

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 11, 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 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken by Township Clerk Carrington.

Resolution 5-11-2020 to go into closed session moved by Committeeman Kostoplis and seconded by Deputy Mayor Holliday. Voice Vote: All Aye.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown that it does hereby exclude the public to meet in Closed Executive Session for the purpose of discussing:

- Attorney/Client Privilege: Affordable Housing

The minutes of the closed session may be disclosed to the public when it is determined that the above matter(s) no longer require confidentiality.

The meeting was reopened to the public at 7:22 p.m. through a motion made by Committeeman Mason, seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Voice Vote: All Aye. The meeting was then recessed until 7:30 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., Mayor Benowitz welcomed the public. The Mayor led a salute to the flag and a moment of silence dedicated to the victims of COVID-19 and their families and friends as well as for the health and safety of all in the United States of America.

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.

Mayor Benowitz read the following proclamations by title only: the declaration and celebration of April 22, 2020 as Earth Day and designating May as the month to celebrate and recognize all Older Americans and their contributions to our community.

Correspondence: None.

2020 Municipal Budget

Administrator Michael Theokas read **Resolution #2020-110** entitled **RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE INTRODUCED 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET** into the record.

Public Hearing: Committeeman Kostoplis made a motion to open the public hearing for the budget amendments listed in Resolution #2020-110; seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Voice Vote All Aye.

Seeing no public comment, a motion was made by Committeeman Kostoplis to close the public hearing; seconded by Committeeman Mason. Voice Vote: All Aye.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Holliday to adopt **Resolution #2020-110** entitled **RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE INTRODUCED 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**; seconded by Committeeman Fuzy.
Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Fuzy; Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz
NAY: None

The Township’s Auditor, Michael P. Cragin, Jr., CPA, RMA, CMFO, PSA of Bowman and Company, LLP presented the budget. Mr. Cragin stated that he found this budget to be fiscally responsible. In this budget the Township is recognizing that revenues will be down due to circumstances created by the public health emergency while still having a 0% increase. Furthermore, the budget keeps savings in reserve for 2021 that will also be affected by COVID-19. He applauds and recognizes the efforts of the administrator and Chief Financial Officer.

Administrator Theokas gave an overview of the budget exhibits which will be posted to the website following the meeting. Mayor Benowitz stated that he is proud of this prudent budget. For six of the eight years he has been on the Committee, the budgets have been flat.

Resolution #2020-111 entitled ADOPTION OF 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to adopt the 2020 Municipal Budget via Resolution #2020-111; seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Fuzy; Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz
NAY: None

Administrative Review

Clerk Carrington stated that there are no changes to the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Resolution #2020-112 entitled APPROVING ROUTINE BUSINESS: MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Resolution #2020-113 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT OF POLICE OFF DUTY SERVICES BY JOBS4BLUE

Resolution #2020-114 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUMMER HOURS OF OPERATION FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN

Resolution #2020-115 entitled RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM TUREK CONSULTING, LCC FOR MAINTENANCE AND MINOR REPAIRS OF THE VAPOR INTRUSION MITIGATION SYSTEM FOR 262 CROSSWICKS ROAD

Resolution #2020-116 entitled APPROVING ROUTINE BUSINESS: PAYMENT OF BILLS

Township Committee review and discussion of Consent Agenda Items Resolutions #2020-112 through #2020-116. 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, Committeeman Fuzy made a motion to close to the public; seconded by Committeeman Mason. 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

New Business: None

Administrator's Report

Regarding COVID-19, the Township has 65 confirmed cases. The pace seems to have slowed; however, he is sad to report that we have had one fatality this week bringing the total to four. Town Hall remains closed to the public; however, members of the staff are still coming into the office in staggered shifts. Permits are being processed, Public Works is on the road, and we are serving the public as close to normal as possible.

There is a secure lockbox in the lobby on the wall next to the elevator for tax and court payments. It is under 24 hour camera surveillance. Please only submit checks or money orders—no cash.

The Township Committee held a special meeting on May 4th to extend the grace period for taxes to June 1. Please note that any taxes received after June 1 will be assessed interest back to May 1.

Ball fields and playgrounds at parks remain closed; however, the trails are open. Please maintain social distances and wear masks.

Memorial Day festivities have been cancelled. The Blood Drive will continue to be held on June 22 in the Senior Center which will be thoroughly cleaned. There is a great need for blood so we are encouraging donations. Fireworks have been postponed from July 5 to Saturday, September 5 (Labor Day weekend) at dusk. The rain date will be September 6.

Administrator Theokas thanked the Committee for passing the budget as well as the resolution allowing the staff to work Summer Hours.

Township Committee Liaison Reports

Committeeman Fuzy, Deputy Mayor Holliday and Mayor Benowitz gave reports.

Public Participation

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

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

Final Comments from Township Committee

Mayor Benowitz urged everyone to stay safe. He thanks everyone for all the sacrifices being made to flatten the curve. God Bless us all.

There being no further comments from the Township Committee, Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at approximately 8:04 p.m.; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye.

The next Township Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 using the Zoom platform.

Respectfully Submitted,

MARIA CARRINGTON, TOWNSHIP CLERK