

Minutes of the Conference Meeting of the Borough Council held February 4th 2016, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 531 Speedwell Avenue, Morris Plains, New Jersey.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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 2016; WHICH RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL ON JANUARY 7, 2016, 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: Suzanne B. McCluskey
Joseph Cecala, Jr.
Salvatore Cortese
Laurie J. Fu
Jason C. Karr

Absent: Councilmember Jack Doherty

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mayor Druetzler advised of a call from Mr. Dave Helmer informing that Morristown will be providing funds for fireworks at Central Park. Mr. Helmer asked if Morris Plains would like to be a part of this event. He told Mr. Helmer that he and the Council would consider this, but more likely for a future year and not for 2016. He offered his thoughts on the pros and cons of this idea, including the need for the road to be installed. He requested that the Councilmembers also give some thought to this proposal, and let him know how they feel about it.

Mayor Druetzler stated that Public Service was here to advise they are planning to install an upgraded five-mile gas line in Morris Plains. More details will be provided on this project in Councilmember Cortese's report during the regular meeting.

Councilmember Karr reported that the Finance Committee met with Steve Welsh from Bruno and Associates. This is a grant business that researches grants, some of which may be of interest to the Borough, such as Department of Transportation (DOT) grants and grants for dredging, pumping stations, and Pool upgrades. Councilmember Karr provided additional details about how this company may be able to assist the Borough in obtaining funding for certain work projects and the different kinds of grants that may be available to the Borough.

Cross discussion about the possibility of this company providing assistance to the Borough in securing appropriate grants, grant writing services and costs associated with this proposal.

Ms. Fraser provided information on certain protocol that the Borough will need to follow in connection with bid thresholds, writing of specs, professional services, the holding of State licenses and Requests for Proposals.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Councilmember McCluskey:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Resolution 2016-36 entitled “Executive Session” be adopted.

Seconded by Councilmember Karr. So ordered.

Voice Vote. All in favor.

Councilmember Karr moved that the Executive Session be adjourned.

Seconded by Councilmember Cecala.

Councilmember Karr moved that the Conference Meeting be adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Seconded by Councilmember Cecala.

Frank J. Druetzler, Mayor

June Uhrin, Borough Clerk

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Borough Council held February 4th 2016 at 8:35 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 2016; WHICH RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL ON JANUARY 7, 2016, 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: Suzanne B. McCluskey, Council President
Joseph Cecala, Jr.
Sal Cortese
Laurie J. Fu
Jason C. Karr

Absent: Councilmember Doherty

Present: Gail Fraser, Esq., Borough Attorney

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember McCluskey moved:

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

Animal Control, 2015 year end
Sanitarian, January 2016

THAT the Resolution No. 2016-37 entitled, "RESOLUTION TO JOIN THE SOMERSET COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM", be adopted as attached.

THAT the Resolution No. 2016-38 entitled, "RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING LIEN BLOCK 66 LOT 17", be adopted as attached.

THAT Jason Kohn, Police Chief be authorized to advertise for the position of Patrolman with applications being accepted at Police Headquarters.

THAT the Borough Council authorize the release and return of a \$50,000.00 cash bond to Honeywell International, per the Borough Engineer's correspondence dated February 1, 2016.

Seconded by Councilmember Karr.

Yeas: Councilmembers McCluskey, Cecala, Cortese, Fu, Karr
Nays: None
Absent: Councilmember Doherty
Abstain: None

GREETINGS OF PUBLIC AND INVITATION FOR DISCUSSION

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

Mr. Kevin Rongo, 22 Academy Road, Morris Plains, stated he would like to commend the Department of Public Works (DPW) staff for their excellent work and assistance after the recent blizzard.

Several Council members added their comments in connection with the good work performed by the DPW staff.

Mayor Druetzler advised that we are planning a thank-you luncheon for the DPW staff in the very near future – possibly next week.

Ms. Kathy Peterson, Kathleen Place, Morris Plains, expressed concern about the neighborhood in which she lives and the fact that it is in a designated flood zone. She advised that Mayor Druetzler, some of her neighbors and she met last spring about this topic and the possible re-drawing of the FEMA maps. She did not know her property was located in a flood zone until she began the work on obtaining a mortgage. Having lived in her house since 2002, a total of \$30,000 has been paid in flood insurance. The flood insurance premium for 2016 is \$3,500 which apparently in her understanding is a grandfathered rate. She has been told that the grandfathered rate will be going away and the rate will be increased by 10% a year. She stated that no one on their street has ever experienced flooding and referred to a letter from FEMA confirming that fact. She stated that she and her neighbors are being charged at the same rate as people living in Fairfield, Wayne and other municipalities -- people who sustain significant flood damage. For the number of years that FEMA has been in the Borough, Morris Plains has submitted claims totaling \$104,000 versus millions of dollars in Parsippany and Fairfield – Fairfield has actually received \$64 million from the National Flood Insurance Program. Who else can she and her neighbors turn to to address their concerns? She has had surveying work done at the property to see if anything additional can be determined by having it done.

Mayor Druetzler provided information concerning a meeting with FEMA, but it has now been close to a year since attempts were made to schedule this meeting. He will request that Mr. Hall contact them again on setting a date for such a meeting. He also mentioned that there will be a Mayors' meeting in March hosted by Congressman Frelinghuysen; this will permit an opportunity for this concern to possibly be brought up with him at that time.

Ms. Peterson continued to express concern about this situation and the money that is being spent on flood insurance. She also mentioned her concern about when the time comes that she wants sell her property and having to address this issue with potential buyers. A response is needed from FEMA. She has looked at the new FEMA maps on the internet and

it appears that she may be out of the flood zone, but her neighbors will remain in a flood zone. She does not agree that she and her neighbors should be considered as being in the same kind of flood zone as those who are frequently flooded at the Jersey Shore, in Fairfield or in Parsippany; their risks are very significantly less than those areas. The confusion as to whether she and her neighbors are actually in a flood zone is very upsetting, especially when she has paid \$30,000 for flood insurance over the years since 2002. She provided her telephone number to the Mayor.

Mayor Druetzler stated he will ask Mr. Hall to contact FEMA again. He thanked Ms. Peterson for her presentation.

Ms. Peterson thanked the Mayor and Council for their time.

Seeing no one else wishing to address the Governing Body, Mayor Druetzler closed the public portion of this meeting.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND/OR DEPARTMENT HEADS

Finance

Councilmember Karr had no report.

Public Safety

Councilmember McCluskey provided an update on the affordable housing – the shingles are on the roofs, the windows are installed, the staircases in the South Building have been installed and related work that is done. Interior work is currently being done on the second-floor apartments. The JCP&L pole will be installed on Monday, February 8, 2016 and additional unit boxes for the North section are arriving. Once they all arrive, they will be set in place in one continuous operation. A \$5,000 grant from Investors was approved

Police Chief Kohn reported they are continuing training with Morris County Office of Emergency Management (OEM); a grant was received for rescue task force training. Once completed, the Department will receive more advanced medical kits at no cost that the Police can keep with them. He also spoke about the VFW issuing their Police Office of the Year Award. He believes this event will be held on February 17th 2016 and will be going to Bruce Rapp. The recruits are doing well. He also told of a dog that was abandoned in Parsippany last month and left out in the cold. Parsippany Police took the dog to their animal shelter. One of the Morris Plains police officers actually ended up adopting this dog.

Public Works

Councilmember Cecala stated that Superintendent Signorelli's report has been circulated. He commented on the interior work that the DPW staff is doing. He presented his deer cull report.

Public Buildings & Grounds

Councilmember Fu reported that the Recreation Commission met last week and held their re-organization meeting. She also provided information about the Pool badge software, and it is working well.

Councilmember Fu reported that the Shade Tree Commission met yesterday; she updated on the various Commission projects.

Public Welfare, Sanitation & Sewers

In the absence of Councilmember Doherty there was no report.

Ordinance & Public Utilities

Councilmember Cortese provided additional information about the gas company’s plans for an upgraded system. He provided specific details as to where, what streets, this work is going to occur. Currently, the work will probably begin in April.

Mayor Druetzler stated this will be a very large project – it will involve five miles of roadway and roads will need to dug up. It will be disruptive and notices will be sent out to residents as appropriate. Littleton Road and Park Road are two streets that will be done. He believes it will take six months to complete the necessary work. He also spoke about road paving as well as providing certain other details of the work to be done.

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATION, PETITIONS, ETC.

Mayor Druetzler opened the meeting to the public. Seeing none, Mayor Druetzler closed the meeting to the public.

Mayor Druetzler asked that the letter(s) that Ms. Peterson brought be given to him.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Councilmember Cortese introduced the following ordinance and read the same by title and moved that it be passed on First Reading.

ORDINANCE No. 2-2016
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION
LIMITS
AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Councilmember Karr seconded the motion.

Mayor Druetzler stated that they do not expect to be above the cap rate for taxes. This is a protection method.

Yeas: Councilmembers McCluskey, Cecala, Cortese, Fu, Karr
Nays: None
Absent: Councilmember Doherty
Abstain: None

Thereupon, Councilmember Cortese offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the above ordinance was introduced and read by title at this meeting on February 4th 2016 and passed on First Reading.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that at a meeting to be held on February 18th 2016 at 8:30 PM prevailing time in the Municipal Building in the said Borough, this Council will further consider for Second Reading and final passage of said ordinance.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of this Borough be and she is hereby directed to publish and mail the proper notice therefor, including the ordinance, post the ordinance on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building and make copies available to members of the general public.

Councilmember McCluskey seconded the resolution. Voice vote. All in favor.

Councilmember Cortese introduced the following ordinance and read the same by title and moved that it be passed on First Reading.

ORDINANCE No. 3-2016

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALKS IN AND ALONG A PORTION OF SPEEDWELL AVENUE IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$268,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$255,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION.

Councilmember Cecala seconded the motion.

Yeas: Councilmembers McCluskey, Cecala, Cortese, Fu, Karr
Nays: None
Absent: Councilmember Doherty
Abstain: None

Thereupon, Councilmember Cortese offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the above ordinance was introduced and read by title at this meeting on February 4th 2016 and passed on First Reading.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that at a meeting to be held on February 18th 2016 at 8:30 PM prevailing time in the Municipal Building in the said Borough, this Council will further consider for Second Reading and final passage of said ordinance.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of this Borough be and she is hereby directed to publish and mail the proper notice therefor, including the ordinance, post the ordinance on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building and make copies available to members of the general public.

Councilmember McCluskey seconded the resolution. Voice vote. All in favor.

Councilmember Cortese introduced the following ordinance and read the same by title and moved that it be passed on First Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 4- 2016

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE \$25,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL FUND BALANCE FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Mayor Druetzler stated these improvements will be at Community Park and Community Park Pool.

Councilmember Cecala seconded the motion.

Yeas: Councilmembers McCluskey, Cecala, Cortese, Fu, Karr
Nays: None
Absent: Councilmember Doherty
Abstain: None

Thereupon, Councilmember Cortese offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the above ordinance was introduced and read by title at this meeting on February 4th 2016 and passed on First Reading.

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AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of this Borough be and she is hereby directed to publish and mail the proper notice therefor, including the ordinance, post the ordinance on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building and make copies available to members of the general public.

Councilmember Karr seconded the resolution. Voice vote. All in favor.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

None.

RESOLUTIONS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

VOUCHERS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Karr moved that the Regular Meeting be adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Seconded by Councilmember McCluskey. Voice vote. All in favor.

Frank J. Druetzler, Mayor

June Uhrin, Borough Clerk