

WorkSession Meeting  
March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Meeting was opened by Mayor Theresa Branella at 6:00pm. Those present were G. Gilbert, J. Granstrom, T. MacAdams, J. McCleary, M. Mevoli and T. Branella.

This Meeting was advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, and complies with all the laws therein

**Engineer's Report** – Updated of ongoing projects by Greg Fusco, Kei Associates.

1) CDBG - Year 33 project of converting entry doors to the municipal building so they are automatically controlled and manually as well. Had a pre-construction meeting today and will be starting the project in approximately six weeks.

2) Camden County Open Space Grant – We are ready to award for the construction of the Batting Cages at the Barth Baseball Field. We received quotes for the three options set forth in the bid specs. It was suggested by M. Mevoli that we go with option 2. It is a little bit more money but we have enough in the grant for it. G. Fusco said that we would have about \$5,000 to \$6,000 left in the grant. M. Mevoli suggested we use the extra money for fixing the drainage area by grading it with stones and put a new net on the backstop for foul balls. G. Fusco said we should have enough to cover these items and will look into it.

3) CDBG – Year 34 project discussion: J. Granstrom says that we should use the funds for waterfront playgrounds, but has a couple suggestions. He thinks we have enough in the budget to pave the basketball court and replace the rims. Instead of waiting a year to get the project started, we should use the funding for a fence around the courts and park. G. Gilbert stated that we could add some nice trashcans and benches to the area. M. Mevoli says we need some things fixed around the playground by the school. We could use some funds for fixing the issue of dirt and sand running onto the blacktop from the ball fields at the school area. Mayor Branella stated that we should submit these ideas on the project description form and see what qualifies.

4) Recreational Trail Grant – We have submitted the application and awaiting for the awarding of the grant.

5) Redevelopment at Shopping Center – We need to advertise for two weeks before the Planning board can discuss the issue. Since we are advertising this week and next week, we will need to wait until April to discuss at the meeting.

Everyone thanks G. Fusco for his time.

**Open to Public**

No questions or comments.

## **Committee Reports**

Motion to approve reports – G. Gilbert

2<sup>nd</sup> – M. Mevoli

All in favor: Carried.

## **Discussion/Committee Updates**

1) Alan Hirschfeld, Tyree:

He gave council an update on progress at the remedial site of the old sewer plant. He stated that the natural remediation was working and we are entering a minimal level of contamination. We can enter into “No Further Action” status. He wanted council to pass a resolution to execute a deed notice. R. Giles informed him that the resolution was done already and was awaiting the notice to be notarized. With the deed done, we can close some of the wells permanently said A. Hirschfeld. He also said that he will still be involved every two years for testing but we will be saving a lot of money that was allocated to the testing and clean up. We only charge a one-time fee of \$700 and \$350 for sampling and \$1,300 every other year for testing.

2) T. Branella:

I have only a budget update presented by Barbara Lewis, CFO. B. Lewis says that we worked hard on this year’s budget and had to make hard cuts. We did get the budget legal and can move forward with councils’ approval. We had a 5.2-cent increase on the taxes. We were below the spending cap by \$24!!

Mayor Branella asked jokingly if we calculated that correctly and made sure its not over.

B. Lewis went on to explain that the tax increase would be \$71.48 for houses worth \$137,000. She stated the budget would have been better if it wasn’t for the water budget. The water budget was the worst she has seen in 23 years. We are at an operating deficit and need to transfer an employee to current to offset the water budget problem. This made us have to use more surplus then we wanted to. She suggested that we raise water rates.

Mayor Branella asked the committee to get together and come up with a plan for water and sewer rates.

J. McCleary, Chairperson of Water, asks the clerk to get information on surrounding towns, so they can compare rates.

B. Lewis recommends that we move forward with this budget and introduce at next meeting. The council agrees with her recommendations and would like to prepare for introduction at the next public session. Council thanked B. Lewis for her time.

3) M. Mevoli:

Put a motion to the floor for the awarding of contract for batting cage.

a) Resolution:

# 70-12 Awarding Contract to American Discount Fence

Motion – J. Granstrom

2<sup>nd</sup> – J. McCleary

All in Favor: Carried.

b) M. Mevoli says code enforcement issues from the passed have been addressed in a timely matter. He asked what can be done with the Flower Shop since they sent out 2 certified mails of violations and they have come back non deliverable.

T. Higgins, Esq said to post the violation on the property and take a picture of it posted on the door. This will cover our basis if it goes to court. After a week, you can clean the property and put a municipal lien on the property.

The rodent problem at 210 South Hanevig has been addressed but the rodents are still getting into the roof somehow. Matter needs to be further inspected. It has gone back and forth of who is responsible for the problem, the code enforcer or building inspector.

M. Mevoli stated that the sign that was placed on Metro Diners property is in violation of our sign ordinance. He asked code enforcer, Captain Saymon, to look into that issue and readdress item 2, 5, and 6 of the February code report for the next meeting.

4) G. Gilbert:

The Borough Homes Committee met and agreed on raising the rents. We want homes less than \$700 be raised \$50 per month; homes between \$700 and \$900 be raise \$25 per month; homes over \$900 be raised \$10 per month. We are awaiting quote for work on the house on Haakon Road but we may need to go out for bid. The Paris Avenue house is still a work in progress.

5) J. McCleary:

a) She asked if we could come up with ideas for a community night at the Camden Riversharks game. She wants to open the night to the employees before we ask the residents. This will give us an idea of how many tickets we need to purchase.

b) She wants to know how committed we are for a marketing plan for Brooklawn. It is a tedious process and will only work if we are all fully invested. She wants to know what amount of money we could use from the budget to fund this project. The project with Rowan University could take up to five years to fully complete a successful marketing plan. She would like to put a committee together and see what is feasible.

Mayor Branella asked if this project a new project or a new project.

J. McCleary stated that this is a new plan and needs to be a five-year plan. It's not a semester project.

G. Gilbert stated that J. McCleary is right that marketing takes time. We need to have a solid foundation to make it work. It's all about branding and getting a slogan for our town

M. Mevoli stated that Collingswood did this and has worked in the past. We have a lot to market, like our great school program, Memorial Park, the Baseball team, etc.

J. McCleary says there are a lot of ways we can do this but we have to put out some money. We just discussed how tight the budget is, do we want or have the money to allocate to this project.

Mayor Branella says our people in the water committee can be the representatives of this new project. Come to the next meeting with Pros and Cons of this project.

c) Mend Organization – J. McCleary says this is an organization that may help us with the apartment. They are a non-profit organization that helps revitalize the rundown living facilities. They help renovate and keep them available for low to moderate-income families.

Mayor Branella says to keep this idea open and maybe have a representative from Mend come speak at our meeting.

d) Employee Evaluation – J. McCleary wanted to know the employee hierarchy. Who is in charge and who answers to whom. She wanted performance evaluations done. It was mentioned by T. Higgins that usually the Clerk in a small town is like the CEO. We are Civil Service so most problems go to the department head then if it needs further discipline it can be taken to the clerk or Mayor. The governing body has the ultimate authority since they are the ones who hire and can fire with good cause.

e) Shade Tree Update - She discussed their last meeting and how they are trying to educate the public that they are good people wanting to help with the legacy of the town. Trees being planted today in the right place will be here 100 years from now. It's a vital product to keep the town looking beautiful. We are not out to write violations. It's all about community. The shade tree has come up with ways to educate the people about its overall mission and goals. She says no tree should be taken down without the company or person providing a certificate of insurance and documents to the commission of thereof.

M. Mevoli wanted to let everyone know he is making a packet for the use of the ball fields in Brooklawn along with a hold harmless agreement. He stated that he would give the clerk copies to make up the packet.

**Executive Session: 8:50pm**

Motion to go into Executive for Contract Discussion – G. Gilbert  
2<sup>nd</sup> – J. McCleary

All in Favor: Carried.

Came out of executive at 9:30pm

M. Mevoli put two motions on the floor for contract and appointment

# 72-12 Authorization to Execute Employee Contract

# 73-13 Authorization to Appoint Police Inspector

Motion – M. Mevoli

2<sup>nd</sup> – J. McCleary

All in Favor: Carried.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to Adjourn – J. Granstrom

2<sup>nd</sup> – M. Mevoli

All in favor: Adjourned.

Barbara Lewis  
Borough Clerk