

Minutes of the Conference Meeting of the Borough Council held September 18th 2014 at 7:32 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 531 Speedwell Avenue, Morris Plains, New Jersey.

Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

Mayor Frank J. Druetzler called the meeting to order and read the following notice:

I HEREBY ANNOUNCE AND STATE THAT ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS PROVIDED BY VIRTUE OF A RESOLUTION SCHEDULING THE TIME, DATE, AND PLACE OF MEETINGS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS FOR THE YEAR 2014; WHICH RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL ON JANUARY 7, 2014, AND WAS PUBLISHED IN THE *MORRIS NEWSBEE* AND IN THE *DAILY RECORD* AND BY THE FORWARDING OF SUCH RESOLUTION TO ALL PERSONS ON THE REQUEST LIST; BY THE POSTING OF SUCH RESOLUTION ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE BOROUGH HALL; ALL OF THE ABOVE ACTIONS BEING IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, *ET SEQ.*

Present on Roll Call:

Mayor Frank J. Druetzler

Councilmembers: George J. Coogan

Joseph Cecala, Jr.

Laurie J. Fu

Jason C. Karr

Frank Mangravite

Suzanne B. McCluskey

Absent: None

Present: Gail H. Fraser, Esq., Borough Attorney

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mayor Druetzler advised of a telephone call received some time ago from the Mayor of Hanover Township about a program that provides basic landscaping services for school properties. He anticipates this program will be available to the Borough school district during 2015.

He reported on a recent meeting concerning the demolition of a building at Greystone Park. Representatives from State, the County Park Commission, the County (Kathy Byrd), John Bonnani, and the demolition contractor (an East Hanover company Northstar). The discussion focused primarily on the process of the demolition. No trucks will travel down Central Avenue, but rather exit on Koch Road. The project is expected to take 18 months.

Mayor Druetzler next commented on issues relating to the water company and Rockaway Township affordable housing projects that have been on hold for some time. The problem is an insufficient water supply. A recent study states there is excess water in other municipalities, and the thinking is that Rockaway Township probably could access this excess water supply. There is a lawsuit and Southeast Morris County MUA is a party to the lawsuit along with various municipalities and utilities. He believes there are at least two problems here: (1) the Highlands are not mentioned and (2) neither is the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). He provided background/historical information on prior water need issues. He has requested a meeting of representatives from the affected municipalities and others. He explained why he believes this lawsuit and the thinking behind would be unfair to the Borough if the judge agrees with the plaintiff(s).

Councilmember Karr reported that Rosanne Denman is currently attending a Municipal Clerk's course.

Councilmember Fu advised that the contract for tree maintenance will come up for renewal at the end of this year. While there have been two-year contracts in the past, this year the Shade Tree Commission would prefer to have a one-year contract with two one-year extensions (essentially a possible three-year contract).

Councilmember Mangravite stated that Peg Dugan attended her final meeting at the Board of Health. Kathy Marshall was elected to succeed Ms. Dugan as President.

Councilmember McCluskey reported on a recent meeting of the Affordable Housing Committee and the uncompleted details that must still be resolved before any site work can be done in late winter 2015/early spring 2015. Department of Transportation (DOT) permitting takes time and the architectural plans are not complete. While this project is moving along, but not as quickly as originally anticipated – they want “to be sure the work is completed right, not fast.”

Cross discussion about the Affordable Housing project, including comments from the Borough Attorney and that the Construction Code Official will review the final architectural plans, and possibly the preliminary plans.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Councilmember Coogan:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Resolution No. 2014-127 entitled “Executive Session” be adopted.

Seconded by Councilmember McCluskey. So ordered.

Councilmember Cecala moved that the Executive Session be adjourned.

Seconded by Councilmember Karr.

Councilmember Coogan moved that the Conference Meeting be adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Seconded by Councilmember Cecala.

Frank J. Druetzler, Mayor

June Uhrin, Borough Clerk

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Borough Council held September 18th 2014 at 8:34 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 531 Speedwell Avenue, Morris Plains, New Jersey.

Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

Mayor Frank J. Druetzler called the meeting to order and read the following notice:

I HEREBY ANNOUNCE AND STATE THAT ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS PROVIDED BY VIRTUE OF A RESOLUTION SCHEDULING THE TIME, DATE, AND PLACE OF MEETINGS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS FOR THE YEAR 2014; WHICH RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL ON JANUARY 7, 2014, AND WAS PUBLISHED IN THE *MORRIS NEWSBEE* AND IN THE *DAILY RECORD* AND BY THE FORWARDING OF SUCH RESOLUTION TO ALL PERSONS ON THE REQUEST LIST; BY THE POSTING OF SUCH RESOLUTION ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE BOROUGH HALL; ALL OF THE ABOVE ACTIONS BEING IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, *ET SEQ.*

Present on Roll Call:

Mayor Frank J. Druetzler
Councilmembers: George J. Coogan
Joseph Cecala, Jr.
Laurie J. Fu
Jason C. Karr
Frank Mangravite
Suzanne B. McCluskey

Absent: None

Present: Gail H. Fraser, Esq., Borough Attorney
Leon Hall, P.E.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Coogan moved:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Executive, Conference and Regular Meetings of September 4th 2014 be approved.

Seconded by Councilmember Karr. So ordered.

Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Morris Plains, that the attached reports be accepted and that said reports be kept on file in the Clerk's Office:

REPORTS

Borough Clerk, August 2014
Animal License, August 2014
Police Department, August 2014
Sanitarian, August 2014
Municipal Court, August 2014
Animal Control, August 2014
Tax Collector, August 2014
Treasurer, August 2014

Fire Prevention, August 2014
Building Inspector, August 2014

THAT Resolution No. 2014 128 entitled, “RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN,” be adopted as attached.

THAT Resolution No. 2014-129 entitled, “HEALTHY ACTIVE RESPONSIBLE KIDS INC., RAFFLE LICENSE NO. 260-14,” be adopted as attached.

THAT Resolution No. 2014-130 entitled, “ST. VIRGILIUS CHURCH, RAFFLE LICENSE NO. 261-14,” be adopted as attached.

THAT Resolution No. 2014-131 entitled, “ST. VIRGILIUS CHURCH, RAFFLE LICENSE NO. 262-14,” be adopted as attached.

THAT the residents of Hawthorne Avenue, Homer Avenue, Carlyle Avenue and Sunset Road be granted permission to hold their annual Block Party on Saturday, October 11th 2014, from 4:00 P.M. to Midnight and that permission to serve alcoholic beverages be granted; and that the Road Department provide the necessary barricades.

THAT the Borough Council authorize the Borough Engineer to prepare a NJDOT Municipal Aid Grant application for Mountain Way from Granniss Avenue to Glenbrook Road.

THAT the Mayor be and he hereby is authorized to execute Change Order #1, Improvements to Speedwell Avenue Rebid, 2014.08B, per the Borough Engineer’s correspondence dated September 5th 2014.

THAT John Charron, 38 Watnong Drive, be hired as part-time Community Center staff member at an hourly rate of \$14.28 per hour effective September 22, 2014.

THAT the Borough Treasurer is hereby authorized to advertise for the receipt of bids for the collection of Solid Waste Collection, Transportation and Disposal Services and Designated Recyclable Materials Collection and Transportation Services with bids to be received Tuesday, November 25th 2014, up to 10:00 A.M.

THAT the Borough Council authorize the release and return of the one-year Maintenance Bond to Haskell Paving, Inc, 2013.01, per the Borough Engineer’s correspondence dated September 16th 2014.

THAT Matthew Niemczyk, 33 Malapardis Road be granted permission to serve alcoholic beverages at a Birthday Party to be held Sunday, October 5th 2014, from 12:00 P.M. to Dusk, at Community Park.

THAT the letter of retirement of Sgt. Mark Ewert, Morris Plains Police Department be accepted effective November 30th 2014.

THAT the Borough Council approve the membership application of Jonathan J. Donofrio, 6 Oakwood Court, Morris Plains, as a member of the Morris Plains Fire Department.

Seconded by Councilmember McCluskey.

Yeas: Councilmembers Coogan, Cecala, Fu, Karr, Mangravite, McCluskey
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

GREETINGS OF PUBLIC AND INVITATIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Mayor Druetzler opened this portion of the meeting to the public.

Ms. Sheri Doyle, Glenbrook Road, Morris Plains, advised of a traffic concern on their street and of a previous meeting of several residents with then Police Chief Thompson to discuss these concerns. At the meeting they were advised the traffic increased due to an inaccurate GPS entry instructing drivers to use this route to the new sports fields. Even though a change was made in the GPS system, it was not possible to impact all car systems. She commented on various methods the police have used to mitigate the traffic concerns. At one point a police count for "one day, one way", the total count was well over 200 cars for one day.

Mayor Druetzler asked Police Chief Kohn if he can provide an update on this situation.

Ms. Doyle advised there was a police officer at the site yesterday for one hour, mid to late afternoon; there were 32 cars, seven of which belonged to Glenbrook Road residents. Her address is 107 Glenbrook Road. She and her neighbors are quite upset with what is happening, including that some residents have talked about possibly moving to a less traveled roadway.

Mayor Druetzler advised the Borough has tried many ideas to ease this traffic flow to the sports fields. The GPS was changed for newer vehicles. Periodic monitoring is done and the Borough is working with the Park Commission Police and the Human Services Police. Unfortunately, there is no magic answer to this issue, and it is very frustrating. He also commented on a planned roadway to/from Hanover Avenue up to Central Avenue. It is hoped this roadway will be done by the end of 2015 and the County is hoping to include this project in their capital budget for 2015. He provided background information on various situations that have occurred in connection with Greystone over the past several decades that he has been involved with.

Mayor Druetzler commented that there is traffic everywhere in the Borough and many residents are unhappy with traffic problems. But, being a "connector" municipality between Morristown and Parsippany, that there will be traffic is a given.

Cross discussion about the problems created by the GPA directions issue and the various ideas people have had over time on how best to legally address the growing traffic problems.

Mayor Druetzler assured Ms. Doyle the Borough will continue to try to find a way(s) to improve this situation of traffic on Glenbrook Road. He will also continue to monitor the progress of the Hanover Road roadway project. He also commented that having the sports fields/park is a great improvement over a continuation of the dilapidated situation at Greystone and related issues. The Borough will continue to work on this concern.

Ms. Kristi Conover, 102 Glenbrook Road, Morris Plains, suggested a speed trap on Sundays with various police officers being in contact at various spots along the roadway. She also expressed concern that some trucks from the Greystone demolition project may wind up on Glenbrook Road, Central Avenue or other surrounding roadways.

Mayor Druetzler responded that a lost/straying truck may wind up on the wrong roadway, but every effort is being made to ensure that does not happen. He advised that sidewalks will be installed on Central Avenue in 2015.

Cross discussion about attempting to change speed limits on certain streets to lower limit, including that DOT approval would be needed for some roadways and that the residential speed limit is 25 mph unless otherwise posted.

Ms. Kristin Pfeffer, 8 Central Avenue, Morris Plains, advised she is the resident who has been communicating with John Bonnani. The County advised her “that property along Hanover is State property” and that certain other matters must be completed/approved before the State will release the property for the road building. However, recently she was advised the State has offered to lease it to the County. It would then be included in the 2015 budget. She commented on some Greystone demolition matters, too. She wondered if a cul-de-sac could be installed at some location as a traffic control method.

Mayor Druetzler explained that a cul-de-sac could not be at the “V and up” because the roadway cannot be stopped due to it providing access to two municipalities. He commented on other situations discussed over the years in connection with various roadways and paper streets.

The Borough Attorney provided legal commentary on the matter of closing streets off stating a statute would require notification to all surrounding municipalities of a plan to close a public roadway and State approval would be required.

Cross discussion about suggestions of what could be done with cul-de-sacs at other street locations as well as other possible actions that might be taken with or without signage.

Ms. Pfeffer asked if the speed limit could be made 15 mph since drivers are entering a park. She asked if starting a petition could help get changes made.

Mayor Druetzler commented that in his experience signage often does not work to the benefit what is being hoped for. He did think the Borough could look into the possibility of asking for a 15 speed limit in connection with drivers entering a park. There might be some chance of obtaining State approval.

Ms Moira Dillaway, 115 Glenbrook Road, Morris Plains, raised the same traffic concerns and asked if all those present on this issue could have their names included in the record.

Those other area residents are: (1) Shawna Longo, 29 Homer Avenue, Morris Plains and (2) Angela Lewis, 126 Glenbrook Road, Morris Plains.

Continuing, Ms. Dillaway, commented that while she is very fond of Morris Plains, her street, and her neighbors, she is growing quite alarmed with the traffic issues. Cars are often driving 40+ mph and drivers are sometimes on cell phones. Younger drivers appear to be more at fault than others. She also commented on other traffic-related problems she has experienced. She is hoping the police department can become more involved in attempting to address this traffic concern.

One or more other area residents mentioned their specific concerns and traffic experiences in the area since the opening of the Greystone fields/park. One resident gave thanks for there being a police officer in the Homer Avenue/Stiles Avenue area

Mayor Druetzler advised there are still buildings at Greystone from which people are transitioning out of Greystone; they will come into the Borough and into the downtown area. These individuals have privileges to do this

and in general there are no problems. He mentioned Mr. Ralph Rotando who heads up the Borough's Greystone Security Committee.

Police Chief Kohn mentioned some ways the area residents might be able to help mitigate some of the traffic issues.

The area residents thanked the Council and the Mayor for listening to their concerns and providing information on how the Borough hopes to make improvements.

Seeing no one, Mayor Druetzler closed the public portion of this meeting.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND/OR DEPARTMENT HEADS

Finance

Councilmember Karr provided information on a planned software update for the website to make it more secure and more compatible with mobile devices.

Public Safety

Councilmember McCluskey advised the Farmer's Market will offer the chair massage this Saturday since it was postponed from last week (\$1 per minute). She presented the Council with a Smart Workplaces Award, platinum level, awarded by TransOptions. She provided information on the various activities that TransOptions has partnered with the Borough on to offer train and bus schedules, bicycle lockers at the train station, senior programs, and a bicycle riding training program for youngsters.

Police Chief Kohn advised on officer training for the Narcan program. Upon completion of the training, there will be Narcan kits to bring a person out of a heroin or other type of overdose. All training should be completed within two weeks. He believes the County or perhaps the State covers liability issues.

Public Works

Councilmember Cecala commented on the Superintendent's report. The deer cull began on Saturday, September 13, 2014. A total of six deer were taken. He provided location information.

Mr. Hall provided updates on the various Borough work projects he is involved with and a pre-construction meeting with Stanziale Construction that is scheduled for Wednesday.

Public Buildings & Grounds

Councilmember Fu congratulated and welcomed John Charon who is a new staff member at the Community Center. She provided information on the most recent Shade Tree Commission meeting, work being done in connection with the Forestry Management Plan, attendance at an upcoming free conference ("Planting the Right Tree in the Right Place") and one to be held in Cherry Hill that John Signorelli will attend. This training is a requirement of the Plan/grant.

There will be a Recreation Commission meeting next week. Sign-ups are being held for the garage sales and planning continues for the annual bonfire event that this year will include a scavenger hunt. The Commission has been invited to a meeting with the County relating to the turf field usage to determine what went well, did not go well and any improvements.

She also commented on the photo contest.

Public Health, Sanitation & Sewers

Councilmember Mangravite advised that an interview will be held next Thursday for a new Teen Center Coordinator. He also commented on the Teen Center kick-off event and on the most recent Board of Health meeting. A gathering was held afterwards recognizing the work on the Board by Peg Dugan. The semi-annual recycling meeting will be held on October 9, 2014 at 8:00 P.M. at the Community Center.

Ordinance & Public Utilities

Councilmember Coogan advised on the new boiler installation at the Community Center. The cast iron found went to the Recycling Center. He commented on the work done by the Beautification Committee at the train underpass.

Councilmember McCluksey reminded that the Drug Take-Back is next Saturday, September 27, 2104, at Stop & Shop, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M..

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, ETC.

None.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

None.

RESOLUTIONS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None

VOUCHERS

Councilmember moved for approval the vouchers for September 18, 2014 in the amount of \$2,756,186.90.

Seconded by Councilmember Coogan.

Yeas: Councilmembers Coogan, Cecala, Fu, Karr, Mangravite, McCluskey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Councilmember Coogan:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Resolution No. 2014-132 entitled "Executive Session" be adopted. This Executive Session will address legal, personnel, and contracts/agreements issues.

Seconded by Councilmember McCluskey. So ordered.

Councilmember Mangravite moved that the Executive Session be adjourned.

Seconded by Councilmember Coogan.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Mangravite moved that the Regular Meeting be adjourned at 10:22 P.M.

Seconded by Councilmember Coogan.

Frank J. Druetzler, Mayor

June Uhrin, Borough Clerk