

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
January 26, 2022
6:30 P.M.**

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Council President Triggiano requested the minutes reflect that, in compliance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231 (Open Public Meetings Act), notice of this meeting has been provided by notifying the Asbury Park Press, the Two River Times and the Star Ledger and by placing a notice on the bulletin board and filing same with the Borough Clerk on December 15, 2021.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council Members Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard and Zipprich.

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Administrator McConnell, Borough Clerk Borghi and Attorney Cannon.

ABSENT: Mayor Menna and Councilwoman Horgan (joined at 6:48pm)

*Meeting held via video/telephone conference due to Governor's Executive Order.

PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

a. Proclamations

- a. Councilwoman Sturdivant read a proclamation honoring Laura Kolodziej as a Governor's Educator of the Year 21-22 for the Red Bank Primary School.

Ms. Kolodziej thanked the Council for the honor.

Councilmembers commended and congratulated Ms. Kolodziej.

- b. Councilman Zipprich read a proclamation honoring Nancy Pape as a Governor's Educator of the Year 21-22 for the Red Bank Middle School. He commended Ms. Pape on the recognition.

Ms. Pape thanked the Council and said she felt fortunate to be in a school district like Red Bank.

Councilmembers commended and congratulated Ms. Pape.

- c. Councilman Ballard read a proclamation honoring Liliana Carvajal as an Educational Services Professional of the Year 21-22 for the Red Bank Borough Public Schools

Ms. Carvajal thanked the Council for the recognition.

Councilmembers commended and congratulated Ms. Carvajal.

Superintendent Ramage thanked the Council for recognizing the educators.

Councilwoman Horgan joined the meeting at 6:48pm. She commended the school district and Superintendent Ramage for all of his hard work. She also commended the teachers, principals and the children who worked so hard. She also noted the difficulties they had had to deal with during COVID.

- b. Appointments

All appointments were carried to the next meeting since the Mayor was not in attendance.

- i. Board of Health appointments

Three years to 12/31/2024

Michael Natelli

Three years to 12/31/2024

Kristina Jack

Member to unexpired three year term ending 12/31/2022

Patricia Montegros

Member to unexpired three year term ending 12/31/2023

Ronald Costa

Alternate #1 for unexpired two year term ending 12/31/2022

Joel Jannone

Alternate #2 for two year term ending 12/31/2023

Magdalena Karafotakis

ii. Historic Preservation Commission Class 2 and Alternate #2

iii. Finance Committee Chair

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

Suzanne Viscomi—25 Cedar Street—asked about Ordinance 2022-01. She asked if the Borough was setting a precedent in paying for the water service replacements on Broad Street. She asked what they would say to families who had paid for the work on their properties. She asked if they could confirm how much money was received for the Federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. She also asked if that was the only “COVID money” received. She asked if the public would ever get a listing of how much money was truly received in COVID money and where the money had gone to.

Council President Triggiano said she believed those questions would be addressed when they got to the Public Hearing on the Ordinance.

Interim Administrator McConnell said he could address some of Ms. Viscomi’s questions now. He said regarding setting a precedent, the policy was outlined in the Code. He said, when they replaced a water main, the Borough would replace the laterals up to the curb stop. He said, when the Borough did not upgrade a main, it was the responsibility of the property owner which he noted was also outlined in the Code.

CFO Swisher reviewed the amount of money received from the Federal Government and the timing of when it was or would be received. He said there would certain things the money could be used for and said water/sewer projects were specifically mentioned. He said they had suggested using it on this project because they knew the Borough would get full reimbursement. He said, if they spent on something that might not be reimbursable, they might have to give the money back.

IA McConnell said he believed they were using the full amount of the ARAP money.

CFO Swisher said that was correct.

Councilman Zipprich asked if he was referring to the 2021 ARAP money.

Mr. Swisher said half of the money had come in 2021 and the other half would come in 2022. He said the announcement had been for the full amount.

Councilman Ballard asked if the total amount was approximately \$1.2 million.

Mr. Swisher said it was slightly less and was \$1.175 million.

Council President Triggiano asked if that answered all of Ms. Viscomi's questions.

Ms. Viscomi said it did.

No one else appearing, Councilwoman Horgan offered a motion to close the Public Comment period, Councilman Ballard seconded.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

MINUTES & REPORTS

Regular Meeting Minutes of 11/23/2021

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Triggiano, Ballard, Zipprich and Horgan

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: Sturdivant

There being four ayes, no nays and one abstention, the motion was declared approved.

Workshop Meeting Minutes of 12/1/2021

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Triggiano, Ballard, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: Sturdivant

There being four ayes, no nays and one abstention, the motion was declared approved.

Regular Meeting Minutes of 12/15/2021

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilman Ballard.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Triggiano, Ballard and Zipprich.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: Sturdivant and Horgan

There being three ayes, no nays and two abstentions, the motion was declared approved.

ORDINANCES - Public Hearing/Adoption:

No ordinance for Public Hearing/Adoption.

ORDINANCES – First Reading:

2021-01: Council President Triggiano read, “Capital Ordinance Appropriating \$1,288,446.65 to Pay for the Replacement of the Water Main and Water Laterals on Broad Street, in and by the Borough of Red Bank, in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey.”

Councilwoman Horgan offered a motion to introduce the ordinance, Councilman Zipprich seconded.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

Clerk Borghi announced the Public Hearing would be held on 2/9/2022 at 6:30 pm.

2021-02: Council President Triggiano read, “Ordinance Amending Article II: “Office of the Mayor” of Chapter 85: “Mayor and Council” and Article VI: “Borough Administrator” of Chapter 90: “Officers and Employees” of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Red Bank.”

Councilwoman Sturdivant offered a motion to introduce the ordinance, Councilman Zipprich seconded.

Council President Triggiano expressed concerns about portions of the ordinance particularly the residency requirement for a future Borough Administrator. She questioned why that was put into the draft ordinance and how it would benefit the Borough.

Councilwoman Horgan said she had not received the draft ordinance until that afternoon and had not had time to read it. She said she would like to table the matter so it could be discussed in Workshop because there was a lot to digest. She said she did not feel she was ready to vote on it at this meeting.

Councilman Zipprich said the ordinance had been crafted by the Borough Attorney at the direction of Councilwoman Sturdivant. He also said the ordinance had been workshopped at the first Workshop Meeting in January of 2022.

A discussion followed on the timeline.

Councilwoman Horgan again said she had received it that afternoon and agreed that it had been discussed briefly at Workshop but said she would like to have more time to review the final rendition of the document.

Councilman Zipprich said it was not the final rendition and said it was on for introduction. He said it reverted back to the Borough Administrator Ordinance that the Borough had operated under previously.

Councilwoman Horgan said she wanted to repeat that she was not prepared to vote on it even for introduction. She said she was asking the Council to allow the Ordinance to be put on the next Workshop Agenda so they could all read it thoroughly. She also again stated she had not received it until that afternoon.

Councilwoman Triggiano said she understood what Councilman Zipprich was stating regarding the fact that they had had a discussion on the issue but said she also understood what Councilwoman Horgan was stating about details in the Ordinance. She also detailed her own concerns about the residency requirement and loss of the ability of the Administrator to hire.

Councilwoman Sturdivant said the Ordinance stated a preference for the person to live in Red Bank but also had a provision that they could move within six months. She said, if that was not acceptable, they had flexibility. She said it was not a job requirement but said it was added to have a preference for the person in the role to live in Red Bank.

Councilman Ballard said he wanted to add that the residency requirement did not mean that only those who live in Red Bank could apply or be hired. He said the ordinance stated that, within six months of being hired, they would be required to move to the community they were serving. He said, in his opinion, they could change that to one year. He said the Council could also waive that requirement. He said he thought it was a good thing to have someone who was ultimately making all of the decisions for the Borough to be part of the community. He compared it to the requirement for Council members to live in the community. He said it was not restrictive and said it was flexible.

Councilwoman Horgan said Councilman Ballard made some good points but said she felt it was restrictive. She questioned why they should have the provision. She said she thought the pool of candidates would be very restricted. She said she would expect the Administrator to live within a reasonable distance. She said she did not think it was a good move for government to require someone to move. She it was different for elected officials.

Councilman Zipprich said the ordinance was only on for introduction. He said he appreciated the comments and said they could work with the Borough Attorney to tweak it and clean up the language.

Attorney Cannon said, if the ordinance was by a substantive amount, it would have to be reintroduced.

Councilwoman Triggiano asked if a change to the residency requirement would be cause to have it reintroduced.

Attorney Cannon said he liked to err on the side of reintroducing.

A discussion continued regarding the language in that particular section of the ordinance and the difference in hiring practices between the current ordinance and the proposed ordinance.

Council President Triggiano said there had been a motion and a second. She called for a vote.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Ballard and Zipprich.

NAYS: Triggiano and Horgan.

There being three ayes and two nays, the motion was declared approved.

Clerk Borghi announced the Public Hearing would be held on 2/9/2022 at 6:30 pm.

RESOLUTIONS

By Consent Agenda:

- Resolution 22-30: Resolution for Payment of Bills Amounting to \$467,989.91
- Resolution 22-31: Resolution Authorizing Water/Sewer Refund due to Overpayment
- Resolution 22-32: A Resolution Calling For Monmouth County To Implement Safe Pedestrian Crosswalks On Shrewsbury Avenue Between Newman Springs Road And Monmouth Street
- Resolution 22-33: Resolution Accepting The Resignation Of Recreation Director Louis Dal Pra
- Resolution 22-34: Resolution Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Shrewsbury for Emergency Medical Services
- Resolution 22-35: Resolution Authorizing Change Order No. 1 Related To The Contract With Z Brothers Concrete Contractors, Inc. For The Spring Street Improvements Project
- Resolution 22-36: A Resolution Requesting the NJDOT to Evaluate the Need for a Traffic Light at the Intersection of State Highway 35/Riverside Avenue and Bodman Place.
- Resolution 22-37: Resolution Authorizing the Borough of Red Bank to Participate in the Nationwide Settlement Agreements with Johnson & Johnson, Mckesson, Cardinal Health, and Amerisourcebergen to Resolve Claims Involving Their Roles in the National Opioid Crisis
- Resolution 22-38: Resolution Awarding a Contract for the Emergency Replacement of Water Main and Water Services on Broad Street to Montana Construction Corp., Inc. in the Amount of \$1,400,000.00.
- Resolution 22-39: Resolution Awarding a Contract for the Emergency Repair of Sanitary Sewer Lines at the Intersection of Canal Street and Hudson Avenue to Montana Construction Corp., Inc. in the Amount of \$222,021.00
- Resolution 22-40: Resolution Appointing Robert W. Swisher, C.P.A. as Chief Financial Officer

Councilwoman Horgan said she wanted to comment on Resolution 22-33 to accept the resignation of Louis "Del" Dal Pra. She thanked him for his service and said he had made a powerful impact.

Councilwoman Horgan offered a motion to approve the resolutions en masse, seconded by Councilman Zipprich.

Councilman Ballard said he had a question regarding Resolution 22-40 appointing Robert W. Swisher as Chief Financial Officer. He asked for confirmation that Mr. Swisher would be working for the Borough part time.

IA McConnell explained that Mr. Swisher would serve as CFO covering the statutory requirements of the position. He said, separately, Mr. Swisher's firm would be providing financial services.

Councilman Ballard asked for confirmation that this would not lock the Borough into a part time CFO and that they would be able to return to a full time CFO in the future.

Councilwoman Triggiano said that was correct.

Councilwoman Sturdivant asked the Borough Attorney to confirm.

Attorney Cannon confirmed.

Councilman Ballard said he wanted to confirm that there was nothing barring them from advertising for a full time CFO while Mr. Swisher was in the role.

Councilwoman Triggiano said that was correct and said Mr. Swisher had been hired in a very specific manner that had been discussed in Executive Session in detail. She said she also wanted to stress that there was currently ample and adequate staff working on the Borough's finances.

Councilman Ballard said he wanted to make clear to the public that they were not changing the CFO position to part time permanently.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Zipprich reported that a winter storm was predicted over the weekend and asked everyone to get their cars off of the street so the snowplows could plow curb to curb. He also reported that the Reussille's clock had been knocked down in a traffic accident. He said the clock had been secured in the Public Works Department pending restoration.

Councilman Ballard said the Code Committee had met on January 5 and introduced Councilwoman Sturdivant to the Committee. He said reviewed the staff that they had met with to meet everyone and set goals for the coming year. He said it had been a very productive meeting and said he looked forward to a productive year. He also reported that the Red Bank Housing Authority was currently interviewing for a full time Executive Director and said they would be having a meeting the following night to interview the final candidates.

Councilwoman Sturdivant said she had attended a Human Relations Advisory Committee meeting and said they had had some concerns about accessibility on Broad Street. She said she wanted to share their concerns with the Council and said, as work was being done on Broad Street, they should take accessibility into concern. She said the Committee was concerned that the one handicapped space on Broad Street had been removed so there was no handicapped parking available. She also said there were also issues with walking around the table and chairs for people who had difficulty walking or who had a stroller or walker. She said there were also concerns about holes in the street and on the sidewalks.

Councilwoman Triggiano said if someone had the proper handicapped hanger in their car, they could park in any spot and asked IA McConnell to confirm.

IA McConnell said that correct and said they would be exempt from meters.

Councilwoman Triggiano said she understood the concerns about tables and said she had walked Broad Street with a gentleman who was a wheelchair user. She said they had been able to navigate Broad Street to make sure he was comfortable and confident navigating it. She said she would welcome the return of Broadwalk. She said that would be a wonderful thing for the HRAC to spearhead to have people navigate areas of town and bring the comments to the HRAC so they could be worked out. She thanked Councilwoman Sturdivant for bring the report forward.

Clerk Borghi said she wanted to note that part of the process for the sidewalk cafes and Broad Street tables was to be reviewed by Code Enforcement. She said they were measured for ADA compliance and everything was set at the time of the application. She said they understood that the tables and chairs could shift and move so suggested if anyone noticed an issue, they should report it to Code Enforcement. She said the application included a drawing of the proposed area including measurements and they had to remain in compliance with the drawing.

Councilwoman Horgan again thanked Mr. Dal Pra for his service to the Parks & Recreation Department. She offered an update on Spring Sports programs and the annual Spring Egg Hunt. She reported the Summer Camp registration would open April 1. For the Library, she reported that they had two new data bases available and could use their library cares to access to fine art and hand crafting classes. She said they were still offering curb side service and, while people could not go into the library, she said they were open for business and reviewed the ways patrons could access library services.

Councilwoman Triggiano said she had no report for the Environmental Commission or the Police Department. Regarding the Fire Department, she thanked everyone for their strong work at a recent fire at the boat dock as well as a fire at a Shrewsbury Avenue business. She also thanked Little Silver for their aid.

DISCUSSION & ACTION

Council President Triggiano read the following requests:

- a. Acknowledgement of the Red Bank Shade Tree Committee New Jersey Urban and Community Forestry Program Annual Accomplishment Report for 2021

b. RiverCenter Event Dates for 2022 (Approvals for dates only, all events are subject to final plan approval by Special Events Committee)

i. Wedding Walk-Sunday, March 20th-Various locations

ii. International Food & Wine Festival – Sunday, Apr 24 – White Street Parking Lot

iii. Red Bank Farmer’s Market-Sundays, May 9 – Nov 20 – Galleria Parking Lot

iv. Red Bank Classic 5K-Saturday, June 18 – Broad and Monmouth streets

v. Streetlife – Saturdays, June through Aug, 6-9pm, throughout town

vi. Guinness Oyster Festival – Sunday, Sept 25 (rain date Oct 2), Noon-6pm – White St Parking Lot

vii. Town Lighting & Holiday Concert – Friday, Nov 25, 7pm

viii. Holiday Harmonies – Weekends, Nov-Dec, 12 to 3 pm, throughout town

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to approve the requests, seconded by Councilman Ballard.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None.

There being five ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

Councilman Zipprich left the meeting at 7:53 pm

PUBLIC COMMENT (Governmental Issues, 5 Minute Limit)

Stephen Hecht—135 Branch Avenue—asked if the Borough was still recruiting for a CFO and, if not, why.

Council President Triggiano said she would try to answer without going into personnel matters or other topics that couldn't be discussed in public. She said the work taken on by the interim CFO after the previous CFO had left had been extensive and complicated. She said an interruption of their work would not be beneficial.

Mr. Hecht said the answer was clearly “no” that they were not recruiting for a full time CFO. He asked if that was correct.

Council President Triggiano said not to her knowledge but said she hoped her previous statement gave some clarity regarding the current status.

Angela Mirandi—8 West Lake Road—asked about the Capital Ordinance and the \$113,000 that was being used from the Water Surplus. She asked how much money was in the surplus account. She also noted the Capital Ordinance was for \$1.288 million but Resolution 22-38 to pay the contractor was for \$1.4 million. She said her third question was regarding the water main replacement and noted the Borough Engineer said she was not aware of any pressure issues. She asked if due diligence had been done by reaching out to businesses to see if there were any issues.

CFO Swisher said the caller was correct in that the total cost of the project was \$1.4 million and the ordinance introduced was for approximately \$1.2. He said the difference of \$111,000 was part of a previous Ordinance adopted in 2021 that had funds left over.

Ms. Mirandi asked how much was in the Water/Sewer surplus account.

Mr. Swisher said there was more than that in there but said he did not have that information available at the moment.

Ms. Mirandi asked about the approximately \$2 million in government funding and asked if that was the total of the two payments.

CFO Swisher said that was correct.

Ms. Mirandi said her last question was to ask if due diligence was done in reaching out to businesses and/or property owners to see if there were pressure issues.

IA McConnell said they had not gone to each business to check the pressure but had checked the pressure of the main. He said that was because the pressure of each business was controlled by the service that provided the water from the main. He said they were not aware of any deterioration in pressure from the main. He said the problems was the age and general condition of the main made it susceptible to failure.

Alecia Wilkerson—107 River Street—said at one time there had been an ordinance that there was no parking on the street when it snowed. She asked if it was still in effect.

Councilwoman Triggiano said there was still an ordinance prohibiting parking on the street and said arrangements could be made. She said Borough parking lots were available for residents that were without driveways.

Ms. Wilkerson said she was asking because during the last snow, many individuals on River Street had not moved their cars. She asked for assurance that, if there was a heavy snow fall, the rule would be put in place.

Councilwoman Triggiano said that it would. She encouraged all residents to sign up with Civic Alert and reviewed the way the Borough had reached out to tell residents that they had to move their cars.

Phil Blackwood—34 Chestnut Street—said he had three comments. First, he said he wanted to commend the CFO for his comment for how the ARAP money would be used. He said he felt it should be used for purposes that were clearly stated in the act. He said his second comment was that, as he understood it, under State law a municipality could not move to a Borough form of government. He said he interpreted that to mean that the Borough form of government was on its way out and was officially discouraged. He said he felt that the ordinance that would return the function to the old way was taking the Borough backwards. He said he did not want the Council members involved in the day to day operations of the Borough. He said if IA McConnell wanted their help on day to day operations, he could ask for help. He said he thought it would cause a problem with people not understanding who they reported to. He said he would like the Council to focus on the big picture and long term things. He said he thought that was part of the appeal of Jacqueline Sturdivant's campaign which was that she had experience doing that. He said he also wanted to speak on climate change and said he wanted the Council to start thinking about allocating one percent of the budget to climate mitigation.

Councilman Ballard said he wanted to respond to say that the ordinance regarding the Borough Administrator would still leave the Administrator will all of the administrative oversight of the day to day operations. He said it did not give elected officials the right to run day to day operations. He said the employees knew exactly who their supervisors were. He said Councilmembers had no desire to get involved with day to day operations. He claimed that the Borough had lost 15 employees who could not function under the Business Administrator function.

Council President Triggiano asked Councilman Ballard to err on the side of caution when it came to why personnel did or did not leave the Borough. She said they were also limited as to what they could say in public session.

Councilman Ballard claimed to have direct knowledge.

Alan Hill—64 McLaren Street—said he wanted to speak regarding two resolutions on the agenda concerning road safety and crossings. He asked why those two specific locations had been chosen and what data had been used in making those choices. He said he had heard a traffic study mentioned several times and asked why that had not been used to formulate those points. He read a definition of the word "traffic" and felt a traffic study should include more than just cars. He also said he understood that streets in Red Bank were subject to three different authorities which were State, County and town. He said he felt those three different authorities might have three different aims. He said he wanted reassurance that everyone was acting together. He said he also had a question about traffic stops and asked how many stops there were per month including those that did not result in a ticket or any action by the officer. He asked if every stop was logged.

IA McConnell said he did not have the numbers in front of him but estimated there were between 350 and 450 traffic stops per month. He said they documented how many summonses were issued but said the number fluctuated. He said he estimated an average of 50 percent received summonses. He said every traffic stop was documented at the time of the stop and reviewed the process.

Councilwoman Triggiano said, in regard the resolutions mentioned, Resolution 22-32 was calling for Monmouth County to implement safe pedestrian crosswalks on Shrewsbury Avenue. She said that road was in County jurisdiction and said this was the Council taking action to call upon the County Commissioners to take action. She urged any interested residents to attend a County meeting to express their concerns. She said the other Resolution, 22-36, called upon the DOT to evaluate the need for a traffic light at an intersection that was within their jurisdiction. She said she shared Mr. Hill's concern that the Borough had many roads interwoven with different jurisdictions.

IA McConnell said the field work on the traffic study had been completed and said the Engineer was finalizing the report. He said it was not a complete report and only focused on certain areas of town.

Mr. Hill again asked how the areas that were the subject of the resolutions had been chosen. He said he also wanted to emphasize again that "traffic" meant everyone who used the roads. He asked if the study took into account the movement of people on sidewalks, bicycles, the timing of traffic lights, etc.

Councilwoman Horgan said they had had residents who had filed complaints about the certain areas that were the subject of the resolutions and that was why they were trying to get the work done.

IA McConnell said it was multi-faceted and included complaints, observations of officers, a high incidence of summonses or accidents, etc.

Councilwoman Triggiano again noted that the areas were not under Borough jurisdiction so they were calling on other agencies.

Phil Blackwood—34 Chestnut Street—said, like Councilwoman Horgan, he had not had a chance to read the ordinance regarding the change to the Borough Administrator role. He said, to clarify for Councilman Ballard, there was a State law regarding how to administer the bidding process. He reviewed the process and said, as he understood it, one person ran the process and Councilmembers did not get involved. He said he had seen Councilman Ballard insert himself in the middle of a bidding process. He said that was the type of thing he was talking about when he said he did not want Councilmembers involved in day to day business.

Councilman Ballard asked Mr. Blackwood to be specific on what bidding process he felt he had interfered with.

Mr. Blackwood said both Councilman Ballard and Councilman Zipprich had come in with a letter from a company that was trying to get a bid and they had not discussed it with the Borough Administrator. He said he had filed an OPRA request for the emails and said he felt it was clear that Councilman Zipprich was meddling with that. He said he did not want to comment further but said the point was that the Council was returning the Borough to a form of government that was officially discouraged by the State of New Jersey.

Cindy Burnham—71 Wallace Street—questioned Mr. Blackwood's comments. She said she wanted to comment on the water main project. She said, if the Borough was opening up all of Broad Street to fix the water main, they should talk to the businesses to check out the laterals and fix any problems now.

IA McConnell said they were replacing the laterals up to the curb stop and then it was the property owner's responsibility to make repairs from the curb stop into their building.

Suzanne Viscomi—25 Cedar Street—asked for an update on the investigation into the email leak.

IA McConnell said he had been in the Administrator position since May of 2021 and, to his knowledge, they had not spent any money on that issue. He also stated that they had not received a report.

Ms. Viscomi asked if there was a time frame for the matter.

IA McConnell said there was not and said it was in the hands of the attorney that had been hired.

Councilman Ballard said Mr. Blackwood had made some scandalous accusations against him and he was going to bring up the same matter that Ms. Viscomi just did. He said he felt they needed to ask the attorney to give them an update. He asked IA McConnell to put the matter on the next Workshop agenda.

John Jackson—133 East Bergen Place—said he wanted to respond to Mr. Blackwood's comments. He said he felt his comments on the Borough form of government were stated without a critical disclosure. He said Mr. Blackwood had a direct relationship with the Chairperson of the Charter Study Commission. He said he also wanted to second Mr. Blackwood's suggestion that the Council should take into consideration to prepare for climate change issues.

Councilwoman Triggiano said both she and her fellow Councilmembers have stood strong on environmental issues.

Cindy Burnham—71 Wallace Street—asked for clarification that the Borough hadn't paid the attorney to look into the issue of the leak.

IA McConnell said he could confirm that no bills had been paid since May when he took over as Interim Administrator.

Ms. Burnham said she would like to know how much money had been spent.

IA McConnell said he was not aware of any money being spent since he had been handling the matter. He said he could look into it.

Councilman Ballard asked that the information be available at the Workshop Meeting.

Angela Mirandi—8 West Lake Road—asked about the 350-450 traffic stops and expressed concerns about traffic safety in the Borough.

Tiffany Harris—1 Cedar Crossing—asked about the status of the Senior Center project.

IA McConnell said the plans were finalized and bid ready. He said he had been working with the CFO and Bond Counsel to have a bond ordinance prepared. He said once the ordinance and funding mechanism were in place, they could go out to bid.

Councilwoman Triggiano said the final result were the same plans that had been presented at the public meeting but said they did include some additions requested after the presentation.

A discussion followed on the bid process.

Memone Crystian—15 Marion Street—asked about the status of police body cameras.

IA McConnell said the funding for the cameras had been awarded in June in 2021 and had been incorporated into the budget. He said an order had been placed in July of 2021. He said the Department was still in the queue to receive the equipment. He said 38,000 officers across the State needed the equipment so there was a backlog.

No one else appearing, Councilwoman Horgan offered a motion to close the Public Comment period, Councilman Ballard seconded.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

22-40A The Borough Attorney read a resolution to adjourn to executive session to discuss Personnel-Parks and Recreation. No action to be taken.

Councilman Ballard offered a motion to adjourn to Executive Session, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

RESUME REGULAR BUSINESS

Councilwoman Horgan offered a motion to resume regular business, seconded by Councilman Ballard.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Ballard offered a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Borghi