

The June 10, 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 32 members of the public in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS. There were no presentations.

REPORTS FROM VOLUNTEERS.

- Randy Shamber, Social Equity Director of PROPEL reported on Sunday's Pride Fest. Mr. Shamber thanked the Council members who attended and all those who made the event successful, and reported on the recipients of the two scholarships awarded by the organization. Scholarship recipient Finn Guerrero read the 2025 Pride Proclamation.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- At Mayor Driesse's request, Township Attorney Robert Oostdyk provided guidance on speaking on matters under litigation.
- George Sous requested the Governing Body consider engaging outside counsel to review the litigation related to the 60 Sunset Zoning Board of Adjustment application.
- Sandy LaCorte thanked the Council and the Township staff for their support of the Pride Fest, noting the contributions of the event to the community.
- Patty Horsting requested the Township review parking and traffic issues on West Franklin especially on Sundays and expressed support for Mr. Sous's comments regarding outside Council.
- Jeff Seibert objected to the continued work at the Lyman Park dog park, reiterated his objection to the lack of notice, and expressed concern about the value of his house.
- Judy Simon reported on her work to keep Lyman Park free of trash and maintained, objected to the "safest area of the park" being used for the dog park and its proximity to the playground and the cost to the Township.
- Paul Mahler thanked the Township staff whose work contributed to the Pride Fest.
- Stacy Taylor objected to the traffic conditions on West Franklin, expressed support for the

Zoning Board of Adjustment's decision on 60 Sunset and her gratitude for the Township's support of the community's children.

- Elaine Baccarella expressed her support for the Zoning Board of Adjustment's decision and the hope they would be supported.
- Denise Gall expressed appreciation for the Council's support of the Zoning Board of Adjustment's decision on 60 Sunset and their support of the Pride Fest.
- Wanda Ramirez objected to the Lyman Park's proximity to the playground.

Mr. Brewer commented on action previously taken on West Franklin and stated the Township would review the area in light of residents' continued concern.

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. There were no public hearings.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS. There were no ordinances presented for introduction.

RESOLUTIONS.

- **R2025-132**, approving the renewal of the designated Alcoholic Beverage Control Licenses.
- **R2025-133**, appointing members of Advisory Committees.
- **R2025-134**, authorizing Estimated Tax Bills in Accordance with P.L.1994, c.72 for Third Quarter 2025.
- **R2025-135**, authorizing the execution of an agreement concerning sewer use payment delinquency.
- **R2025-136**, supporting Morris County's application to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority for a Concept Development Phase Study of Boulevard (County Route 511A) in the Township of Pequannock.
- **R2025-137**, Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Sunset Road Reconstruction - Phase 2 – West Parkway to West Sunset Road project.
- **R2025-138**, Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the 2025 Budget Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L.1948) (Local Rec Improvement Grant – Washington Park).
- **R2025-139**, confirming the designated memberships in the Pequannock Township Fire Department.
- **R2025-140**, authorizing Utility Office refunds, overpayments or cancellations.
- **R2025-141**, authorizing Tax Office refunds, overpayments or cancellations.
- **R2025-142**, approving payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the June 5, 2025 Bill List and FEMA Elevation Escrow list.

Members of the Council discussed Resolution R2025-133, and agreed to remove the resolution from the agenda and consider a resolution appointing members of the advisory committees whose applications were received by May 29th at the July 8th meeting.

Mr. Oostdyk provided information on the agreement referenced in Resolution R2025-135. A majority of members of the Council expressed support for approving the signed contract allowing 3 years for payment. On request, it was decided to consider the resolution separately

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, **Resolution R2025-135** was adopted by the following vote:

For: Mr. Kohle, Mrs. Russell, Mr. Siracusa, Mayor Driesse

Against: Mrs. Florance-Lynch. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Russell, **Resolutions R2025-132, R2025-134 and R2025-136 through R2025-142** 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.

▪ **Dog Park at Lyman Park:**

Members of the Council discussed various option for mitigating the effects of the Lyman Park dog park on the remainder of the park. After discussion, members recommended changes to the size and proximity to the playground, an increase in the height of the fence and other changes.

▪ **Sherman Avenue Sidewalks:**

Mr. Brewer reviewed recommended changes to the Sherman Avenue sidewalks. Members of the Council discussed options for the sidewalks. After discussion the council recommended feedback from the residents on two options be solicited.

Township Clerk Carol Marsh excused herself from the meeting following the discussion. The remainder of the minutes was prepared using video recording and notes of the Township Manager.

REPORTS AND NOTICES. There were no reports or notices.

COUNCIL REPORTS.

Mrs. Florance-Lynch:

- Historic District Commission: Renovations on the Train Station Museum are almost complete. They are waiting for a train order signal. Received approval from the First Reformed Church for the Liberty Pole Project. In response to a question about any required approvals, Mr. Brewer recommended plans for the Pole Project be submitted for the Council's review. The committees next meeting is August 6th.
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee has a few questions for the administration.
- Pompton Valley Rail Trail ribbon cutting was great.
- Attended the Court of Honor for Eagle Scout Matthew Scienski.
- There was a large turnout for the Pequannock Valley Rotary's 5K last weekend. Tomorrow is the Rotary Scholarship lunch.
- Planning Board meeting was postponed.
- Shop the Town event is this Saturday.

Mr. Kohle:

- There was a great turnout for the official opening of the Rail Trail on May 29th.
- Attended the SJG fourth grade visit to the First Aid Squad, Police Department and Court Room on June 2nd.
- Congratulations and thank you to new Junior Firefighter Jeremy Ferschman.
- Congratulations to the PROPEL Pride Fest and everyone who was involved.
- PV Middle School graduation is Tuesday, June 17th.

Mrs. Russell

- Environment Commission meets tomorrow.
- Library Board will meet on June 17th instead of the 18th.
- Congratulations to all the graduates.

- Congratulations to Jeremy Ferschman.

Mr. Siracusa

- Open Space Advisory Committee meeting was cancelled.
- Morris County CDRS will meet tomorrow.
- Congratulations on a successful Pride Fest.

Mayor. Driesse

- Expressed the hope that everyone voted in today's election.
- Along with Councilwoman Florance-Lynch, attended the Relay for Life event.
- Shout out to the First Aid Squad for their dedication, encouraged residents to volunteer for the squad and the Fire Department and welcomed Jeremy Ferschman.
- Noted the number of Pequannock residents who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout.
- Commended the Shop the Town event and the Fourth-Grade tour.
- Congratulations to those who are graduating next week.
- Requested status on the tree planting grant, which Mr. Brewer stated was complete.
- Expressed thanks for the opportunity to sit on the Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Jeff Seibert reiterated his objection to the lack of notice regarding the Lyman Park dog park and volunteered to take it down himself and move the fence to Foothills Park.
- Judy Simon described potential issues with the suggested changes to the Lyman Park dog park and requested the Council take a tour of Lyman Park and work with residents prior to approving a final plan.
- Lesley Leonard expressed the desire the Council continue to support the Planning Board [sic] regarding 60 Sunset, stating that the proposed project doesn't make sense as a matter of safety.
- Sharon Taylor commented on a discussion of dog parks which took place in 2015 and expressed support for fixing any issues with the Lyman Park dog park rather than "giving up" and moving it. Ms. Taylor expressed some concern about restricting parking on West Franklin and suggested alternatives such as speed limit changes, signage or speed bumps that would not affect church attendance. Thanked those who handled voting today as well as the Police Department, DPW and First Aid Squad.
- Paul Mahler expressed concern about parking and traffic issues on West Franklin on Sundays and support for restricting parking to one side.

Members of the Council decided to delay final approval of changes to the Lyman Park dog park until the park could be reviewed.

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

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION.

On a motion by Mr. Siracusa, seconded by Mrs. Russell, **Resolution R2025-143**, authorizing an Executive Session to discuss Matters of Attorney Client Privilege was unanimously adopted.

The public portion of the meeting was recessed at 8:42 p.m. followed by the Executive Session during which the following took place:

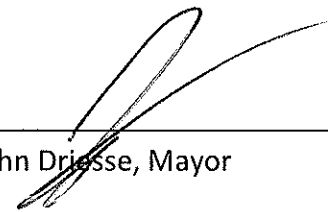
- The Council was updated on four matters: Assessments for the Route 23 Sewer Project, Solid Waste bids, 2022 FEMA Elevation Grants, and an agreement with The Happy Hound related to the Route 23 Sewer Project. The Council was given advice by the Township Attorney and direction was given to the Township Manager.

The closed session was completed at 9:10 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. Russell, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m. without objection.



Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk

John Driesse, Mayor

