The March 24, 2020 meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Pequannock, Morris County, New Jersey was called to order at 7:04 p.m. The meeting was held by conference call with Township Manager Adam Brewer and Township Attorney Robert Oostdyk in attendance in the Municipal Building Meeting Room located at 530 Newark-Pompton Turnpike; Mayor Ryan Herd 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. Information on remote access was provided to the Suburban Trends, Record and Daily Record newspapers via email and posted on the Township’s website."

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

Present (via conference call): Absent: None
Mayor Ryan Herd Also Attending:
Deputy Mayor Kyle Russell
Councilwoman Melissa Florance-Lynch
Councilman David Kohle
Councilman Richard Phelan
Adam Brewer, Township Manager
Robert Oostdyk, Esq., Township Attorney
Carol J. Marsh, Twp. Clerk (via conference call)

There was 1 member of the public in attendance via conference call. A second member of the public joined the call prior to the manager’s report.

Mayor Herd stated that the order of the meeting would be modified. Mr. Herd noted there were no presentations and stated the meeting would begin with the Council’s consideration of the introduction of the 2020 Municipal Budget taken first, followed by the agenda items through Council Reports and Announcements and then there would be Volunteer Reports and Public Comment. Following Public Comment, there will be a Closed Session to discuss Contract Negotiations and Litigation regarding Tax Appeals. No action will be taken following the Closed Session.

2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET INTRODUCTION.

Presentation by the Township Manager.

Mr. Brewer thanked those who participated in the budget process, stated there will be a more extensive presentation at the Public Hearing, reviewed highlights of the proposed budget and stated the public hearing and potential adoption is expected to be held on April 28, 2020.

Resolution R2020-95, approving introduction of the 2020 Municipal Budget.

On a motion by Mr. Phelan, seconded by Mrs. Russell, Resolution R2020-95 approving introduction of the 2020 Municipal Budget was adopted by the following vote:

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

PRESENTATIONS. There were no presentations.

MANAGER’S REPORT. Township Manager Adam Brewer noted there are challenges involved in operating in the current conditions and reviewed the timeline in which National, State of New
Jersey, and County of Morris emergencies were declared and reviewed several pertinent recent executive orders, Mr. Brewer reported the Township of Pequannock is continuing to operate and described measures being taken to protect the health and safety of residents and staff and to provide appropriate services and public information.

PUBLIC HEARINGS. There were no public hearings.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS. There were no ordinances presented for introduction.

RESOLUTIONS.
- **R2020-100**, authorizing the acceptance of a hold harmless agreement, B 2501/ L 30.

On a motion by Mrs. Florance-Lynch, seconded by Mr. Kohle, Resolutions R2020-96 through R2020-102 were adopted by the following vote:

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION. There were no discussion items.

REPORTS AND NOTICES. There were no reports or notices.

COUNCIL REPORTS.

*Ms. Florance-Lynch*
- Planning Board meeting that was scheduled for April 6th has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for May 4th.
- Tomorrow’s Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting has been cancelled.
- Flood Control Advisory Committee met on March 12th. Their next meeting is scheduled for April 9th.
- Requested status of the FEMA Scientific Resolution Panel.
- Thanked all the township employees, first responders and volunteers who are doing so much in these trying times.

*Mr. Kohle:*
- Requested verification tomorrow’s Fair Housing meeting will be cancelled.
- Thanked all the employees, first responders, and volunteers for their efforts. Reminded residents to be safe and follow the direction for staying well.

*Mr. Phelan:*
- Yesterday’s Shade Tree Commission meeting was cancelled.
- Thanked everyone who is going beyond what they need to do during the current incident.

*Mrs. Russell:*
- Reiterated thanks to the first responders, volunteers and staff, as well as teaches and the community at large.
- Mayor’s River Cleanup has been postponed. A new date has not been determined.

*Mayor Herd:*
- Expressed pride in the employees, first responders, those on the frontlines and the community and reminded residents to follow social distancing guidelines.

PUBLIC COMMENT. There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.
On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Russell, minutes of the February 25, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

REPORTS FROM VOLUNTEERS.
David Hollberg, Flood Control Advisory Committee Chair (via conference call), reported the committee will attempt an abbreviated meeting by teleconference next month to keep everyone up to date noting that in addition to the current situation, there are also flood issues to keep in mind this time of year.

PUBLIC COMMENT. There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION.
Mr. Oostdyk explained the current telephone conference call would be ended to adjourn the public portion of the meeting and a separate conference call initiated to facilitate the Council meeting in closed session. Following the closed session, no action would be taken and the meeting adjourned.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Russell, Resolution R2020-103, authorizing an Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations and Tax Appeals was unanimously adopted and the conference call terminated.

The public portion of the meeting was recessed at 7:29 p.m. followed by the Executive Session which took place via a second conference call during which the Council discussed two items:

- Contract negotiations in regards to the parking lot lease with the First Reformed Church.
  Members of the Council were advised of the Township Manager’s negotiations and authorized a resolution to formally approve that lease at a future council meeting.
- Plaza 23 Station LLC vs the Township of Pequannock Tax Appeal: A proposed resolution of that tax appeal was discussed and the Council was in agreement with the proposed resolution which will be implemented by Mr. Oostdyk.

The closed session was completed at 7:49 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT.
There being no further business, on a motion by Mrs. Florance Lynch, seconded by Mr. Phelan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m. without objection.

Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk

Ryan Herd, Mayor