

**Pennington Borough Council  
Work Session Meeting – June 24, 2024**

Mayor Davy called the Work Session Meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held via Zoom. Borough Clerk Betty Sterling called the roll with Council Members Chandler, Marciante, Stern and Valenza in attendance. Ms. Angarone was absent.

Also present were Borough Clerk Betty Sterling, Borough Attorney Walter Bliss, Borough Administrator GP Caminiti, Public Works Superintendent Rick Smith and Police Chief Doug Pinelli.

Mayor Davy announced that notice of this meeting has been given to the Hopewell Valley News, Trenton Times and was posted on the door at Borough Hall and on the Borough web-site according to the regulations of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**Open to the Public**

Mayor Davy read the following statement.

The meeting is now open to the public for comments. In an effort to provide everyone interested an opportunity to address his or her comments to the Governing Body, a public comment time limit has been instituted for each speaker. **Please raise your hand and when the Borough Administrator acknowledges you state your name and address for the record. Please limit comments to the Governing Body to a maximum of 2 minutes.**

There were no comments from the public.

**Presentations**

Mayor Davy stated that Kieran John, Chair of the Environmental Commission is here for a presentation on the Environmental Resource Inventory that has been completed. Mayor Davy stated that the Planning Board approved the plan as an appendix to the Master Plan at its last meeting. Mr. John stated that many people were involved in the process and he would like to thank everyone for their hard work on this project. Mr. John explained the process that was undertaken to complete the inventory which is a comprehensive report that catalogs both natural and man-made environmental aspects of our environment. Mr. John stated that though this document will be referenced in the Master Plan it is a standalone document and will be updated over time. Mr. John explained the uses for the document. Mr. John stated that the document is posted on the website on the Environmental Commission page and also on the Planning Board page as part of the 2025 Master Plan update section.

**Work Session Discussion Items**

**Resolution 2024-6.4** - Resolution of Support Endorsing Mercer County's "Great Western Bikeway" and Bicycle Facilities Along County Routes 546, 624, 631, 632 and 640.

Mayor Davy introduced Matthew Zochowsky and Jason Muhlenberg from Mercer County who explained the need for a resolution of support endorsing the Great Western Bikeway project. Mr. Zochowsky thanked Mayor and Council for inviting them to the meeting. Mr. Zochowsky explained the bikeway path and where it traverses through Mercer County. Council Members expressed support for the resolution so Mayor Davy stated that the resolution will be on the Regular Agenda on July 1<sup>st</sup> for approval.

**Ordinance 2024-11 - Clarify Security Deposit for Park Rental** – Mr. Bliss explained that this Ordinance would require anyone who is in the category of having to pay the \$200 fee which includes people from outside the Borough who want to use the park for birthday's etc. to post a \$500 refundable security deposit. Mr. Bliss stated that the purpose of the change was to ensure that Government entities in which the Borough is affiliated would not have to post a security deposit.

**Ordinance - Stormwater Amendments** – Mayor Davy asked the Borough Administrator to explain this Ordinance to Council. Mr. Caminiti stated that he and Rick Smith met with a representative from Mercer County who explained that since the Borough adopted their Ordinance amending its Stormwater Requirements a couple of things have changed and the Ordinance will need to be amended. Mr. Smith explained the two small changes that will be necessary, one having to do with the calculations for 100 year storms. Mr. Caminiti stated that the County provided a template that we can use to address the amendments. Mr. Caminiti stated that the Ordinance amendment will not be ready for the July meeting but will be ready for the next work session and in order to meet the deadline required he will draft a letter to be sent to the County indicating that the Ordinance amendment is in progress.

**Resolution – Vehicle Maintenance & Repairs** – Mayor Davy asked Mr. Smith to explain this item. Mr. Smith stated that the 2005 trash truck that is being used for various tasks is in need of significant repairs that were discovered during the preventative maintenance inspection. Mr. Smith stated that the repairs needed are to bring the truck into compliance with DOT requirements. Mr. Smith stated that he eliminated repairs to the air conditioning to bring the estimate down by \$4,600. Mrs. Chandler asked if we have funds in the budget

for this. Mrs. Sterling stated that there is enough money in the overall trash budget. Mrs. Chandler asked if preventative maintenance is included in the budget that is adopted. Mrs. Sterling stated that it is but this is over and above that. Some discussion took place with regard to the purchase of new garbage truck in 2025 and what the need is for three garbage trucks. Mr. Smith explained the uses for the three trucks, the automated truck is used for trash collection and the other two are backups for yard waste and bulk pickup. Mr. Smith stated that there are conversations in the background related to these services and whether they can be scaled back which could be done with smaller trucks. Mr. Smith stated that the new automated truck scheduled for 2025 is estimated at \$450,000. Mr. Marciante was concerned about spending \$14,000 on repairs to a very old truck that might be replaced in the near future. Mrs. Chandler stated that she would rather repair the truck for this amount than authorize the purchase of a million dollars in new trucks. Mr. Smith stated that the bigger conversation is ongoing in the background and needs more discussion in the Public Works Committee. Mayor Davy stated that the item before Council is the repair of the current vehicle. Mrs. Chandler stated that she thinks that we should fix the truck so that services can continue as they are now and public works need to crunch their numbers and figure out the bigger questions of services and how they are provided. Mrs. Chandler stated that we don't want to rush a bigger decision. Mr. Smiths stated that the truck is unusable without the repairs as they are compliance repairs. Mayor Davy stated that the resolution will be on for the July 1 meeting.

**Resolution - NJDOT - Municipal Aid Application (Sked Street/W. Welling/Vannoy)** – Mayor Davy stated that this Resolution is to support the application for the next road project that the Borough Engineer will submit to meet the July 1 deadline. Mrs. Sterling stated that the Borough Engineer is also looking into a Local Aid Infrastructure Fund grant that he may also submit which would be for additional funding for the Abey Drive road project. Mrs. Sterling stated that the Borough Engineer is concerned that the grant award for Abey Drive will not cover the work that needs to be done and this second grant would provide additional funding so the project can be done properly. Mrs. Sterling stated that if the engineer is able to complete this application it will require a Resolution at the July meeting.

**Resolution - Payment Request - Rockwell Green** – Mrs. Sterling stated that this is the initial payment to the contractor for the road work and once the punch list items are completed there will be a final payment to the contractor.

**Redevelopment - Blackwell Property** – Mayor Davy stated that he thought that this could be on the July 1<sup>st</sup> Agenda, but the Planning Board has to adopt a Resolution of Memorialization before Council can act on this. Mayor Davy stated that this will be on the August agenda and he intends to send a letter to residents within 200 feet so that they are aware that the item is being discussed. Mayor Davy stated that we will also be sending out an e-mail alert about the meeting.

### **Review of Tentative Council Regular Agenda**

Mayor Davy stated that the following items will be on the agenda for July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Davy asked if anyone has any suggestions for a replacement member for Historic Preservation.

**Resignation - Historic Preservation - David Stevens**

**Mayor's Appointment - Planning Board Alternate #2 - Casey Upson**

**Resolution 2024 - 7.1 - Resolution Authoring Refunds**

**Resolution 2024 - 7.2 - Resolution Authorizing Payment of Bills**

**Resolution - Chapter 159 - ANJEC Grant**

Mrs. Chandler stated that she received a quote for the second enclosure for the Arboretum and she would like to have this on the agenda for July 1<sup>st</sup> as well.

Mr. Marciante stated that Parks and Recreation is seeking volunteers for the July 4<sup>th</sup> races if anyone is available to help out.

Mayor Davy stated that we anticipate that the audit report will be finalized this week and if so, there will be an audit presentation and resolution on the agenda for July 1.

### **Public Comment**

Mayor Davy asked that anyone wishing to speak, please raise your hand so the Borough Clerk can acknowledge you, please state your name and address for the record and limit comments to the Governing Body to a maximum of 3 minutes.

There were no comments from the public.

**Closed Session**

Mayor Davy stated that Council will now convene in Closed Session to discuss a subject or subjects not permitted in Open Session. Mayor Davy stated that no action will be taken during or after the Closed Session.

Personnel Matter – Borough Clerk/Assistant CFO

At: 7:48 PM, Council Member Stern made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting and convene in Closed Session, second by Council Member Marciante with all members present voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Sterling  
Borough Clerk