

Minutes of the Conference Meeting of the Borough Council held March 3rd 2016, at 7:37 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, Council President

Joseph Cecala, Jr.

Salvatore Cortese

John Doherty

Laurie J. Fu

Jason C. Karr

Absent: None

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mayor Druetzler asked if anyone had any Consent Calendar questions.

Mayor Druetzler stated one more item will be added. He stated on the issues related to the paving work done on American Road. The Borough was to pay for two sections which would be out to West Hanover Avenue while the County would do the two other sections. Last year the County performed paving work; however, even after being reminded by both the Mayor and Mr. Hall, the County did not perform the work it previously agreed to do. Since then Mayor Druetzler has advised the County that this work must be done sometime this year. There is now a new agreement with the County that the Borough will perform the work and the County will reimburse the Borough.

Councilmember Karr remarked on the Resolution relating to cancellation of prior year checks stating there are additional checks that may be in this same category in the future as letters were sent out recently relating to this same issue.

Mayor Druetzler reported on Mrs. Pearl Law's recuperation from a recent illness, especially since she has been a long-time volunteer with the Borough. Food gifts were sent to her to help her fully recover.

Councilmember McCluskey updated all on the availability of the affordable housing applications and details regarding the submission process. Mr. Riccio has offered to hold two information sessions at the Community Center where people can have their applications reviewed for accuracy and correctness.

Cross discussion regarding other matters related to the affordable housing processes.

Councilmember McCluskey advised that she believes the deadline will be sometime in April. It will mean that at this point all applications submitted will become the “pool” from which the lottery will occur. She believes there will be sufficient time for all applicants to complete the applications. Applicants will be notified when the lottery will be held. Social Security payments count as unearned income.

Councilmember Karr reported on Rosanne’s soon-to-be-completed certification course as well as other training that Clerk’s Office personnel will enroll in the fall. He explained that beginning with the April 7th 2016 Council meeting the Borough Clerk and Rosanne will be alternating attendance at these meetings. He advised of a recent meeting with the Clerk’s Office personnel to discuss work responsibilities and preparation of a written document addressing same. He also advised that the Clerk recently received the financial disclosures instructions from the State.

Councilmember Cecala reported on Department of Public Works (DPW) personnel issues.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Councilmember McCluskey:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Resolution No. 2016-41 entitled, “Executive Session” be adopted.

Seconded by Councilmember Cecala. 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 McCluskey.

Frank J. Druetzler, Mayor

June R. Uhrin, Borough Clerk

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Borough Council held March 3rd 2016 at 8:40 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

Jack Doherty

Laurie J. Fu

Jason C. Karr

Absent: None

Absent: Gail Fraser, Esq.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember McCluskey moved:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Executive, Conference and the Regular Meetings of February 18th 2016 be approved.

Seconded by Councilmember Cortese. So ordered.

Voice vote. All in favor.

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

Tax Collector, January 2016

Treasurer, January 2016

Police Department, February 2016

THAT Resolution No. 2016-42 entitled, "BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS TAX IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT," be adopted as attached.

THAT Resolution No. 2016-43 entitled, "RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CANCELLATION OF PRIOR YEAR CHECKS," be adopted as attached.

THAT Resolution No. 2016-44 entitled, “BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS RESOLUTION OF CONCURRENCE FOR A “NO PASSING ZONE” AT ROUTE 53 AND TO SUBMIT A TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,” be adopted as attached.

THAT the Mayor and Clerk be and they are authorized to execute the Developer’s Agreement with New York SMSA Limited Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, regarding Board of Adjustment Application No. BA-1-15 concerning property located at 45 Tabor Road, Block 141, Lot 2.02, Morris Plains in the form approved by the Borough Attorney.

THAT the Mayor and Clerk be and they are authorized to execute the Developer’s Agreement with Dayton Developers, LLC, regarding Board of Adjustment Application No. BA-2-15 concerning property located at 453 and 463 Speedwell Avenue & 8 Dayton Road, Morris Plains in the form approved by the Borough Attorney.

THAT Matthew Osborne be promoted to the position of Laborer, in the Department of Public Works, granted the appropriate hourly increase, effective March 1st 2016.

THAT Morris Plains Cooperative Playschool be granted permission to hold a student/family picture day at Roberts Garden, Saturday, April 30th and Sunday, May 1st 2016, with a rain date of Saturday, May 14th and Sunday, May 15th 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

THAT the Mayor and Clerk be and they are authorized to execute the agreement with the County of Morris for a project entitled “Milling & Resurfacing of the American Road at East Hanover.

Seconded by Councilmember Cecala.

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

GREETINGS OF PUBLIC AND INVITATION FOR DISCUSSION

Mayor Druetzler opened this portion of the meeting to comments from the public. Seeing no one, he closed the public portion of this meeting.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND/OR DEPARTMENT HEADS

Finance

Councilmember Karr reported that the quarterly Safety meeting was held on Thursday, February 25th 2016.

Councilmember Karr reported that the Delta Dental contract rates were received also the Auditors were here last week.

Councilmember Karr reported on the refurbishing of the railings at the 9-11 Memorial Site.

Public Safety

Councilmember McCluskey reported on the railroad service contingency plan in case of a strike on March 13th 2016.

There was brief cross discussion regarding the railroad service contingency plan.

Councilmember McCluskey reported on a drill that the Fire Department held recently with New Jersey Transit in case of an emergency on the tracks.

Councilmember McCluskey reported that the New Jersey Hall of Fame Mobile Museum will be coming to Morris Plains – a prize she won in a raffle at the November Conference. The Museum will be at the Farmers' Market in July.

Chief Kohn reported of a communication he has received from Dave Helmer in connection with Central Park. There is nothing “big” scheduled for March; the largest event will attract approximately 90 to 125 attendees. Chief Kohn reported that Officer Bob Guild will be receiving the MADD Award for 2015 at a presentation on June 16th 2016. A total of 72 applications are out for the Patrolman position with 20 having been returned; the deadline is tomorrow Friday, March 4th 2016.

Chief Kohn reported that the Prosecutor's Office scheduled a “drug take-back” event for Saturday, April 30th 2016 at Stop & Shop.

Councilmember McCluskey asked Chief Kohn to make sure he passes this information along to the Borough's Webmaster.

Cross discussion about bringing unneeded/unwanted drugs to this event as well as other drop-off locations that are available.

Chief Kohn reported that the Borough will be receiving a JIF Safety Incentive Award in the amount of \$750. The DPW staff is working on floor repairs in the old Dispatch Room and will also be doing some painting.

Mayor Druetzler reported that he spoke with Mike Koroski regarding construction vehicles on Central Avenue between 7 and 8.

Chief Kohn stated he spoke with Lt. Koroski about this and an Officer was sent to Central Avenue to speak with the foreman regarding the issues. The foreman does not believe his employees are involved as two were fired recently. The situation continues to be monitored and I will advise Mayor Druetzler.

Public Works

Councilmember Cecala stated that all should have a copy of Superintendent Signorelli's report. Much of the interior work that was contained on Councilmember Fu's list has been completed.

Councilmember Cecala provided a copy of the deer cull report for all Councilmembers; the season ended last Saturday, February 27th 2016.

Councilmember Cecala reported on the recent Beautification Committee meeting and provided information on some of the projects the group would like to work on this season. There will be a meeting on Sunday to check out some of the areas of several projects, including one where the group would like to install a metal trellis – the DPW staff may be able to not only install a trellis, but actually create it, too.

Cross discussion about other projects the Beautification Committee may want to do once spring and summer arrive; some involve clean-up of brush, vines, shrubs, bushes, broken branches, and dead trees.

Mayor Druetzler commented that in one of the areas on Route 53 near the wall may be an area where New Jersey Transit periodically sprays.

Councilmember McCluskey advised that Nancy Critchley has discussed the possibility of getting goats to use at Community Park to help control weeds and grasses, particularly where the park goes up to the Pool.

Public Buildings & Grounds

Councilmember Fu reported that the Recreation Commission met last week and reminded all of the Easter Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt to be held on Saturday, March 19th 2016.

Councilmember Fu reported that Little League Opening Day is on Saturday, April 16th 2016.

Councilmember Fu reported that the Swimming Pool now has its own web site that it is up and running. She advised of a meeting held at the Borough School that also included Recreation Commission members and several DPW staff members to discuss issues relating to the fields. There will be a Pool meeting in the near future between Recreation Commissioners and the Pool managers. The DPW painted the interior of the Teen Center and it looks wonderful.

Councilmember Fu reported that the Parade Committee met last week and there will be lots of surprises in store for everyone. There was also a meeting with the Eagle Scout who will be coordinating the bench inventory.

Public Welfare, Sanitation & Sewers

Councilmember Doherty reported on recycling matters, including a meeting that was held with several members of the MUA and the Recycling Committee. A credit (\$136.33) will be given on the next bill to the Borough in connection with the charges for the wet items picked up. The contract is being worked on and will be ready for July 1st 2016. There will be a Recycling Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center on March 23rd 2016. He invited all who would like to attend to do so.

Councilmember Doherty reported that the Municipal Alliance and Teen Center meetings will be held shortly.

Ordinance & Public Utilities

Councilmember Cortese read a portion of a letter he received from Neil Torino from the vo-tech school. This portion essentially was thanking the Borough for its continued interest and support of the vo-tech activities and the school itself; he also advised he will be retiring, but will "break in" his replacement before leaving.

Councilmember Cortese reported on his meeting with Dave from Morris Township; relating to the Airbnb issues in the Township as well as other areas.

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATION, PETITIONS, ETC.

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

Councilmember Cecala stated that Sunday, March 13th 2016, is the Fire Department Breakfast. It includes a 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas Church and the Breakfast follows at 10:00 a.m. at the Vernon Volunteer Fire Department.

Brief cross discussion about invitations to the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Parade in Morristown.

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. 5-2016

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION AND ACCEPTANCE OF A MODIFICATION AND RECONFIGURATION OF AN EXISTING PERPETUAL EASEMENT FOR PUBLIC SANITARY SEWER PURPOSES ON BLOCK 171, LOT 1 IN THE BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS, KNOWN AS 250 JOHNSON ROAD

Councilmember Cecala seconded the motion.

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

Thereupon, Councilmember Cortese offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the above ordinance was introduced and read by title at this meeting on March 3rd 2016 and passed on First Reading.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that at a meeting to be held on March 17th 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. 6-2016

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A PERPETUAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT DEDICATED AND CONVEYED TO THE BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS ON BLOCK 171, LOT 1 IN THE BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS

Councilmember Karr seconded the motion.

Mayor Druetzler provided an explanatory statement on this ordinance which relates to the appointment of the Borough Engineer as this Administrator.

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

Thereupon, Councilmember Cortese offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the above ordinance was introduced and read by title at this meeting on March 3rd 2015 and passed on First Reading.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED at a meeting to be held on March 17th 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 Doherty 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 Cecala moved that the Regular Meeting be adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Seconded by Councilmember McCluskey.

Frank J. Druetzler, Mayor

June R. Uhrin, Borough Clerk