

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2020

The Regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown was held virtually using Zoom due to the ongoing public health emergency.

PRESENT: Mayor Stephen Benowitz
Deputy Mayor Eric Holliday
Committeeman Eugene Fuzy
Committeeman James Kostoplis
Committeeman Ken Mason (signed off at 8:00 p.m.)
Administrator Michael Theokas
Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Elsasser
Clerk Maria Carrington
Attorney Eileen Fahey

Mayor Benowitz called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call was taken by Township Clerk Carrington.

Resolution 2020-11-9 entitled RESOLUTION TO MEET IN CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION moved by Deputy Mayor Holliday and seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. 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
- Attorney/Client Privilege: Litigation/Affordable Housing
- Attorney/Client Privilege: Contract Negotiations

No formal action was taken during the closed session. The minutes of the closed session may be disclosed to the public when it is determined that the above matters no longer require confidentiality.

The meeting was reopened to the public at approximately 7:04 p.m. through a motion made by Deputy Mayor Holliday, seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. 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.

Township Clerk Carrington read the following Open Public Meeting Announcement:

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act. A notice of the 2020 meetings was sent to the *Burlington County Times* and *The Times* on January 8, 2020 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 was 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: Clerk Carrington stated that Resolution #2020-267 was being pulled from the Consent Agenda and Resolution #2020-270 was being added.

Consent Agenda:

Resolution #2020-260 entitled APPROVING ROUTINE BUSINESS: MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Resolution #2020-261 entitled RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY FOR HSC BORDENTOWN, LLC A.K.A. TRACTOR SUPPLY

Resolution #2020-262 entitled RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR COMPENSATORY TREE CONTRIBUTION FOR HSC BORDENTOWN, LLC A.K.A. TRACTOR SUPPLY

Resolution #2020-263 entitled RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR SAFETY & STABILIZATION FOR HSC BORDENTOWN, LLC A.K.A. TRACTOR SUPPLY

Resolution #2020-264 entitled RESOLUTION ADJUSTING THE SALARY OF THE PROVISIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANT TO THE CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL

Resolution #2020-265 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS

Resolution #2020-266 entitled PLEDGE SUPPORTING A COVID-SAFE COMMUNITY

Resolution #2020-268 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY FUND (CRF) GRANT

Resolution #2020-269 entitled APPROVING ROUTINE BUSINESS: PAYMENT OF BILLS

Resolution #2020-270 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERIM DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT REGARDING THE CONNECTOR ROAD BETWEEN DUNNS MILL AND RISING SUN ROADS

Township Committee review and discussion of Consent Agenda Items Resolutions #2020-260 through #2020-270 but omitting #2020-267: Committeeman Fuzy commented on Resolution #2020-266 regarding the pledge supporting a Covid-Safe Community. Committeeman Fuzy stated that the September issue of the American Journal of Pathology has research that shows that non or pre-symptomatic patients have high amounts of viral load that are shed to others. For Covid-19, the highest amounts of virus shedding occurs 0.7 days before the onset of symptoms. For comparison, the last SARS outbreak had its highest amount of virus shedding occurring 10 days after the onset of symptoms. Covid-19 is also known to cause heart, lung, liver, kidney and brain damage. There is scientific evidence that wearing a mask reduces initial viral load as well as direct serious illness from Covid-19.

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

LEN DEGROOT, 8 ARLINGTON ROAD, asked about the bids received for the demolition of the Township-owned properties on Crosswicks Road. Administrator Theokas stated that the bids received exceeded the engineer's estimate so that they are being carefully reviewed. It is hoped that the resolution will be ready for the November 23rd agenda.

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

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

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

Ordinances:

Ordinance #2020-22 entitled ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN, CHAPTER 10.05, “SCHEDULES,” SCHEDULE I, “NO PARKING”

Public Hearing: Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance #2020-22; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye. There was no public comment. A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Holliday to close the public hearing; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye.

Adoption: Committeeman Kostoplis made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2020-22; seconded by Deputy Mayor Holliday. Roll Call Vote:

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

Ordinance #2020-22 is adopted.

Ordinance #2020-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$3,926,965.47 FOR CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION EXPENDITURES, INCLUDING \$2,945,224.10 IN GRANTS EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$934,500.00 PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF OBLIGATIONS OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE SAID PURPOSES; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Public Hearing: Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance #2020-23; seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Voice Vote: All Aye. There was no public comment. A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Holliday to close the public hearing; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye.

Adoption: Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2020-23; seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Roll Call Vote:

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

Ordinance #2020-23 is adopted.

New Business: None

Administrator's Report:

Resolution #2020-268 was needed to qualify for COVID-19 reimbursements. Regarding Resolution #2020-265, budget transfers are permitted after November 1. The Committee may see more transfers than usual due to the changing revenues because of the pandemic. No shortfalls are foreseen.

At the last meeting we heard concerns from the Clifton Mills HOA representative regarding pedestrian safety along Clifton Mills Road. The Township has since completed additional striping of the road for pedestrian safety. Signs are currently being made. Police have completed a speed study; the results are expected shortly. We will continue to work with the Clifton Mills HOA.

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has increased in the State as well as the County. There are no singular events or specific areas of concern in the Township. Please be careful, wear masks and social distance. Please follow guidelines. We are currently screening all Township employees each day with for symptoms and administering temperature checks. We are restricting access to the Township buildings for the next 30 days. Township employees are still working on site; however, the public is limited to the lobby. There is a locked drop box for court and tax payments. Drop offs for other departments are also located in the lobby. Residents can also call the phone numbers posted in the lobby for assistance.

Township Committee Liaison Reports

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

*Committeeman Mason left the meeting at approximately 8:08 p.m.

Presentation by Eagle Scout candidate Joe ream

Joe Ream presented his proposed Eagle Scout project to erect a flag pole honoring veterans at Joseph Lawrence Park. He presented his budget, supplies and project time line. His goal is to complete the project by the end of the year. The Eagle Scout project must be completed in its entirety by the end of March. A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Holliday and seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis to approve Joe Ream's Eagle Scout project. Roll Call Vote:

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

Public Participation

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

LEN DEGROOT, 8 ARLINGTON ROAD: Congratulations to Aneka Miller who will be joining the Township Committee in January.

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

As a final comment, Mayor Benowitz urged all residents to stay safe and to follow public health protocols. Congratulations to Jim Kostoplis and Aneka Miller on their elections.

Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at approximately 8:17 p.m.; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: Aye of all present.

Respectfully Submitted,

MARIA CARRINGTON, TOWNSHIP CLERK