

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
DECEMBER 19, 2007
5:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Menna and Council Members Bifani, Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont and Cangemi.

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Sickels, Borough Clerk Vivona, Chief Financial Officer Mason, Assistant Attorney Hall and Engineer Kosenki.

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 Courier, 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 January 1, 2007.

WORKSHOP

Councilman Bifani said that this is his last meeting and next year he would like the Governing Body to continue to work on the adoption of an ordinance prohibiting signs from the public right of way or any Borough owned property. He said all of the signs placed throughout the town look terrible and not only are non-profit organizations using them but stores are also starting to place them in the public right of way and they are very unsightly and because the individuals do not take them down they become a problem with litter.

Councilwoman Cangemi said that she could not agree more with Councilman Bifani and said they produce litter to the landscape.

Councilman Bifani said that this is a statewide problem and we should also talk to the other municipalities in our area.

Mayor Menna said that he knows that Councilman Bifani has worked very hard on the ordinance over the last year and said besides a couple of changes the ordinance would be introduced the first thing next year.

Councilman Bifani said that with some of the signs it is difficult to contact someone to take them down.

Mayor Menna said there were a number of signs being placed on the utility poles advertising the Film Festival. He said that in this instance the coordinators of the festival where issued summonses and had to remove all of the signs from the utility poles because placing signs on utility poles is prohibited in the State of New Jersey.

Councilman Curley said he is very supportive of this ordinance and thanked Councilman Bifani for all of his hard work.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

REPORTS OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilwoman Cangemi said that the Shade Tree Committee has been working with the Borough Engineer in regards to the road program and the replacement of some trees. She said there was a meeting with the residents that were having work done on their streets to come up with the kind of trees residents would like to have on their streets with the approval of our Shade Tree Enforcement Officer.

Councilman Curley said that he has been having exciting conversations with Laura Morana, the Superintendent of the Red Bank Public Schools, regarding our summer camp program for next year. He said the Board of Education has agreed to partner with the Borough next summer. He said the children attend classes in the morning and have their recreation programs in the afternoon and said we would be able to accommodate approximately 250 children in this program and they would receive breakfast and lunch. He also said that there would be a dance tonight at the Red Bank Elks from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. for individuals with special needs and said that he wanted to thank the Red Bank Kiwanis for also helping with the dance.

Councilwoman Lee said that she had a meeting with Councilwoman Cangemi regarding the future of our technology. She said that right now they are concentrating on making our Borough website more user friendly and placing additional items on the website.

Councilman Bifani said that he had met with John Gurzo regarding our Neighborhood Preservation Program and said he had to file an economic statement by the end of the year and said this program has been one of our most successful programs along with various other programs and said that it has really improved the quality of life for those that qualified for funding to make improvements to their homes.

Mayor Menna said that all of this work could not have been done without Councilman Bifani's assistance.

Councilman DuPont said that we are hoping to be able to allow our residents to pay their property taxes some time in January with their credit card. He said that he has been reviewing the use of solar panels as an alternate source of energy.

Councilman Murphy said that Chief Fitzgerald has met with the Westside Community Group and said most of the complaints were about overcrowding of houses and said that last week there were 3 inspections with 54 summonses being issued.

Mayor Menna commended Frank Woods, Ed Araujo, the Fire Department and the Police Department for distributing all of the summonses for overcrowding and said from now on we are going to publish the owners of these houses in the newspapers for all of the violations.

Councilwoman Cangemi said that after numerous complaints about the condition of the area around the Tower Hill well, she said the area has been cleaned up and 47 new trees were planted around the area. She said she wanted to thank Public Works for all of the hard work they did on this project.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Mayor Menna read a request from The George Sheehan Classic to hold the George Sheehan Classic event on June 13-14, 2008, and also use of Marine Park for various activities, pending approval of the Special Events Committee.

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Murphy.

Councilman Curley said that the Saturday morning of the race he receives numerous phone calls regarding complaints about the race and asked if a new route could be implemented. He also asked if there would be a problem with the use of the park if it is under construction.

Mr. Sickels said the construction is not going to start until the Fireworks are over.

Councilman Bifani said that he supported the event.

Councilwoman Cangemi said that it would be nice to see a new route.

Councilman Murphy said that the organizers of the race always do a great job of cleaning up the park.

Councilman DuPont said he supports the race and said it provides a vital resource to the town.

Mayor Menna said the race organizers pay for everything involving the clean up and police and then they donate any profits to a local charity.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi

NAYS: Curley

There being five ayes and one nay, the request was declared approved.

Mayor Menna read a request from Edward Araujo for membership to the First Aid & Rescue Squad of the Red Bank Volunteer Fire Department/First Aid Squad.

Mr. Murphy offered a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. DuPont.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the request was declared approved.

Mayor Menna read a request from St. James Grammar School PTA and Count Basie Theatre, Inc. for raffle licenses.

Ms. Lee offered a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Curley.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Murphy, Lee, Cangemi

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: DuPont

There being five ayes, no nays and one abstention, the request was declared approved.

Mayor Menna read a request from MonmouthCares, Inc. to place a 4-beam Searchlight Skytracker in parking space in front of Count Basie Theatre on January 12, 2008 to advertise their Private Screening event, pending final approval of Chief Fitzgerald.

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Murphy.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the request was declared approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON RESOLUTIONS ON THE AGENDA AND ORDINANCES ON THE AGENDA ON FIRST READING

Mayor Menna asked if anyone would like to speak, hearing none he closed the public comment.

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting, seconded by Ms. Lee.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi

NAYS: None

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

ORDINANCES – First Reading

ORDINANCES – Public Hearing & Final Adoption

2007-42 Mayor Menna read “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER V, “ANIMAL CONTROL,” SECTION 5-1.6, “LICENSE REQUIRED, FEES [DOGS],” AND SECTION 5-3.3, “LICENSING REQUIREMENTS [CATS].”

Mayor Menna opened the public hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak, no one appearing he closed the public hearing.

Mr. Murphy offered a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. DuPont.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the public hearing was declared closed.

Ms. Cangemi offered a motion to adopt the ordinance on final reading, seconded by Mr. Curley.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the ordinance was declared adopted on final reading.

RESOLUTIONS

07-252 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF 2007 CURRENT FUND APPROPRIATIONS.”

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Lee.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

07-253 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF WINTER SIDEWALK CAFES.”

Mr. Bifani offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Curley.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

PROCLAMATIONS

PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

07-255 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS AMOUNTING TO \$1,514,641.66.”

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Murphy.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

07-254 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION HONORING ROBERT J. BIFANI.”

Mr. Murphy offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. DuPont.

Councilman Curley said Councilman Bifani is a very passionate human being that had goals and always worked very hard to achieve them. He said that his many years of service made Red Bank a better community and he wishes him well in all of his further endeavors.

Councilwoman Lee said Councilman Bifani taught her so much, especially how to run a campaign. She also said he was a great Council Member and she will miss him.

Councilwoman Cangemi said that she has not served on Council very long but can see all of the changes that he made in Public Words over the last 18 years and commended him for that.

Councilman Murphy said that he had the opportunity to serve on the Public Works Committee and the Police and Fire Department and Councilman Bifani does a great job in everything he is involved in especially the road programs. He said he would miss him and commended him for all the time he has devoted to the Borough.

Councilman DuPont said Councilman Bifani has given 18 years of service to make Red Bank a better place to live. He said that he always did what was right.

Mr. Watson presented a plaque to Councilman Bifani from all the supervisors and employees commending him for his dedication to the Public Works Department.

Councilman Bifani said that his father and family have also donated a lot of time because when he was not at his family's business they had to take on his duties. He said that most people do not realize how much time he has spent volunteering for different projects over the years. He said he wanted to thank Mr. Watson and Mr. Lynch for always doing such a great job and said we have great professionals in the Public Works Department and also thanked all the Borough Employees that he worked with over the years.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

AUDIENCE

Thomas Hintelmann – 62 Elm Place – said that he was honored that he was invited to Councilman Bifani's last meeting. He said that he has never ran with anyone who worked so hard as Councilman Bifani and said that he was a great running mate and because of his hard work they always had a successful campaign. He thanked him for all of the time and effort he has put into this community and said that he is here to wish him well and said now he will have more time to enjoy himself.

Councilman Bifani said that Tom Hintelmann was the most popular Councilman to serve the Borough of Red Bank and served as a Councilman for 30 years. He said it was always a pleasure to work with him.

David Prown – 44 Hillside Place – said that we would be holding the Reorganization Meeting on January 1, 2008 at 3:00 P.M. said that next year we have to talk about setting up a better communications system. He thanked Councilman Bifani for all of the time he served as a Councilman and said he did a great job.

Linda Clark – River Street – said that she wanted to thank everyone that came out for the candlelight vigil and also thanked Councilman Bifani for all of the work he has done on the Westside of Red Bank especially the murals and wanted to wish him the best of luck.

Mayor Menna said that he would be setting up a Task Force and would be appointing the members in January. He said that if anyone is interested in serving on this Committee you have to be a resident of the Borough of Red Bank and asked that they contact the Administrator's Office.

Wallis Williams – Leighton Avenue – said that he would like to thank Mayor Menna for all of his help.

Mayor Menna said that he wanted to wish all of the residents and merchants a joyous and happy holiday season and a peaceful and happy new year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bifani offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Murphy to adjourn the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Vivona