

The July 8, 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

PRESENTATIONS. There were no presentations.

REPORTS FROM VOLUNTEERS.

- Peter Schmitt, Economic Development Advisory Committee member, reported on the committee's review of the Township's Zoning Permit application process.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Colleen McMahon commented on the Sherman Avenue sidewalk replacement project, expressing disagreement with the Township Engineer's report, requesting the current sidewalks on the block where she resides be made uniform, expressed concern about the trees in front of her house, and reported several residents did not receive communication from the Township requesting their comments
- Simon Hardie thanked the Council and staff for their work providing the Greenview Park sport courts and expressed support for using "open play" to control access to the courts when people are waiting. Mr. Hardie objected to several aspects of the software currently used to reserve recreation resources, and requested an alternative be considered.
- Paul Mahler commented on the actions of the Federal Government and, in reference the Pledge of Allegiance and the Council's opening prayer, requested the Council "...stand for that pledge and up to that prayer and against a republican king" Mr. Mahler thanked the Pequannock Police Department for their demeanor at a recent protest and compared them favorably to recent actions of ICE agents.
- Erika Bauer expressed support for using open play to control pickle ball play, commenting on how fair and welcoming it makes playing.
- Jen Hardie expressed gratitude for the sport courts and support for using open play.
- Joe Fanara of Affordable Cartage, LLC objected to the "technicality" that resulted in the company's bid being rejected and requested a review.
- Gerry Maturo expressed support for open play in pickleball.

- Tarunkumar Patel expressed support for open play in pickleball noting several places he's played and the opportunity to make friends.
- Michael Coppola echoed the comments in support of open play, thanked the Township for providing the courts, and reported there is an app that allows players to connect.

Mr. Brewer provided information on the process of reviewing comments on Sherman Avenue and noted information on the rules of play for pickleball play would be reviewed in his report.

Mr. Oostdyk explained the criteria by which it was determined that bids would be rejected and the recommendation made to either rebid or award to the next lowest bidder.

MANAGER'S REPORT. Township Manager Adam Brewer reviewed the Manager's report for the meeting, providing information on the process which ultimately resulted in denial of the Township's request to approve the hanging of banners between poles. Mr. Brewer provided information on several of the evening's agenda items and reviewed a memo regarding scheduling of the pickleball courts. Members of the Council discussed the schedule for open play and reservations and agreed to a schedule which includes time for recreation, reservations and open play as well as fees for use of the courts.

PUBLIC HEARINGS. There were no public hearings.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS. There were no ordinances presented for introduction.

RESOLUTIONS.

- **R2025-144**, authorizing the execution of an agreement concerning sewer use payment delinquency.
- **R2025-145**, appointing members of Advisory Committees.
- **R2025-146**, authorizing the use of the Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of a 2024 Ford E-350 Eldorado Advance Driver Plus 12 Passenger Bus.
- **R2025-147**, rejecting all bids for the collection, removal, and disposal of garbage and bulk waste.
- **R2025-148**, rejecting all bids for recycling collection services.
- **R2025-149**, awarding a contract for Vegetative Waste Collection Service to Blue Diamond Disposal of Mt. Arlington, NJ for the Contract amount of \$1,842,000 for a five-year term in accordance with the bid specifications.
- **R2025-150**, awarding the contract for the Wells 1 & 2 PFAS Treatment Project to Sovereign Consulting, Inc.
- **R2025-151**, awarding the contract for Manor Avenue Sidewalk Replacements to Cedar Contracting Co., Inc.
- **R2025-152**, authorizing an extension of the Township Sanitary Sewer Line with waivers and the execution of a Sanitary Sewer Extension Agreement with Ebenezer Netherlands Reformed School.
- **R2025-153**, authorizing the acceptance of a hold harmless agreement (70 West Parkway).
- **R2025-154**, authorizing the acceptance of a hold harmless agreement (3 Arundel Rd).
- **R2025-155**, awarding the contract for the Sunset Road – South Sunset Lane to West Parkway Reconstruction Project to Cifelli & Son General Contracting, Inc.
- **R2025-156**, authorizing Tax Office refunds, overpayments or cancellations.
- **R2025-157**, authorizing release of deposits for construction in a Township Right of Way.

- **R2025-158**, approving payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the July 3, 2025 Bill List and FEMA Elevation Escrow list.

Members of the Council verified they are in support of an agreement with Sunset Pub that allows for a 5-year timeframe for completing payment.

On a motion by Mrs. Russell, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, **Resolutions R2025-144 through R2025-158** 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 recommended several changes to the dog park and surrounding area

REPORTS AND NOTICES. There were no reports or notices.

COUNCIL REPORTS.

Mrs. Florance-Lynch:

- Economic Development Advisory Committee: Thanked Mr. Schmitt for reported on the Zoning Application process. The Committee is discussing the possibility of acquiring wreaths for the light poles, and is close to disseminating a poll for business owners.

Mr. Kohle:

- Congratulations to the graduates from PV School and the High School
- Both fire departments met in June and will also meet this week.
- Thanked everyone involved in the recent PV Park rescue.

Mrs. Russell

- First Aid and Rescue Squad reported 114 calls in June with 41 of them to Cedar Crest.
- Environment Commission meeting was very brief.
- September 20th is a Hazardous Waste Collection Day at PV Park.
- Hoe Down is scheduled for October 18th.

Mr. Siracusa

- Open Space Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet next week.

Mayor. Driesse

- Recognized the performance of Little League teams.
- Thanked Mr. Schmitt and the Economic Development Advisory Committee for their work on the zoning process.
- Recognized the completion of extensive training by recent Junior Firefighter volunteers.
- Thanked the lifeguard at PV Park and, following several trips to recently flooded areas, expressed gratitude for what we have in this state.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

- Megan Dempsey recommended the Environmental Commission and Open Space Advisory Committee be consulted regarding plantings at the new dog park, objected to charging a membership fee for the use of pickleball courts on the grounds that they are public courts paid for with taxes, reported on the Saturday June 14th "No Kings" rally, and expressed concern about the make up of the current Library Board.
- Sharon Taylor requested information on the possibility of plantings on Jacksonville Road, questioned if time is set aside for people with disabilities to use the courts, asked if there is

additional cost to moving the fence for the new dog park, and noted there is a cost to maintaining sport courts.

- Joe Fanara of Affordable Cartage, LLC questioned if the budget for trash collection would be published and noted there are a number of deer resistant plants.
- Mary Kay Schmermund expressed support for remarks made by Mr. Mahler and Ms. Dempsey, expressed pride in the "No Kings" rally and reported there are "Good Trouble" protests scheduled for June 17 in honor of John Lewis.

Mr. Brewer responding to questions stating there are no current plans for plantings on Jacksonville Road, noted the rules for the use of the pickleball courts is an evolving process, acknowledged the challenges involved in maintaining public facilities and commented on the purpose of fees, and said no budget for the waste collection and disposal would be published.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

On a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mrs. Russell, minutes of the April 22nd and May 13th meetings were unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION.

On a motion by Mrs. Russell, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, **Resolution R2025-159**, authorizing an Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations with the Borough of Lincoln Park for Animal Control Services and Matters of Attorney Client Privilege was unanimously adopted.

The public portion of the meeting was recessed at 8:34 p.m. followed by the Executive Session during which the following took place:

- The contract between Lincoln Park and Pequannock Township for animal control and negotiations as to appropriate charges and fees for that service was discussed. Mr. Brewer was given direction from the Council and will be notifying Lincoln Park.
- A contract between the Township and the owners of the Happy Hound on Route 23 in connection with the sewer project was discussed. Mr. Brewer was given direction as to an appropriate position to take in terms of contract negotiations and the Township will be moving forward to resolve the matter.
- An update was provided regarding the home elevation grants and extensions and direction was given to Mr. Brewer to move forward with the 2018 grant project.

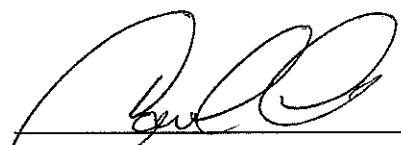
The closed session was completed at 8:50 p.m. at which time the public meeting was reconvened.

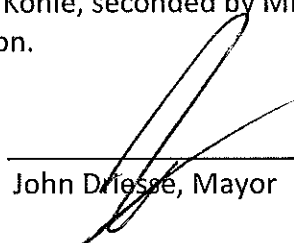
Township Attorney Oostdyk summarized the Executive Session discussion. No formal action was taken.

Mr. Brewer informed the Council a special meeting would be required to introduce a flood prevention ordinance in time for a mandated deadline. Members of the Council agreed to a July 22nd 1:00 p.m. special meeting.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Kohle, seconded by Mr. Siracusa, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m. without objection.



Carol J. Marsh, Township Clerk

John Driesse, Mayor