

The February 14, 2023 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 David Kohle 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 newspaper; and distributed to all persons requesting notice in accordance with Township policy.

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

Present:

Mayor David Kohle
Deputy Mayor Ryan Herd
Councilman John Driesse
Councilwoman Melissa Florance-Lynch
Councilwoman Kyle Russell

Absent: None

Also Attending:

Adam Brewer, Township Manager
Robert Oostdyk, Esq., Township Attorney
Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk

There were 30 members of the public in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS.

- Chief Daniel Comune reported the recent retirement of Officer Daniel Caffrey and introduced new Police Officer Hector Alcantara who was sworn in by Mayor Kohle.
- Mr. Kohle recognized former mayor and councilman Donald Kuser on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

REPORTS FROM VOLUNTEERS. There were no reports from volunteers.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Frank Scangarella, representing Jersey Towing, outlined the position of his client regarding issues they encountered with several years of towing applications, and expressed opposition to the resolution awarding towing licenses on the evening's agenda.
Mr. Oostdyk reviewed the township's position on the award of additional licenses.

MANAGER'S REPORT. Township Manager Adam Brewer reviewed the Manager's report for the meeting, providing background information on several of the evening's agenda items and reviewed issues with lockers at PV Park.

PUBLIC HEARINGS.

PUBLIC HEARING - Ordinance No. 2023-02; ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH AND PRESERVE A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14).

On a motion by Mr. Driesse, seconded by Mr. Herd, the Public Hearing was opened without objection

There were no public comments.

On a motion by Mr. Driesse, seconded by Mrs. Russell, 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: Mr. Driesse, Mrs. Florance-Lynch, Mr. Herd, Mrs. Russell, Mayor Kohle
Against: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

PUBLIC HEARING - Ordinance No. 2023-03; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK AND DISSOLVING THE FAIR HOUSING AND TEEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES

On a motion by Mr. Driesse, seconded by Mr. Herd, the Public Hearing was opened without objection

There were no public comments.

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

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

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

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION - Ordinance No. 2023-04; AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 352 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK AND REVISING THE LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR WRECKERS

On a motion by Mr. Driesse, seconded by Mrs. Russell, the ordinance was approved for introduction by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTIONS.

- **R2023-66**, authorizing the acceptance of a hold harmless agreement from Jenifer and Elias Pinto (Block 3610 Lot 19, 24 Richards Street).
- **R2023-67**, awarding the 2023 licenses to participate in the Police Towing Rotation.
- **R2023-68**, authorizing an application to the Morris County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.
- **R2023-69**, awarding a contract for a Concession Provider for Various Events of the Parks and Recreation Department to Sip N Swirl, Jack's Kettle Corn and Harper's Amusements in accordance with the Request for Proposals.
- **R2023-70**, authorizing the Settlement of a Tax Appeal Balaji LLC v. Pequannock Twp – Blk 2704 Lot 6
- **R2023-71**, authorizing Tax Office refunds, overpayments or cancellations.
- **R2023-72**, authorizing release of refundable permit bonds.
- **R2023-73**, approving payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the **February 9, 2023, Bill List and 2018 FEMA Elevation Escrow List.**

On a motion by Mrs. Russell, seconded by Mr. Driesse, **Resolutions R2023-66 through R2023-73** were adopted by the following vote:

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

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION. There were no discussion items.

REPORTS AND NOTICES. There were no reports or notices.

COUNCIL REPORTS.

Mr. Driesse

- Historic District Commission discussed a kiosk to be installed as an Eagle Scout project and ongoing work on the Martin Berry House.
- Congratulations to Officer Daniel Caffrey on his recent retirement and welcome to Office Hector Alcantara.

Mrs. Florance-Lynch:

- Economic Development Advisory Committee will hold their first meeting of the year on February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Members of the committee have requested confirmation from the council of their mission and requested a current list of business property owners and tenants.
- Senior Citizen Advisory Committee is discussing several issues and questioned if there is a way to improve the dissemination of information.
- Congratulations to Officer Hector Alcantara.

Mr. Herd:

- Congratulations and welcome to Officer Alcantara and Happy 90th Birthday to former mayor Donald Kuser.
- Open Space Advisory Committee meeting was cancelled.
- First Aid and Rescue Squad reported 88 calls in January including 25 to Cedar Crest. So far in February there have been 45 calls with 17 to Cedar Crest. Congratulations to new member Duaa Raza. The Polar Plunge is this Sunday at PV Park and as always, the squad is seeking new members.
- Thanked everyone who attended the High School Band's Tricky Tray event.

Mrs. Russell

- Library Board meets tomorrow
- Reporting on the Environmental Commission: April 15th is a mini bio blitz; April 22nd is the Mayor's River Cleanup.
- October 14th is the Hoe Down.

Mr. Kohle:

- Congratulations to Officer Alcantara and to Don Kuser on his 90th Birthday.
- Performed two wedding ceremonies this afternoon.
- Last Wednesday was elected chair of the Two Bridges Sewerage Authority.
- Requested utility bills from the township include information about the need for volunteers in the Fire Department and at the First Aid Squad.
- Attended the Rotary Club luncheon on Tuesday as the guest speaker.

PUBLIC COMMENT. There were no public comments.


APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

On a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mrs. Russell, minutes of the November 22, 2022, December 13, 2022, and December 22, 2022 Regular Meetings and the November 22, 2022 and December 12, 2022 Special Meetings meeting were unanimously approved with Mr. Driesse abstaining.


EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION. There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. without objection.



Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk



David G. Kohle, Mayor