State Contract.
- **R2025-122**, authorizing Tilcon New York, Inc. under the use of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council for the Annual Road Resurfacing Improvements Project in the amount of \$170,000.00.
- **R2025-123**, authorizing a Morris County Trail Construction Grant Application – Cherry Street Park Trail.
- **R2025-124**, recognizing & authorizing Employee Benefits Consulting Services Group, LLC and the Vozza Agency each as a producer/consultant of the Township of Pequannock's Medical and Dental Insurance Program with the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund.
- **R2025-125**, authorizing the use of the Educational Services Commission of NJ Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of an Asphalt Hotbox Reclaimer from Trius, Inc.
- **R2025-126**, authorizing the execution of an agreement concerning sewer use payment delinquency.

- **R2025-127**, authorizing release of refundable permit bonds.
- **R2025-128**, authorizing release of designated Escrow Deposits.
- **R2025-129**, authorizing Tax Office refunds, overpayments or cancellations.
- **R2025-130**, approving payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the **May 22, 2025** Bill List and FEMA Elevation Escrow list.

Mr. Oostdyk reported receiving no response from an email and phone calls regarding an amended agreement referenced in resolution R2025-126. After discussion, members of the Council requested additional contact be made and removed the resolution from consideration until the June 5th Township Council meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Siracusa, seconded by Mrs. Russell, **Resolutions R2025-118 through R2025-125 and Resolutions R2025-127 through R2025-130** were adopted by the following vote:

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

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

with Mr. Kohle abstaining on Resolution R2025-2021.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION.

- 2026 NJ DOT Municipal Aid Application (Continued from May 13, 2025):
Mr. Brewer provided responses to suggestions for amendments made by members of the Council at the May 13th meeting regarding the project. Members of the Council expressed support for the use of flat curbing and maintaining the current configuration of the intersection.
- Pickleball Operations:
Members of the Council discussed the scheduling of open play and reservations of the pickleball courts. Mr. Brewer will bring a sample schedule to be considered at a subsequent meeting.

REPORTS AND NOTICES. There were no reports or notices.

COUNCIL REPORTS.

Mrs. Florance-Lynch:

- Economic Development Advisory Committee meets tomorrow night.
- Noted work on the Train Station Museum is nearing completion.
- Complemented the Memorial Day Parade and encouraged more people to attend the ceremony.
- Relay for Life is June 7th.
- Pequannock Valley Rotary is a 501C(3) which sponsor a number of events to benefit the community. The organization held a Senior Luncheon last week for over 100 seniors, and is sponsoring a 5K run in Greenvue Park on June 8th.
- Recommended the Council consider making appointments to several of the Advisory Committees at the July 10th meeting.

Mr. Kohle:

- Thanked Senator Pennacchio and Assemblyman Weber for attending the AP Government Class on May 20th. Jim Gannon will be attending, along with the canine unit this Thursday.
- Beautiful day for the Memorial Day Parade and thanked the service men and women for their dedication and the ultimate sacrifice of some.
- Recommended a rededication of the Train Station Museum.

Mrs. Russell

- Questioned if the AP Classes were open for others to attend certain sessions.

- Congratulated Colleen McMahon for her recognition as Citizen of the Year
- Library Board is meeting one day early due to the High School Graduation.

Mr. Siracusa

- Thanked Memorial Day keynote speaker Mike Boll from the New Jersey Veterans Network, and thanked Ed Leonard for his heartfelt speech.
- Congratulated Colleen McMahon.
- Shout out to Lincoln Park for their contributions to the Memorial Day Parade and recognized those who make the ultimate sacrifice.

Mayor. Driesse

- Congratulated Colleen McMahon.
- Encouraged people to join him for Relay for Life.
- Attended the Pequannock Valley Rotary Senior Luncheon.
- Reminded us that Memorial Day is a day of remembrance and expressed appreciation for the speakers.
- Thanked the Township's Crossing Guards for keeping kids safe.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Jeff Seibert questioned if the Township had looked at the space available to play ball in Lyman Park and expressed concern the residents weren't notified in advance of locating the new dog park and questioned why dogs are now allowed in the park. Mr. Seibert expressed concern about dangerous dogs in the park and about the cost of the fence.
 - Dana Witsak stated she would not want a dog park in front of her house, questioned who would be monitoring the dog park and expressed concern about the possibility of a dog attack. Ms. Witsak expressed the desire that the Library Board consider recording their meetings and disappointment with the Library Board members.
- Mr. Brewer reported on the area of Lyman Park available for ball playing, reported on the Township's ordinance regarding dog parks and plans for monitoring the park.
- Mr. Oostdyk noted the recording of Library Board meetings is up to the Library Board.

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

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION.

On a motion by Mr. Siracusa, seconded by Mr. Kohle, **Resolution R2025-131**, authorizing an Executive Session to discuss the Litigation of Pascack Valley Learning Center v. Township of Pequannock was unanimously adopted.

The public portion of the meeting was recessed at 8:20 p.m. followed by the Executive Session during which the following took place:

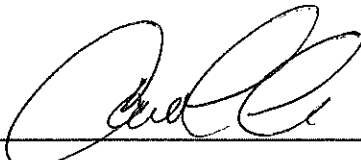
- The Council was updated on the litigation of Pascack Valley Learning Center v. Township of Pequannock. An update was discussed for about 15 minutes and direction was given for the next steps.

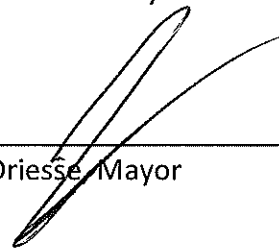
The closed session was completed at 8:42 p.m. at which time the public meeting was reconvened.

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 8:43 p.m. without objection.



Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk

John Driesse, Mayor