

**NOVEMBER 6, 2019**

**PAULSBORO, N.J.**

**7:00 P.M.**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Council Chamber:

Mayor Stevenson presided at the Regular Meeting of Council held on the above date and place.

Mayor Stevenson called the meeting to order.

Borough Clerk VanScoy read the opening statement regarding the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mayor Stevenson asked all those present to join in the salute to the flag, which was conducted by Borough Clerk VanScoy.

Members present were: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Absent: Councilman Haynes.

**SWEARING IN CEREMONY:** Police Officer Arthur Ettore.

Mayor Stevenson performed the official Swearing In of Patrolman Arthur Ettore.

Patrolman Ettore stated it is an honor to be a part of the Paulsboro Police Department.

Mayor Stevenson welcomed Patrolman Ettore, wished him the best and encouraged community policing.

Chief Kille was glad to have Patrolman Ettore on the force and felt he was already an asset to the force.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR.** (Agenda item questions only.)

Mayor Stevenson opened the floor to the public and asked anyone speaking to give their name, address and reminded everyone there was a five (5) minute time limit.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to open the floor to the public at 7:05 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

There wasn't any public participation.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to close the floor to the public. All were in favor of the motion.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Caucus Meeting, October 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting, October 1, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Summary of reports and copies of minutes of meeting.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adopt the minutes and receive and file all reports and copies of minutes of various meetings. All were in favor of the minutes.

### **COMMUNICATION – CORRESPONDENCE:**

#### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Finance Committee: Councilman Giampola, Chairman:

Councilman Giampola stated the Borough received good news as the Insurance has went down and \$117,000 dividend was applied towards the 2020 insurance.

Councilman Giampola congratulated Mayor Stevenson, Council President Giovannitti and Councilman DiTonno on their election win.

Public Works Committee: Councilman Haynes, Chairman:

Councilman Haynes also congratulated Mayor Stevenson, Council President Giovannitti and Councilman DiTonno on their election win.

Construction and Licensing Committee: Council President Giovannitti, Chairman:

Council President Giovannitti thanked all of Council and stated it was an honor to serve on Council. He feels the Borough has an awesome team on Council. He also thanked the Professionals, the Police Chief, the Fire Chief and the ladies in the front office. He is committed to this community.

Council President Giovannitti congratulated Robert Davis, Marvin Hamilton and BJ Reilly on their School Board election win.

Public Property Committee: Councilman Holloway, II, Chairman:

Councilman Holloway stated the housing initiative is moving forward. The Borough is looking to build two (2) more homes and demolish three (3) homes.

Councilman Holloway congratulated Mayor Stevenson, Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno and the School Board members on their Election win.

Community Betterment Committee: Councilman Kidd, Chairman:

Councilman Kidd congratulated Mayor Stevenson, Council President Giovannitti and Councilman DiTonno on their Election win.

Councilman Kidd discussed the cat TNR (Trap, Neuter, and Release) Program. An Ordinance is required. He will be meeting with the Police Department and the Fire Department and then Council will proceed. He informed Ms. Fenza that he will be calling a meeting to discuss this Ordinance as stated above.

Councilman Kidd stated there was a rumor that someone had overdosed during the Health Fair and it wasn't true.

Councilman Kidd stated the electricity is completed at the Park.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman DiTonno, Chairman:

Councilman DiTonno congratulated Mayor Stevenson and Council President Giovannitti on their Election win. He thanked the residents for their support.

Councilman DiTonno informed everyone that the Pee Wee Football Team will be playing on Pennsauken this Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

Mayor Stevenson wished Councilman DiTonno a Happy Birthday.

Mayor Stevenson thanked the people who worked the polls as it is a long day.

Borough Clerk VanScoy stated she has received Poll Worker Applications from the County if anyone was interested in working the polls.

Mayor Stevenson stated he is humble to receive the votes. The things that are happening in town are due to all of the Council as it is a great group. They want to

work for what's best for Paulsboro. He also thanked Administrator Jacobucci and his right hand, Borough Clerk VanScoy. He congratulated Robert Davis, Marvin Hamilton and BJ Reilly on their School Board Election win.

Mayor Stevenson reported on the status of the Paulsboro Plaza. They are now working on the Dollar Tree. They have finalized the permits and Dollar Tree wants to be open by Christmas.

**ORDINANCES ON INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:**

**O. #11.19: ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COLLECTION OF FEES FOR POLICE SECONDARY (OFF-DUTY) EMPLOYMENT.** Councilman Giampola moved and Council President Giovannitti seconded to continue to table O. #11.19. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTIONS – BILLS/BUDGET:**

**R. #199.19: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF BILLS OUT OF THE 2019 BUDGET FOR THE THIRD WEEK OF THE MONTH (October 15, 2019).**

**R. #200.19: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF BILLS OUT OF THE 2019 BUDGET.**

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to pay all bills properly signed and adopt R. #199.19 and R. #200.19. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT AGENDA:**

**R. #201.19: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX PAYMENTS MADE IN 2019 WHICH RESULTED IN AN OVERPAYMENT AND WILL BE FORWARDED TO 2020 BILLED TAX AMOUNTS.** (This Resolution authorizes to apply the applied to the balance of 2019 tax billed amounts be forwarded to the 2020 tax balances.)

**R. #202.19: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN BALANCES ON WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS.** (This Resolution provides for the cancellation/credit of balances due to erroneous billings and the accounts need to be adjusted.)

**R. #203.19: RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CY 2019 BEST PRACTICES INVENTORY QUESTIONNAIRE.** (This Resolution is mandated by the State to complete and review the Best Practices Inventory List to receive 100% of the State Aid allotted for this fiscal year.)

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adopt R. #201.19, R. #202.19 and R. #203.19. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

**Bingo/Raffles/Permits/Firemen's Association Membership Applications:**

Application for an off-premise Raffle License #RA-658 for PTA Guardian Angels School on January 10, 2020 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Received Amusement Games License application from The Office Bar & Grill. (All inspections have been completed.)

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to receive, file the applications and approve the above licenses. All were in favor of the motion.

**Licenses:**

**RESOLUTIONS NOT ON CONSENT:**

**R. #204.19: RESOLUTION PROVIDING PARTIAL PAYMENT NO. 4 FOR THE THOMSON AVENUE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – WATER & SANITARY SEWER.** (This Resolution authorizes partial payment No. 4 in the amount of \$902,747.81 to South State). Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to adopt R. #204.19. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

**R. #205.19: RESOLUTION CALLING FOR STUDY COMMISSION TO REVIEW THE OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT.** (This Resolution is requested by the NJLM in response to Senator Weinberg's bill, S-107, and the burden it will have on the Municipalities and its taxpayers.) Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to adopt R. #205.19. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Jacobucci stated the Gloucester County Office of Emergency is requesting the Borough name the Street in between Berkley Road and South Delaware Street (“Access Road”). The consensus of Council was to name the road “295 Bypass Road”.

**R. #206.19: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING STREET NAME IN THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO.** Councilman Giampola moved and Council President Giovannitti seconded to adopt R. #206.19. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Administrator Jacobucci stated a Budget Insertion Resolution – Chapter 159 is needed for the NJDOT 2017 Grant.

**R. #207.19: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET IN THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY PURSUANT TO N.J.S. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948).** Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to adopt R. #207.19. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Administrator Jacobucci stated a Resolution is needed to authorize a natural gas supply service agreement with the South Jersey Power Co-Operative. (Resolution needed.)

**R. #208.19: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH JERSEY POWER CO-OPERATIVE FOR NATUAL GAS SUPPLY SERVICE WITH THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO.** Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to adopt R. #208.19. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Administrator Jacobucci requested a Resolution authorizing her to hire a Full-Time Public Works Employee.

**R. #209.19: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HIRE OF FULL-TIME PUBLIC WORKS LABORER.** Councilman Haynes moved and Council President Giovannitti seconded to adopt R. #209.19. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Administrator Jacobucci requested Introduction of O. #13.19 as per Solicitor Maley for the sale of property at Block 26, Lots 1 and 3, also known as 132-34 Greenwich Avenue.

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:**

**O. #13.19: ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SALE OF BLOCK 26, LOTS 1 AND 3, ALSO KNOWN AS 132-34 GREENWICH AVENUE, AND THE EXECUTION OF ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS.** Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adopt O. #13.19 on introduction and first reading and schedule the second reading and public hearing on December 3, 2019. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None.  
**Motion carried.**

Administrator Jacobucci also requested Introduction of O. #14.19 as per Solicitor Maley for a Five (5) Year Tax Abatement program.

Solicitor Maley explained this Ordinance will allow every owner of property to authorize five (5) year abatement on any home improvement exemption of \$25,000 for a period of five (5) years and taxes would be tiered for five (5) years on commercial property.

**O. #14.19: AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING A NEW TAX EXEMPTION AND ABATEMENT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE “FIVE YEAR TAX EXEMPTION AND ABATEMENT LAW,” N.J.S.A. 40A:21-1 ET SEQ. FOR THE ENTIRETY OF THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.** Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to adopt O. #14.19 on introduction and first reading and schedule the second reading and public hearing on December 3, 2019. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None.  
**Motion carried.**

Administrator Jacobucci thanked all the Veterans and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Engineer's Report:

Borough Engineer Biermann explained the letter from Sickels & Associates regarding Road Opening Application – Escrow Request from South Jersey Gas for the Gas Main Renewal Project at South Commerce Street, Wood Street, Alley,

Chestnut Street, Madison Street and Mantua Avenue (Resolution may be required). They also recommended milling and paving of all roadways.

**R. #210.19: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SOUTH JERSEY GAS ROAD OPENING PERMIT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AMOUNTS FOR RESTORATION BOND, INSPECTION EXCROW AND ROAD OPENING PERMIT FEES.** Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to adopt R. #210.19. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Police Chief's Report:

Memo from Chief Gary Kille recommending promotion to next salary level of Officer Pierce to Patrolman Fifth Class. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to receive and file the memo. All were in favor of the motion.

**R. #211.19: RESOLUTION PROMOTING ANTHONY PIERCE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF PATROLMAN FIFTH CLASS IN THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT.** Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adopt R. #211.19. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Mayor Stevenson opened the floor to the public and asked anyone speaking, to give their name, address and reminded everyone there was a five (5) minute time limit.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to open the floor to the public at 7:30 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

Mary Harris, 265 Vanneman Boulevard, President of Paulsboro Senior Citizens, discussed the water bill as it is a burden on the senior citizens. She also felt it was unfair the Churches have to pay a water bill. She suggested the Borough send a letter out regarding the tax abatement Ordinance.

Mayor Stevenson stated the Borough should get the information out to the residents regarding the tax abatement program. As to the Church water bill issue, there will be another meeting and the Borough has to figure out how all this will affect everyone. There should be a resolution early next year.



Administrator Jacobucci stated she will have Water/Sewer Superintendent Reed review Mrs. Harris' water bill.

Mayor Stevenson stated the Borough set the water rates as to what was fair. After one (1) year, the water rates will be reviewed.

Karen Armistead, 108 West Washington Street, discussed the abandoned properties and their upkeep. There is a property on the right side of her driveway that the grass is two feet high. She stated it is not fair that she has to keep up her property and then the property next to her devalues her property. There are people living in those abandoned properties. There is a property on Buck Street that has two (2) trees that fell onto her property and also on the property in the back yard.

Mayor Stevenson stated the Code Office is working on these however, they are warned, warned again, go to court, court gets postponed. He will ask the Administrator or the Council President to check on this property. Theoretically, the Borough can't do anything about the trees.

Solicitor Maley stated it is private property and the Borough has to find out the vacant lot owner.

Ms. Armistead stated she didn't mind her taxes going up but wanted to know what for as some of the streets are horrible.

Mayor Stevenson stated it cost \$7,000,000 to do Thomson Avenue.

Councilman Haynes stated Washington Street is next to be done between Delaware and Pine Street.

Borough Engineer Biermann stated it will cost ½ a million dollars to do the 1<sup>st</sup> section of Washington Street.

Mayor Stevenson stated the residents are Council's eyes and ears and to call when they see anything out of the ordinary.

Theresa Cooper, 300 West Buck Street, stated she felt the water rates are not calculated properly. She is still waiting on the meeting with the Churches and also with Council President Giovannitti regarding housing. She asked to be included when these meetings take place. She also questioned the problem with Loudenslager and the leak that has occurred over time causing the ceiling to fall in. The fifth grade will be moved to other parts of Loudenslager School and the sixth grade will move to the High School until the end of the year.

BJ Reilly, 644 Beacon Avenue, commended the Mayor and Council for demolishing the “Lee” house. She thanked the ladies in Borough Hall as they are very quick to respond and always gets answers and they are always polite. She questioned if it was possible to sponsor a holiday contest with prizes to decorate homes and then publish the winners in the Record newspaper.

Mayor Stevenson stated Councilman Kidd heads up the Community Betterment Committee and he asked Ms. Reilly to meet with Councilman Kidd.

Mayor Stevenson thanked Ms. Reilly for her compliments and congratulated her on her School Board Election win.

Linda Weber, 600 King Street, stated the Chamber of Commerce used to spearhead a house decorating contest at one time.

Mayor Stevenson stated the Chamber meets next Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. and asked Ms. Reilly to meet with the Chamber as well.

There wasn't any further Borough business.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to close the floor to the public at 7:53 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

Councilman Giampola moved and Council President Giovannitti seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

This is a brief summary of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Paulsboro held on November 6, 2019 and should not be considered a verbatim transcript of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy A. VanScoy, RMC/CMC/CMR  
Borough Clerk

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Gary C. Stevenson, Mayor