

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOROUGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 1, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
AGENDA MEETING**

***Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this meeting was transmitted virtually via the Webex platform**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Anesh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Anesh read the sunshine statement and announced that same is being held pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act of 1974 and all provisions of that Act have been met with adequate notice of this remote meeting having been provided to the Borough's two official newspapers and also published on the Borough's website. Instructions for accessing the remote public meeting are found on the Borough's website next to the agendas. Documentation pertaining to the remote meeting can be found electronically on the Borough's website.

The roll call was administered by Amy Antonides as follows:

COUNCIL	Present	Absent	Late
Councilman Bengivenga	X		
Councilwoman Faustini	X		
Councilwoman Mott	X		
Councilman Smith	X		
Councilman Wolak	X		
Council President White	X		
Mayor Anesh	X		
ALSO PRESENT			
Administrator Cullen	X		
Clerk Antonides	X		
Attorney Paul Rizzo, Esq.	X		
Engineer Miller	X		

Mayor Anesh reviewed some basic rules for conducting this virtual meeting this evening. All lines will be muted until such time that the floor is open for public comment. Each phone call or virtual hand raise will be taken one at a time. To unmute the microphone, just click on the red microphone picture that has a line through it. It will then turn green indicating you have been unmuted and may begin to speak. Callers may dial 1-646-922-2010 followed by the access code of 126 663 1990 #. Using the *6 button will mute and unmute the voice feature for any phone callers.

Review of Agenda Items: Clerk Antonides reviewed all the items on the agenda advising there is the addition of resolutions 21-103 and 21-104. Mayor Anesh called for a motion to add resolutions 21-103 and 21-104 to this evening's agenda. Council President White made a motion to add resolutions 21-103 and 21-104 to this evening's agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Faustini and approved with an all-in favor voice vote. Mayor Anesh asked if there were any comments from Council. Councilwoman Mott asked to table Resolution 21-94 until the next meeting for further discussion due to an applicant who applied for the position back in November.

Council President White said he doesn't believe appointments are made on a first come first serve basis and believes this person was previously functioning on the committee. Mayor Anesh provided a background saying he believes Ms. Gibson's appointment was up in 2016 and was on the working document to appoint her in 2017. For some reason she was not named on the reorganization meeting of 2017 to appoint her. She continued to meet on the committee as no one realized she was not formally reappointed. In fact, no one realized she was even on the committee to this day until there was some confusion with the Human Relations Committee and a Mayoral representative to serve on it. When it was realized that Ms. Gibson was not formally named on the committee, we did notice there was a vacancy from Joan Dickason, so the thought was to now formally appoint Ms. Gibson to fill Ms. Dickason's unexpired term. This is a mayoral appointment with advice and consent of council for a Mayor's Wellness Committee. Ms. Gibson is a resident in town who has actively served on this committee for some four years. Therefore, there is no reason to table this. Mayor Anesh said he will keep putting this same individual up for appointment for each subsequent meeting until the end of his term. There is no reason to not appoint someone who has worked diligently on his committee for the past three/four years who also desires to continue to do so. Mayor Anesh said while he understands how it may seem to some regarding the turning in an application first, but in this case this person has been actively serving for several years on this committee. Mayor Anesh said he doesn't see any reason to table an appointment that he recommends for his Mayor's Wellness Committee, but that is council's prerogative. Councilman Bengivenga said it's a procedural issue that is at hand. In 2016 every person whose term was up was notified several times that if they are interested in being considered for reappointment they should apply. Ms. Gibson did not reapply therefore we appointed Mary Piekarski, who did apply for the position. Mayor Anesh said he wouldn't say we choose, but instead he mistakenly had put another name there and doesn't understand why Ms. Gibson didn't fill out a form. Councilman Bengivenga said that at this point he feels the right thing to do is to advertise the position and then make the appointment. Councilman Bengivenga said he doesn't understand why someone who was asked four years ago to submit an application for reappointment didn't, especially when they are emailed every year. Mayor Anesh said Ms. Gibson doesn't recall being notified, and maybe he could have notified her also, but the reality is an error occurred. It was clearly just an error. If you wish to hang on to procedural requirements, he will still appoint the person who has been beside him for the past four years. Mayor Anesh said that at the next meeting he will appoint the same person who is on for tonight's meeting.

The following represents the vote to table resolution 21-94:

COUNCIL	MOTION	2 ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	RECUSE
Councilman Bengivenga			X				
Councilwoman Faustini		x	X				
Councilwoman Mott	x		X				
Councilman Smith				X			
Councilman Wolak			X				
Council President White				X			
		VOTE:	4	2			
Mayor Anesh – TIE ONLY							

**RESOLUTION 21-91
AUTHORIZING A CLOSED SESSION MEETING**

There were no matters for closed session this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: Mayor Anesh opened the floor for public comment reiterating the aforementioned directions for making remote public comments. With no public comments made, Mayor Anesh closed the floor from public comment.

ADJOURN AGENDA MEETING: With no further comments, Mayor Anesh asked for a motion to adjourn from the Agenda Meeting. Council President White made a motion to adjourn from the Agenda Meeting at 7:10 p.m., seconded by Councilwoman Faustini and unanimously carried by an all-in favor.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Amy Antonides, RMC/CMC/CMR