

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 8, 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 (signed on at 7:06 p.m.)

Mayor Benowitz called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call was taken by Township Clerk Carrington.

Resolution 2020-6-8 to go into closed session moved by Committeeman Kostoplis and seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. 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:

- Personnel

No formal action will be taken during the closed session. 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 7:17 p.m. through a motion made by Committeeman Mason, seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye. The meeting was then recessed until 7:30 p.m.

The Mayor led a salute to the flag and a moment of silence dedicated to tragedy that befell George Floyd and in honor of Black Lives Matter and all united efforts that this never happens again.

Township Clerk Carrington read the following Open Public Meeting Announcement:

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions 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: Proclamation recognizing Emily Wheeler for earning the Gold Award with the Girl Scouts of the USA and Proclamation recognizing Alison Wall for earning the Gold Award with the Girl Scouts of the USA. These proclamations will be presented to their recipients and another copy will be displayed at the Municipal Building.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Administrative Review**

Clerk Carrington stated that following the discussion held in the closed session, Resolution #2020-127 entitled “Establishing Salaries for Certain Officials and Employees of the Township of Bordentown” was being added to the Consent Agenda.

**Consent Agenda**

**Resolution #2020-122 entitled APPROVING ROUTINE BUSINESS: MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**Resolution #2020-123 entitled RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE BORDENTOWN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

**Resolution #2020-124 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION OF ESTIMATED TAX BILLS FOR THE YEAR OF 2020**

**Resolution #2020-125 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES**

**Resolution #2020-126 entitled APPROVING ROUTINE BUSINESS: PAYMENT OF BILLS**

**Resolution #2020-127 entitled ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR CERTAIN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN**

Township Committee review and discussion of Consent Agenda Items Resolutions #2020-122 through #2020-127: There were no comments from the Township Committee.

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

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

Committeeman Fuzy 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**

Based on Governor Murphy's Executive Order No. 150 allowing restaurants to expand their footprints, potentially in shared space, for outdoor dining effective June 15<sup>th</sup>, a process has been developed to assure that the Township's concerns are addressed with any expansion. The process is outlined in Resolution #2020-128 entitled RESOLUTION PERMITTING TEMPORARY OUTDOOR SEATING FOR RESTAURANTS and an application has been created for review by the Township Administrator, Zoning Officer, Police Department and Fire Marshal. There will be no fee for the application.

Committeeman Kostoplis made a motion to adopt Resolution #2020-128; seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None

**Administrator's Report**

Regarding COVID-19, all employees are back at work as of last week. The staff is working on the summer schedule: Mondays to Thursdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. to 12 noon. We are waiting for guidance from the State as to when to open the Municipal Building to the public but currently aiming for July 6. The public is able to make appointments if they need to see any employee. The meetings can be held in either the lobby or the court room. The Emergency Management committee continues to meet regularly regarding current emergency calls and FEMA reimbursement. As of May 26, there were 66 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Township; there are now 77 cases. Even with this slight uptick, we are 18<sup>th</sup> in the county even though we are 13<sup>th</sup> in population.

Administrator Theokas thanked the Committee for passing Resolution #2020-123 regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between the Police Department and the Schools with regard to the Student Resource Officer. Officer Adam Edwards is doing a great job as the SRO and the school obviously values his services.

At the next meeting there will be resolution for consideration to permit the Township to apply for 2020 DOT grants. Phase I was for part of Groveville Road. The 2020 grant would go toward Phase II of Groveville Road and include a lighted crosswalk to Northern Community Park.

**Township Committee Liaison Reports**

Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, Deputy Mayor Holliday and Mayor Benowitz gave reports. Mayor Benowitz also read a statement regarding racial inequality.

**Public Participation**

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

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

There being no final comments from the Township Committee, Committeeman Fuzy made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at approximately 8:01 p.m.; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye.

The next Township Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, June 22, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

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MARIA CARRINGTON, TOWNSHIP CLERK