

MINUTES
WORKSHOP MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
May 11, 2022 ♦ 6:30 P.M.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Mayor Menna 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: Mayor Menna, Council Members Triggiano, Mirandi, Ballard, Zipprich, and Horgan.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Sturdivant

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Administrator McConnell, Borough Clerk Reinertsen, Attorney Cannon, CFO Swisher, Engineer Herrman and Department Heads.

ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Menna reviewed Administration discussion items:

The resolution regarding the Monmouth County Bd. Of Commissioners Resolution Supporting the Creation Of A Parent's Bill Of Rights Concerning The Protection And Education Of Our Children was pulled from the agenda on unanimous decision of the Mayor and Councilmembers present.

- a. Award of Senior Center Project – The Engineer’s recommendation to award project base bid only was approved; the option for the alternate of movable walls was deemed not necessary. Resolution of award is listed on the consent agenda.
- b. Placement of Two Metal Signs (Riverside Gardens & Train Station) T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center – Was approved with the stipulation that the signage be discreet and reviewed by the Chair of the Historic Preservation Society.
- c. Housing & Community Development Network of NJ - Resolution #22-xx Support of Robust Federal Investments for Affordable Homes to House NJ

Councilwoman Triggiano summarized the resolution of support of Federal Investments for Affordable Housing indicating the Borough’s support of Affordable Housing. Mayor Menna explained the purpose of these type of resolutions was to was to express the borough’s support to the legislature

- d. Resolution #22-xx In Support Of Clean Water, Healthy Families, Good Jobs
- e. Borough Administrator Search – Mayor Menna noted the interim administrator is doing an extraordinary job however, there are some concerns by some councilmembers.

Councilman Ballard expressed concern that the Police Chief and Borough Administrator positions are both vital and hands on and feels that it would be appropriate to renew the search for a full time Borough Administrator.

Councilwoman Triggiano agrees the end goal is a full time Borough Administrator but is concerned that the timing may not be optimal as the form of government may be changing and there will be a lot of transition.

Councilwoman Horgan expressed her concern that the ordinance has a residency requirement that she feels limits the candidate pool.

Council consensus was that Chief McConnell is doing a good job but the position requires full time attention; search will move forward.

Councilwoman Mirandi suggested including the CFO search if a firm is contracted for the search.

The Borough Administrator will put some options together and present for the Council’s review.

- f. HRAC Committee Vacancies – The Chairman resigned and the Mayor supported the decision to appoint Pat Pinto. Councilman Ballard inquired if the Council needed to confirm the resignation and why is this the only position that the Mayor appoints the Chair. Atty. Cannon noted that it was not necessary unless the Borough “owed” the individual something. As to why the appointment is created that way, it pre-dates the current elected officials and there is no statutory reason.
- g. Resolution 22-102 Broadwalk Committee Resolution – Mayor Menna recommended that the following be appointed to the committee: Councilmembers Ballard, Triggiano and Zipprich, BA McConnell, Tom Welsch, Cliff Keen, Shawna Ebanks, Chief/Deputy of RBFD, John Arcaro and other stakeholders can be added to this ad hoc committee.

Councilman Zipprich divulged the desire for the council committee to establish a scope and strategy prior to opening it up to the other relevant parties; Mayor Menna had no objection.

Councilman Ballard expressed his vision of reaching out to a broader swath of stakeholders; restaurants, retail and residents.

- h. Resolution 22-109 Deed Restriction Amendment – The Rail
Atty Cannon noted there are no changes to the obligation or the number of units; the amendment is to the identifying number of the units themselves
- i. Ord 2022-09 Amending and Supplementing Chap 9, Art. IX, Shade Tree Committee Amending Sections 9-35 and 9-36 to Provide for the Appointment of Two Alternate – Council Consensus is affirmative.
- j. Shrewsbury Manor – Stormwater Easement: Atty Cannon noted this was an approved development the developer is required to dedicate a drainage easement to ensure the drainage is compatible with the borough’s system. This will result in an interest in real property for the borough and will require an ordinance to acquire the easement from the developer.

There was discussion summarizing the plan to address drainage concerns at the site of this development.

- k. Parks & Rec Director Vacancy – Discussion for Executive Session

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

- i. Report: Grants – April 2022
- ii. Report: Animal Control – April 2022
- iii. Report: Tax Assessor – April 2022
- iv. Report: Tax Collector – April 2022
- v. Report: Fire Department – April 2022
- vi. Report: Senior Center – April 2022
- vii. Report: Building/Construction – April 2022

Council had no questions on the reports as submitted.

ENGINEERING

IA McConnell noted that the resolutions presented were payment and award authorizations; T&M was not the engineer for the projects seeking payment.

Engineer Herrman was present and presented a status update for pump station mitigation. Councilman Zipprich asked of these projects were eligible for federal funding’ Engineer Herrman said it was possible.

CLERK

Resolution for pocket to place of a consumption license. April 2022 was provided for review.

Councilwoman Mirandi inquired on the status of Marine Park and the parking obligations. IA McConnell provided a summary and noted that the plan for the project was to create more green space. The project will include approximately 50 parking spots and there is no obligation to restore all the spots that were originally there.

FINANCE

CFO Swisher reviewed the listed resolutions and ordinance for the Mayor and Council.

Budget status – summarized meetings and phone conversations with the finance committee. Hoping to finalize the budget and provide or review by Friday; introducing for May 25th with hearing and adoption on June 22nd.

Preparing a presentation for public, date to be determined.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

There being no questions on the emergency management report, Fire Marshal Welsh commented on the senior rehabilitation project to be awarded. He stated the project will be overseen by the construction official, code enforcement and zoning as all projects are.

As a senior department head and resident he implores the Mayor and Council to diligently consider the importance of the administrator position as they move forward with the search for a full time appointment. This is vital for borough personnel, continuity, residents and efficient operations.

POLICE

Chief McConnell summarized the need for the appointment of the SLEOs (Special Law Enforcement Officers) and the time frame for scheduling. Also discussed was the appointment of a new police officer to the department.

Also discussed was the resurfacing of Spring Street and the feasibility for striping. A determination needs to be made if there is enough width to stripe the roadway and maintain engineering standards.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

DPU Director Keen divulged there are vehicle purchase resolutions pending, pending receipt of quotes from the MCIA for crane truck, aerial bucket truck a new roll off and a resolution to hire a new water and waste employee.

Director Keen explained the purchasing process with MCIA per the request for clarification from Councilman Ballard.

Asbestos abatement at Count Basie Park is underway; project was slightly delayed awaiting State remediation permit.

Brush collection is the same cycle as in previous years.

New hire, tree specialist, is working out very well. Pruning and trimming has seen a significant savings since this was brought in-house.

The road program and utility work was summarized for Council.

RECREATION

Councilwoman Mirandi questioned the 25% increase for summer staff; IA McConnell explained that the compensation for the summer camp counselors is paid through a grant that sets the rate.

Events and activities were noted.

LAND USE

Dir. Ebanks summarized the monthly report; there were no questions.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Monmouth County Bd. Of Commissioners Resolution Supporting the Creation Of A Parent's Bill Of Rights Concerning The Protection And Education Of Our Children

This resolution was pulled from the agenda upon unanimous agreement of Council.

Mayor Menna opened the floor to the public:

Jennifer Garcia, 30 Drummond Place – Divulged that she sent a letter to the Rec Council Committee recommending Oscar Salinas for the Director position and wanted to share this with the entire governing body. Outlined the assets Mr. Salinas brings to the position: experience, reputation, role model and demeanor. Important to note that Mr. Salinas has a very good “town culture” and is a great fit for the community.

Cyndy Burnham 71 Wallace St. – Status of the Redevelopment Agency dissolution and is the director still being paid?

Mayor Menna noted that the dissolution is pending State approval before it can be moved on. The Director is a salaried employee and still being paid. Atty. Cannon will have an RDA update after the public portion.

Laura Camargo, 182 Branch Ave. – Feels it is unfortunate that there will not be any police at the parks until mid-June. Feels there is a lot of rough housing at the parks and a lot of discussion on social media about this. Thinks a police officer would be better positioned at the parks than at Count Basie for traffic. Implored the Council to push for police presence at the parks.

MaryBeth Maida, 84 Branch Ave. – Echoed support for Mr. Salinas for the Director vacancy. Also noted a local survey conducted to have Council focus on local concerns that impact the community versus broader initiatives that will have zero impact. Ms. Maida provided examples of local concerns: driveways, trash, access, taxes, maintenance of local facilities, etc. The job of the governing body of Red Bank is to concentrate on Red Bank concerns.

Ann Kelterborn, 108 Herbert St. – Voice support for Mr. Salinas for the Director position.

Councilman Zipprich motioned to close the public portion; Councilwoman Horgan seconded the motion. All in favor: aye.

Atty Cannon reviewed the timeline for the dissolution of the Redevelopment Agency. An ordinance was drafted and forwarded to the State for review and approval; dissolution cannot take place until the State signs off on the boroughs request application for same. The DCA Director was unable to hear the application and it will be rescheduled.

Councilwoman Mirandi inquired on ceasing the salary paid for the RDA. Atty. Cannon stated that was a topic for executive session upon serving a Rice Notice to the relevant employee.

Councilman Ballard asked if the DCA could deny the dissolution? Atty. Cannon noted is was possible but unlikely.

Executive Session - It was noted that there was only one applicant still in the running for the Rec Director vacancy, the current employee did not receive a Rice notice. Therefore, there is no need for an executive session. Council can schedule a Special meeting to discuss personnel and move on the vacancy. Rice notices will be sent out with a tentative Special Meeting for Monday, May 16th at 6pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan. Roll call, unanimous, affirmative. 9:03PM

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Reinertsen