

# UNAPPROVED DRAFT



## MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ♦ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

JULY 13, 2023 ♦ 6:30PM

**SUNSHINE STATEMENT** This meeting is being held in accordance with the Public Laws of 1975, Chapter 231 and adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by a notice sent to Asbury Park Press, Two River Times and Star Ledger and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Building and on the municipal website. (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6)

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Portman read the Sunshine statement and led the assemblage in the pledge of allegiance

I. **ROLL CALL:** Present – Portman, Bonatakis, Facey-Blackwood, Forest, Jannone, Triggiano

Absent - Cassidy

II. **PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, APPOINTMENTS – RED BANK DAY**

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2023, the first Non-Partisan Municipal Election was held in the Borough of Red Bank, establishing the new Council-Manager form of government. Uniting not by affiliation or standing but by shared ideals and unalienable rights.

On July 1, 2023, a new governing body committed to the principles of democracy, opportunity, and equality for all were inaugurated to commit to the patriotic work of doing all they can to better the community they love.

We know the journey to perfect our Union is unending, and we are strong enough to be self-critical. We can look upon our imperfections and decide that it is within our power to more closely align with our highest ideals.

We reaffirm the belief that loving this wonderful community requires more than singing its praises or avoiding uncomfortable truths. It requires the willingness to speak out for what is right and to recognize that change depends on our actions, our attitudes, and the values we teach our children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, William Portman, Mayor of the Borough of Red Bank on behalf of the Borough Council, do hereby commit to fulfill our sacred trust to "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity". Fully understanding that these blessings are only what we make of them, and that our experiment in self-government gives work and purpose to each new generation.

III. **PRESENTATIONS - GRANT TO FUND THE RED BANK VARIOUS PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PHASE IV**

The purpose of the public hearing is to offer the general public an opportunity to make suggestions or comments, in writing or in person, concerning Red Bank Borough's Monmouth County Open Space Grant Application for the Red Bank Various Park Improvement Project Phase IV which will make needed recreation renovations at East Side Park, 272 Mechanic Street, Red Bank, NJ 07701; Block 15.01, Lot 16.01; and at Count Basie Park, 11 Henry Street, Red Bank, NJ 07701; Block 97.01, Lots 40 and 41.

BA McConnell summarized the grant application request and noted this hearing is a grant requirement for submittal. Award would be on going parks project (Phase IV) and work to commence next summer if awarded. This particular portion is for the baseball field #3 and the

basketball courts at Count Basie Park. The grant is for \$200,000 with a borough match of \$200,000. Would commence approximately 6 months after receipt of award; finalize design, prepare bid specifications, and go out to bid.

Councilmember Forest motioned to open the floor to the public; Councilmember Bonatakis seconded the motion.

Suzanne Viscomi 25 Cedar St. – The resolution says the borough is the owner of the project property, the school owns a parcel too will that be recognized? Assuming the borough portion will come from a bond? What happens to left over materials? What are the totals spent for labor versus administration fees?

*Atty. Cannon, noted the agreement in effect with the Bd. of Education permits control over the premises and projects impacting same.*

*BA McConnell stated the portion being worked on is borough owned portion. If awarded, the project may be funded through a bond, that is up to the Council. The borough is only charged on materials used. The project hasn't gone out to bid yet there may be an estimate in the engineer's proposal for those costs.*

Mayor read written comment received 7/12/23, Betsy Ford:

“There is an area of Count Basie Park that abuts the playground area of the Monmouth Daycare Center. It is currently planted with large forsythia and weedy vines. There are two spaces that could be planted with shade trees which would benefit the children and staff of the MDC and not require a great deal of maintenance by the borough. As the Red Bank School District also uses this playground for pre-k and many borough children are also in daycare it would be a direct benefit for the youngest members of the community.

The current playground is a treeless expanse of asphalt with a small portion dedicated to rubber play surface. It provides little to no shade for the children and staff.

Please consider this suggestion when allocating monies for parks. It is so important to our environment to have actual living things in our parks.

Thank you for your consideration.”

Councilmember Triggiano motioned to close the public hearing; Councilmember Forest seconded the motion. Roll call, unanimous, affirmative.

#### IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Councilmember Forest motioned to open the floor for public comment on agenda items only; Councilmember Facey-Blackwood seconded the motion. Roll call, unanimous, affirmative.

Bob Zuckerman, Exec Dir. River Center – Expressed his appreciation for the consideration of NP23-23. Congratulated Councilmember Triggiano for being liaison. Public thank you for the resolution this evening returning the fees to the 2021 rates. This is a benefit to the restaurants that are not on the Broadwalk and are interested in participating.

Suzanne Viscomi 25 Cedar St Regarding NP23-23 the \$100 application fee is a onetime fee or monthly? \$250 proposed back in March the same amount. Who is responsible for collecting the funds.

Regarding the NP23-18 resolution for the grant application, what happens when the project amount exceeds the grant amount? Does that come from the general budget or does it get bonded for?

*Mayor Portman noted that the amendments to the fees were for the street eateries not Broadwalk fees. BA McConnell noted the sidewalk cafes are in effect, the application fee is a onetime annual fee, fees are collected by the clerk's office.*

*BA McConnell noted that these types of projects generally bonded for. Resolution NP23-18 is for approval to submit the grant application.*

There being no further discussion; Councilmember Forest motioned to close the floor to the public; Councilmember Facey-Blackwood seconded the motion.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REPORTS**

a) 07/06/2023 Special Councilmember Bonatakis motioned to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting, 7/6/20203; Councilmember Jannone seconded the motion. Roll call, unanimous, affirmative.

**VI. ORDINANCES**

a) INTRODUCTION #NP2023-01 ORDINANCE CHANGING THE DATE OF RED BANK REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS TO THE SAME DATE AS THE GENERAL ELECTION HELD IN NOVEMBER

Councilmember Triggiano motioned to approve ordinance NP2023-01; Councilmember Forest seconded the motion. Roll call vote, unanimous, affirmative. Councilmember Cassidy was not present.

b) INTRODUCTION #NP2023-02 ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 680-61 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, SCHEDULE XXVII TIME LIMIT PARKING (NONMETERED)

Councilmember forest motioned to approve ordinance NP2023-02; Councilmember Facey-Blackwood seconded the motion. Roll call vote, unanimous, affirmative. Councilmember Cassidy was not present.

Both ordinances are scheduled for public hearing and adoption July 27, 2023.

**VII. RESOLUTIONS**

Mayor Portman summarized resolution #NP23-24 Refunding Temporary Outdoor Business Extension Fee due to miscalculated square footage submittal.

There being no questions or comments on resolutions NP23-08 – NP23-25, Mayor asked for a motion to approve the resolutions by consent. Councilmember Triggiano moved to approve resolutions NP23-08 – NP23-25; Councilmember Forest seconded the motion to approve. Roll call vote, unanimous, affirmative. Councilmember Cassidy was not present.

- a) #NP23-08 Bill List
- b) #NP23-09 Shared Service with Monmouth County for Dispatch Services
- c) #NP23-10 Spring St. Project Payment #11
- d) #NP23-11 Spring St. Project Change Order #6
- e) #NP23-12 Ratify the Appointment of a RBPD Officer
- f) #NP23-13 Chap 159 Opioid Settlement Fund
- g) #NP23-14 Cancellation of 2022 Taxes, Two River Theater
- h) #NP23-15 Awarding Millennium Strategies Grant Writing Services

- i) #NP23-16 Award 2022 LOSAP
- j) #NP23-17 Monmouth County Open Space Trust Fund Grant Application
- k) #NP23-18 NJDOT Grant Application – Linden Place Repaving
- l) #NP23-19 NJDOT Grant Application – Chestnut St Intersection
- m) #NP23-20 Endorsement of RevolutionNJ for America’s 250 Anniversary
- n) #NP23-21 Ratify Appointment of Full Time Admin. Asst.
- o) #NP23-22 Ratify Appointments of Full Time Laborers for DPW
- p) #NP23-23 Amending Temporary Outdoor Business Extension Fees
- q) #NP23-24 Refunding Temporary Outdoor Business Extension Fee (not listed on the agenda)

VIII. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

Councilmember Triggiano asked the BA what the settlement amount was for the opioid settlement noted in NP23-13? *BA McConnell responded It was a class action lawsuit and the courts allocated funding to the municipalities approximately \$73,500, currently the borough has received \$50k. Reporting requirements are twice a year, resolution NP23-13, the Chap 159 on this evening is part of that.*

Councilmember Triggiano suggested utilizing eligible funds for a social worker to work with the PD to assist with the homeless issues in town and help the population get assistance.

Mayor noted there seems to be more concerns lately on the homeless issue and would like to research this.

Councilmember Jannone divulged her work with the VNA (Visiting Nurses Association) and they have a great program and would like to reach out to them. The VNA is doing great things in Asbury Park; it’s a wonderful program.

Councilmember Forest plans to reach out to the schools and introduce himself as the education liaison. In regard to committees would like to be able to attend meetings even though there are no longer liaisons. Would like to cooperate with the manager to work on these things. A negotiations committee is an important topic. Will continue to attend RiverCenter meetings as he has always enjoyed those meetings. Noted the importance of working with the whole town not just the restaurants on the Broadwalk. Want our businesses and residential areas to all do well.

Councilmembers thanked fellow Councilmember Facey-Blackwood for establishing “Talk to a Councilperson”. Noting how powerful it was to have accessibility with the citizens at the Senior Center and they would like to not only continue but expand the initiative.

Councilmember Jannone related her meeting with the Animal Welfare Committee; the members were very excited to start moving forward with a strategic plan and expanding programs. Dog Days is scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Facey-Blackwood spoke about the first “Talk to a Councilperson” at the senior center, revealing that it was a good session. A few things that came up will be discussed with the Manager, i.e., bicycle rack at the senior center, the improving intersection safety at the senior center and other locations in town, extending the times at the green lights to allow safe passage they turn quickly, and the Senior center would like to incorporate activities for more active seniors and extend the hours. The 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays of the month the Senior Center hosts a Farmer Market for the seniors.

Councilmember Bonatakis expressed her appreciation for extending the Talk to a Councilperson, thus allowing her to participate after her working hours. Additionally, would like to note climate changes, flooding and heat waves would like to call it out to create a sense of urgency to address this topic and expedite the resiliency pieces of the master plan and increase awareness.

Councilmember Triggiano announced the weather has initiated Code Red in Red Bank and there are designated cooling centers within the borough. She further noted the various locations with the borough and the services provided. She passed along the appreciation of the CEEC (Community Engagement & Equity Committee for Anthony and Doug of the Red Bank Classic for working to insure the comfort and participation of the racers including those with special needs. They are working with Parks and Rec to secure a grant in anticipation of 2024, to accommodate those with special needs.

Mayor Portman shared the passing of Roy Bampton. Roy was a 50+ year member of the Union Hose Company and former Captain of the Company, the First Aid Squad and founding member and Captain of the RBF D Scuba Team, he passed July 8<sup>th</sup>. Moment of silence was observed.

#### IX. PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Mayor Portman motioned to open the floor to the public: Councilmember Forest seconded the motion.

Barbara Boas 135 Branch Ave – Noted that many of the cooling centers are for men only asked about options for women and families.

*Councilmember Triggiano noted that the overwhelming need is for men, but the chief does make arrangements for women and families. BA/Chief McConnell noted that women and families are temporarily put up in a county sponsored hotel and there are talks with another house of worship in to accommodate women and families. Still in discussion cannot divulge anything at this time.*

John Hutton Fisher Place - East Side Park is this going to be another 9 months to year delay? Plays on the courts 3 times a week. Weather permitting. The conditions of the courts are horrible, would like to get something done.

*BA said it was about 60 days' worth of work, once mobilized, and it is supposed to start any day. Further noted the grant application on the agenda this evening is a different phase of the project. East Side Park was awarded and is just pending commencement. Start date is contingent upon the receipt of the fencing to insure public safety, the fencing is delayed.*

Suzanne Viscomi 35 Cedar St.- Did not see any committee meetings on the public calendar and will the committees be required to take minutes as previously discussed?

*Mayor Portman affirmed the committees will be required to keep minutes. Dates were not available for the initial committee meetings.*

*Councilmember Facey-Blackwood noted the EC did not meet on July 4<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday.*

*Councilmember Triggiano noted the CEEC did not meet either.*

Jimmy Dark 48 W Sunset Ave – Street Sweeper needs to come around 4 or 5 days a week Shrewsbury Ave is a mess. Street sweeper shouldn't skip streets. People should be informed that handicapped license plates and placards holders have meter fees waived. People do not know.

Allen Hill 64 McLaren St – Thanked Councilmembers Forest and Facey-Blackwood for seeing him yesterday at the senior center. It was a good discussion on a lot of topics. Councilmember Bonatakis mentioned the extreme weather and noted that the senior center is no longer on the list for cooling centers and asked why? In regard to minutes, his experience over the years has been that availability is very poor. Would like that minutes to be presented for public prior to approval so there can be

corrections; divulged his name and address has been recorded incorrectly before. Lastly, the past few meetings have experienced issues with the microphones, this needs to be corrected.

*BA McConnell will follow up with the OEM Coordinator, it may be as simple as an update not that renovations are complete, and the facility is open.*

*Mayor Portman had no issue with the draft minutes being made available. The Clerk noted if the minutes were watermarked DRAFT, she had no objection. Atty Cannon concurred.*

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Forest motioned to close the floor to the public: Councilmember Jannone seconded the motion.

X. **MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Comments made under VIII Discussion and Action.

XI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**    *Personnel*                      *Resolution #NP23-25*

Atty Cannon divulged there was need to meet in Executive Session to discuss personnel; it is anticipated that it will be approximately 30 – 45 minutes in duration, no action will be taken.

Councilmember Forest motioned to go into executive session, seconded by Councilmember Triggiano.

There was a 5-minute recess before commencing.

XII. **ADJOURNMENT** **8:30 PM**

There being no further business, Councilmember Facey-Blackwood motioned to adjourn; Councilmember Triggiano seconded the motion. Roll call, affirmative, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Reinertsen, RMC, CMR, AHP  
Borough Clerk