

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 27, 2020

The Regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown was held virtually using Zoom due to the State of New Jersey's Shelter in Place order due to pandemic conditions.

PRESENT: Mayor Stephen Benowitz
Deputy Mayor Eric Holliday
Committeeman Eugene Fuzy
Committeeman James Kostoplis
Committeeman Ken Mason
Administrator Michael Theokas
Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Elsasser
Clerk Maria Carrington
Attorney Eileen Fahey

Mayor Benowitz called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call was taken by Township Clerk Carrington.

Mayor Benowitz led a salute to the flag and a moment of silence dedicated to the victims of COVID-19 and their families as well as all others infected in our nation.

Township Clerk Carrington read the following Open Public Meeting Announcement:

This meeting is called pursuant to the provision of the Open Public Meeting Act. On January 8, 2020, a notice of the 2020 meetings was sent to the *Burlington County Times* and *The Times* and was subsequently published by the *Burlington County Times* on January 10, 2020. The notice was posted on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and has remained continuously posted as required under the statute. In addition, a copy of the notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

Proper notice having been given, the Township Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of the meeting. The proceedings of this meeting although virtual are open to the public and are being electronically recorded and will act as the minutes of the meeting in conjunction with the abbreviated form of the minutes. Requisite minutes are kept for all meetings, whether open or closed to the public.

Correspondence: None.

Administrative Review

Administrator Theokas stated that members of the public are currently on mute and will be unmuted for all public portions. Committee members are asked to state their names when making motions.

Consent Agenda

Resolution #2020-101 entitled APPROVING ROUTINE BUSINESS: MINUTES OF MEETINGS AND FILING OF REPORTS

Resolution #2020-102 entitled PLEDGE SUPPORTING NEW JERSEY WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

Resolution #2020-103 entitled RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF “IDLE FREE ZONES”

Resolution #2020-104 entitled RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE ADOPTION OF GREEN BUILDING PRACTICES FOR CIVIC, COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

Resolution #2020-105 entitled AUTHORIZING YEAR 2020 TEMPORARY EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20)

Resolution #2020-106 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTINUATION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Resolution #2020-107 entitled RESOLUTION TO APPOINT SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, CLASS II

Resolution #2020-108 entitled APPROVING ROUTINE BUSINESS: PAYMENT OF BILLS

Township Committee review and discussion of Consent Agenda Items Resolutions #2020-101 through #2020-108. There were no comments from the Township Committee.

Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to open to the public the Consent Agenda items; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye.

There being no public comment, Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to close to the public; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye.

Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Fuzy; Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

Ordinance 2020-10 entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY; CANCELLING CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSES IN THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$177,396.24 AND RE-APPROPRIATING \$174,144.74 OF SAID APPROPRIATIONS FOR OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OR FOR TRANSFER TO THE CAPITAL SURPLUS FUND

Public Hearing: Committeeman Fuzy made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance #2020-10; seconded by Committeeman Mason. Voice Vote: All Aye.

Seeing no public comment, Committeeman Fuzy made a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance #2020-10; seconded by Committeeman Mason. Voice Vote: All Aye.

Adoption: Committeeman Fuzy made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2020-10; seconded by Deputy Mayor Holliday. Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

Ordinance 2020-11 entitled ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, AMENDING THE BORDENTOWN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CODE AND ADDING SECTION 2.68.080 “POLICE EXTRA DUTY SERVICES”

Public Hearing: Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance #2020-11; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye.

Seeing no public comment, Committeeman Fuzy made a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance #2020-11; seconded by Committeeman Mason. Voice Vote: All Aye.

Adoption: Committeeman Kostoplis made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2020-11; seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

New Business

CFO Jeff Elsasser stated that municipalities are getting conflicting information from the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Division of Local Government Services regarding whether municipalities can extend the grace period for the receipt of quarterly taxes. Regarding waiving delinquent tax interest, the guidelines are quite restrictive and would require physical notices to be mailed out by the end of the week at a great cost to the Township. Attorney Eileen Fahey recommends not proceeding on any of these measures at this time until greater clarification is provided.

Administrator’s Report

Administrator Michael Theokas announced that the State has approved the 2020 municipal budget; however, due to the need to advertise budget amendments, the adoption will not be considered until the May 11th meeting. In the meantime, the temporary budget appropriations on tonight’s consent agenda will assure that the Township can handle the adoption delay.

Regarding COVID-19, the Township has 52 confirmed cases. Town Hall remains closed to the public; however, members of the staff are still coming into the office in staggered shifts. All emails and phone calls are being returned. This may continue for the next few weeks. Serv Pro has graciously donated their services to clean all emergency vehicles: fire, police and EMS. They will also extend these services to other Burlington County vehicles with the cleaning taking place on our grounds. They have also donated cleaning services for Township buildings. The Township is very grateful to Serv Pro.

The website’s calendar has been updated with all cancellations. The Shredding Event on May 2 has been cancelled. A shredder event is already on the calendar for this fall. Public Works is collecting brush and bulk items although there may be a delay. The Township recycling center on Crosswicks Road is open to the public.

All parks and paths remain closed. The public is urged to stay safe and observe social distancing guidelines. A memorandum from the Committee on this topic has been posted on the Township’s website.

Township Committee Liaison Reports

Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Holliday and Mayor Benowitz gave their reports.

Public Participation

Committeeman Fuzy made a motion to open the meeting for public participation; seconded by Deputy Mayor Holliday. Voice Vote: All Aye.

Seeing no public comment, Committeeman Kostoplis made a motion to close the meeting to the public; seconded by Deputy Mayor Holliday. Voice Vote: All Aye.

Final Comments from Township Committee

Deputy Mayor Holliday said that the opening of the paths would be revisited every week

There being no further comments from the Township Committee, Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at approximately 8:03 p.m.; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye.

The next Township Committee Meeting will be held on May 11, 2020. It is anticipated the May 11th meeting will be held virtually using the Zoom platform.

Respectfully Submitted,

MARIA CARRINGTON, TOWNSHIP CLERK