

The February 25, 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 (via phone)

Absent: None

Also Attending:

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

There were 9 members of the public in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS. There were no presentations.

REPORTS FROM VOLUNTEERS.

- Peter Schmitt, speaking on behalf of the Economic Development Advisory Committee, reported on the committee's efforts to put a business application process on a webpage.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Matt Ringen requested an update on a grant for lights which had been reported on June 11, 2024. On behalf of the Little League, Mr. Ringen requested the Township consider installing a turf field to mitigate issues with rain.
- John Vineis requested assistance from the Township to control speeding on Wilrue Parkway.
- Paul Mahler read a letter criticizing recent actions by the federal government.

Mr. Brewer provided information on the budget process as it relates to the turf field request and outlined a potential process for gathering information on Wilrue Parkway traffic.

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. 2025-01, ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH AND PRESERVE A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

On a motion by Mrs. Russell, seconded by Mrs. Florance-Lynch the Public Hearing was opened without objection

There were no public comments.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, 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.

- **R2025-73**, confirming the designated memberships in the Pequannock Township Fire Department.
- **R2025-74**, awarding a contract for a Concession Provider for Various Events of the Parks and Recreation Department to Empanada Times, Harpers Amusement, Jacks Kettle Corn and Just a Little Somethin in accordance with the Request for Proposals.
- **R2025-75**, awarding a contract for a Concession Provider for Food Trucks on Late Tuesday (the second Tuesday of each identified month) to those vendors who submitted proposals, in accordance with the Request for Proposals.
- **R2025-76**, awarding a contract for the Concession Operator for the Pequannock Valley (PV) Park Lake Concession Stand to Sean Leonardo dba The Joshua Tree, for the total contribution amount of \$2,751 in accordance with the Request for Proposals.
- **R2025-77**, authorizing the amendment of a Professional Services Agreement and Contract with H2M Architects & Engineers, Inc. For the Wells 1 & 2 PFAS Treatment Project
- **R2025-78**, authorizing Tax Office refunds, overpayments or cancellations.
- **R2025-79**, approving payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the **February 7, 2025** Bill List and 2018 FEMA Elevation Escrow list.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Florance-Lynch, **Resolutions R2025-73 through R2025-79** 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. There were no discussion items.

REPORTS AND NOTICES. There were no reports or notices.

COUNCIL REPORTS.

Mrs. Florance-Lynch:

- Congratulations to newly confirmed Junior Fighter Axl King.
- Historic District Commission: The Railroad Museum will be open on Sunday, February 23rd from 12 to 3. Next meeting of the Historic District Commission will be March 5th at 7:00 p.m. The Commission thanked the Township and DPW for repairs and snow cleanup in February.
- Economic Development Advisory Committee meets tomorrow, February 26th. Economic Development Specialist Britni Orcutt will be in attendance. There is a grand opening for The Backyard Birding Store on March 1st.
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee is having a bus trip to the Hunterdon Playhouse on April 1st. The Show is "Swing" and signup is with Parks and Rec.
- Pequannock Valley Rotary is hosting a Comedy Night on Saturday, March 29th at the American Legion in Lincoln Park.

Mr. Kohle:

- Fire Co. No. 2 met on February 13th. Their budget requests were conveyed at Saturday's budget meeting.
- Attended, with Mrs. Florance-Lynch and Mr. Siracusa, the Municipal Budgeting Class in West Windsor.
- Congratulations and thank you to new Junior Fighter Axl King.
- High School wrestling team is holding a fundraiser at Jersey Mike's in Pompton Plains.
- KC Bagels is participating in the "Game on Gavin" fundraiser on Friday the 28th.

Mrs. Russell

- First Aid and Rescue Squad is holding a Pasta and Trivia Night fundraiser on Saturday, April 5th at the hall.
- Morris County Preservation Trust is finalizing a ballot question regarding the expansion of acceptable uses of Open Space Trust Funds to include stewardship.

Mr. Siracusa

- Congratulations to the new Junior Firefighter.
- Expressed appreciation for Saturday's Budget Workshop.
- Reported on the PBA's 2025 Beefsteak Dinner.

Mayor. Driesse

- Congratulations to Alx King on his confirmation to the Fire Department.
- Thank you to the DPW for their work during this year's snows.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Matt Ringen announced that Little League's official opening day is April 26th and noted funds from the Morris County Open Space Trust Fund might be used for a pathway in Washington Park.
- Mary Kay Schmermund expressed support for Paul Mahler's earlier statements and for Ukraine, requested information on the role of Council once a person is appointed to a board or commission, questioned if there is a code of ethics for Council members and requested status of discussions on recognizing Barbara Muzzio.

Mr. Oostdyk reported there is a NJ State Code of Ethics for all local government officials which includes members of the Council.

- Mrs. Florance-Lynch recognized Pequannock resident and long-time fire fighter Charles Colca who recently passed away.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Russell, minutes of the January 28th Regular meeting were unanimously approved with Mayor Driesse abstaining.

On a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mrs. Russell, minutes of the February 15th budget workshop meeting were unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION.

On a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mr. Kohle and Mrs. Russell, **Resolution R2025-80**, authorizing an Executive Session to discuss Matters of Attorney Client Privilege was unanimously adopted.

The public portion of the meeting was recessed at 7:40 p.m. followed by the Executive Session during which the following took place:

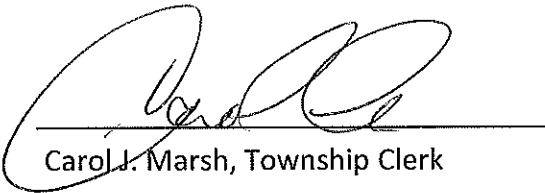
- The Council was presented with a written request from a resident asking to go onto a payment plan for sewer arrearages. The matter was discussed and the Township Manager was given direction as to an appropriate response.

The closed session was completed at 7:54 p.m. at which time the public meeting was reconvened.

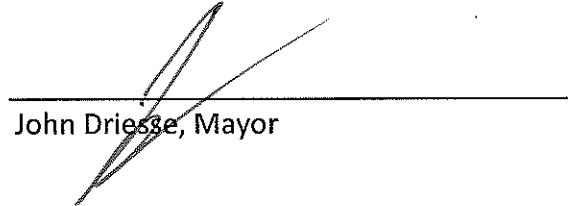
Township Attorney Oostdyk summarized the Executive Session discussion. No formal action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mrs. Russell seconded by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. without objection.



Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk



John Driesse, Mayor