

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 27, 2014

The Regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown was held in the Main Meeting Room in the Municipal Building.

PRESENT: Mayor Stephen Benowitz
Deputy Mayor James Cann
Committeeman Richard Carson
Committeeman John Moynihan
Committeewoman Jill Popko
Township Clerk Colleen Eckert
Attorney William J. Kearns, Jr.
Chief Financial Officer David Kocian
Public Works Director Dean Buhrer
Chief of Police Frank M. Nucera, Jr.

ABSENT: None

Mayor Benowitz called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 p.m. and led a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

Township Clerk Eckert read the following Open Public Meeting Announcement:

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting was provided in the following manner:

On January 6, 2014, advance written notice of this meeting was posted on the bulletin board opposite the main entrance to the meeting room in the Municipal Building; was FAXED to the REGISTER NEWS, BURLINGTON COUNTY TIMES and THE TIMES; was filed with the Clerk of Bordentown Township; and was mailed to all persons who requested and paid for such notice.

The proceedings of this meeting, which are open to the public, are being electronically recorded. Requisite minutes are kept for all meetings, whether open or closed to the public.

At this time, Deputy Mayor Cann made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown that it does hereby recess this Regular Meeting to meet in Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Barbara Woolley-Dillon vs. Township of Bordentown; seconded by Committeewoman Popko.

It is anticipated that the deliberations conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination of the Township Committee that the public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality.

AYE: Committeeman Carson, Committeeman Moynihan, Committeewoman Popko, Deputy Mayor Cann, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

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The Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown recessed their regular meeting at approximately 7:09 pm and reconvened the regular meeting at 7:35 pm.

Mayor's Proclamation honoring the Applegate Family. At this time, the Mayor read the Proclamation into the record and then the Mayor and the Township Committee presented the Proclamation to the Applegate family.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Township Clerk Eckert announced there is an addition to Resolution #2014-300-8, the bill list: a payment for \$7,893.50 to the Bordentown Regional School District for the Municipal Alliance Grant.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #2014-300-8 entitled APPROVING THE TRANSACTION OF ITEMS OF ROUTINE BUSINESS: PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Resolution #2014-300-9 entitled APPROVING THE TRANSACTION OF ITEMS OF ROUTINE BUSINESS: MINUTES OF MEETINGS AND FILING OF REPORTS.

Resolution #2014-300-10 entitled AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX SALE PREMIUM.

Resolution #2014-300-11 entitled AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX SALE PREMIUM.

Resolution #2014-300-12 entitled A RESOLUTION CANCELING TAXES.

Resolution #2014-300-13 entitled AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX SALE PREMIUM.

Resolution #2014-300-14 entitled AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE FY 2015 BURLINGTON COUNTY ANNUAL ALLIANCE PLAN AGREEMENT.

Resolution #2014-300-15 entitled RESOLUTION TO APPOINT PART-TIME (PER DIEM) EMT.

Resolution #2014-300-16 entitled RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS IN THE MATTER OF PROPOSED UTILITY RATE INCREASES.

Township Committee reviewed and discussed Consent Agenda Items #2014-300-8 through #2014-300-16. Deputy Mayor Cann commented/asked questions.

At this time, Committeewoman Popko made a motion to open to the public the consent agenda items; seconded by Committeeman Carson.

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AYE: Committeeman Carson, Committeeman Moynihan, Committeewoman Popko, Deputy Mayor Cann, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

Seeing no comments, Committeeman Carson made a motion to close to the public; seconded by Deputy Mayor Cann.

AYE: Committeeman Carson, Committeeman Moynihan, Committeewoman Popko, Deputy Mayor Cann, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

At this time, Committeewoman Popko made a motion to adopt the consent agenda; seconded by Committeeman Carson.

AYE: Committeeman Carson, Committeeman Moynihan, Committeewoman Popko, Deputy Mayor Cann, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

Consideration of Introduction of Ordinance #2014-28 entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN AMENDING THE WATERFRONT VILLAGE REDEVELOPMENT AREA REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WATERFRONT VILLAGE TO ESTABLISH REVISED PERMITTED OR CONDITIONAL USES.

At this time, Deputy Mayor Cann made a motion to introduce Ordinance #2014-28: seconded by Committeewoman Popko.

AYE: Committeewoman Popko, Deputy Mayor Cann, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: Committeeman Carson, Committeeman Moynihan

TOWNSHIP CLERK ECKERT: The public hearing will be November 10th.

Consideration of Introduction of Ordinance #2014-29 entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN APPROVING THE AMENDED REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR BLOCK 120, LOTS 1-14; BLOCK 121, LOTS 1-5; BLOCK 122, LOTS 1-10; BLOCK 127, LOTS 2-3; AND BLOCK 128.01, LOTS 1-12, 14-16, 29-32.02 AND 35-38; ALSO KNOWN AS THE SOUTHERN GATEWAY REDEVELOPMENT AREA.

At this time, Committeewoman Popko made a motion to introduce Ordinance #2014-29: seconded by Deputy Mayor Cann.

AYE: Committeeman Carson, Committeeman Moynihan, Committeewoman Popko, Deputy Mayor Cann, Mayor Benowitz

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NAY: None

TOWNSHIP CLERK ECKERT: The public hearing will be November 10th.

Township Committee discussion of Best Practices Checklist for CY2014/SFY2015.

The Best Practices Checklist is required by the State of New Jersey. It determines whether or not a municipality is eligible for state funding. Bordentown Township's checklist has improved from last year and will again be eligible for funding.

Township Committee discussion of Jumble Gut Run.

Deputy Mayor Cann stated that Andy Law, Supervisor of Office of Emergency Management, has been working on several grant applications including Jumble Gut Run/Glen and Orchard Avenues. Deputy Mayor Cann said that we are applying for grants but a more comprehensive overview of the project is needed. The first step would be to go to the N.J. DEP to set up a meeting requesting a hydraulic water study, and then an RFP would be needed. These steps may open the Township up to more grants. Andy Law added that hurricanes Sandy and Irene and future hurricanes have caused erosion and flooding in several residential areas of the Township, and state parklands are also being impacted. Homes on Woodland Avenue are very much in jeopardy. Andy Law said that this project should be high priority, and a meeting with the residents may be needed.

The Township Committee was in agreement to proceed with this project as presented.

Township Committee discussion of Status of Bossert Park Improvement Project.

Mayor Benowitz gave an update on the status of the project.

Township Committee discussion of Status of Thorntown Lane/Hinkle Drive Three-Way Stop Intersection Project.

Police Chief Nucera said they are waiting for a quote from the vendor who is working on the road improvement program and is currently working on Shelburne Road which is located near the Project. If the quote for this portion is cheaper than the engineer's quote, a change order would be made to add the intersection.

The half basketball court will be added to the future park improvements. P.W. Director Buhrer will check with Alt. Engineer Fred Turek to see if it should be a full court and part of the original plan.

Township Committee discussion of Status of 2014 Road Improvement Project (Mission/Yorktown/Shelburne/Amboy/Grand).

Mayor Benowitz gave a status of the Road Improvement Project which will begin next week. Residents and school transportation have been notified.

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TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

COMMITTEEMAN CARSON: Committeeman Carson commented on the inconsistency of the trash pick-up time. Mayor Benowitz responded that there is a meeting set up with the manager of Waste Management and our legal counsel.

COMMITTEEMAN MOYNIHAN: The Veteran's Advisory Committee and Angel Sauro are currently working on the Veteran's Day Ceremony which is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, 2014 at 2:00 pm at the Bordentown Cemetery.

The Bordentown Sewerage Authority has not met since the last Township Committee Meeting.

In regard to the Police Department, the Detectives are still working on investigating the September burglary spree at the north end of town. The new officers are doing well at the police academy.

Police Chief Nucera received a letter from a Mansfield Township resident complementing our Animal Control Officer Team.

COMMITTEEWOMAN POPKO: The Wailing Woods Haunted Hayride was held on October 24, 2014. It was a great success and the Public Works Department did a great job. She congratulated the Public Works Department for winning the Steve McGowan Award for best float at the Bordentown City Halloween Parade. The Green Team, the Environmental Commission, and teenagers from the school's Key Club also participated in the Wailing Woods.

Leaf collection will begin the first week of November starting at the south-end of town.

The Environmental Commission has continued with the high school, the Biology Club, and the Math Club for putting in the Wildlife and Butterfly Garden at the high school. In two weeks, the Environmental Commission will be showing them how to write grants to help them get funds for their garden.

The Environmental Commission is continuing work on Tidy Town; an announcement will be made in about 2 weeks. On October 25, 2014, the Environmental Commission, the Green Team, the Girls Scouts, and the Key Club planted the native plant and wildlife garden around the gazebo at Northern Community Park. The Community Garden will be closed up on November 8, 2014. Over 900 lbs. of produce was harvested this year that went to the local food pantry.

DEPUTY MAYOR CANN: Deputy Mayor Cann said he attended a training session given by Fire District #2 at the County facilities. He said it was good to see they were keeping up with their professional training.

He said the Wailing Woods Haunted Hayride was terrific and well-represented by Public Works, the Police Department, and Township employees.

The Planning Board only heard one application at the October meeting. The Wisdom Diner was approved to expand their parking lot with conditions.

Police Chief Nucera and CFO Kocian attended a 2015 budget training session in New Brunswick which was sponsored by the Institute for Professional Development.

Over the weekend, there was a water leak on Ward Avenue in which Bordentown City was not able to shut it off. Deputy Mayor Cann thanked Police Chief Nucera for helping to resolve the issue.

Deputy Mayor Cann thanked Committeewoman Popko and commended her for her efforts in getting volunteers and donations for the plantings at the Gazebo at Northern Community Park.

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The timing of the traffic light was re-adjusted at Rising Sun and Hedding Roads. Police Chief Nucera said that they are exploring having the signal constantly red on all legs unless approached by a vehicle. It will then change in 12 seconds and remain green until all the traffic is gone, whether north/south or east/west. This will slow down the truck traffic through the roadway. The light will be monitored and can always be changed back.

MAYOR BENOWITZ: Mayor Benowitz said he attended the Williamsburg Village Homeowners Association meeting. The tree removal project was discussed. He read into the record a letter sent out October 17, 2014 to the homeowners from the president of the Regency Management Group stating that the trees were infiltrating sewer lines, etc. and would be working with the new landscaper to devise a landscaping plan for the community.

The Mayor, Police Chief Nucera, and Brian Johnson attended a meeting at the Bordentown Waterfront on October 2, 2014. Route 130 and Burlington Road CR662 is now complete and open. He gave an update on the project.

On October 15, 2014 he spoke to the Mid-Jersey Chamber of Commerce.

He is still meeting regularly with the Township Engineer and Township Attorney. Progress is being made in all areas.

Bordentown Township and the Bordentown Township Economic Development Advisory Committee had a business luncheon on October 20, 2014 at Alstarz. There was a presentation and awards were presented.

On October 21, 2014 there was a Shared Services meeting held with attendance by mayors from Bordentown Township, Chesterfield, Fieldsboro, Mansfield Township, North Hanover and Springfield Township. These meetings are expected to occur quarterly in the future.

He attended the SAAJ ground breaking ceremony on October 24, 2014.

He said the Wailing Woods Haunted Hayride sent out 48 hay wagons and thanked the Public Works Department and everyone who attended. He congratulated the Public Works Department for winning the trophy at the Bordentown City Halloween Parade.

There was a meeting with the Meadow Run residents who boarder the berm on Meadow Run Road. Grainger offered the residents three options regarding buffering and the residents are considering which option to take.

In regard to the hiring of the Township Administrator, he would like to hold a special meeting for interviews after the election on November 4, 2014. A decision on who will be hired will be made this calendar year.

Mayor Benowitz made a statement regarding the partnership with government, commercial businesses, and residents.

Mayor Benowitz addressed conduct at the Township Committee Meetings.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: At this time, Committeewoman Popko made a motion to open the meeting for public participation; seconded by Deputy Mayor Cann.

AYE: Committeeman Carson, Committeeman Moynihan, Committeewoman Popko, Deputy Mayor Cann, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

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WALT KOSUL, 539 Route 206: Mr. Kosul inquired about Shared Services. Mayor Benowitz responded that police services, public works, among other items, were discussed at the recent meeting.

Mr. Kosul commented on the Dix Drive-in and asked why it is tax exempt. He asked for an opinion on this matter for the next meeting.

ROBERT DELANEY, 5 Alfred Drive: Mr. Delaney asked about the Shared Services meeting and if all the Township Committee members were included.

Mr. Delaney asked if Bordentown Township was awarded any monies for a park grant. Deputy Mayor Cann responded that the Township had to modify and resubmit the grant application which was for parking for Veteran's Park, Veteran's Park expansion, and for potential future soccer fields.

He commended the Public Works Department and P.W. Director Buhner for the Wailing Woods, Haunted Hayride and added that the Foundation for Bordentown Traditions and the Sewer Authority were involved as well.

Mr. Delaney inquired about bond payments that were refinanced.

Mr. Delaney asked about the block and lot correction on the Waterfront ordinance. He also asked why the project seems like it is slowing down. Mayor Benowitz responded to his questions.

There was discussion regarding the budget and the 2008 revaluation.

WALT KOSUL, 539 Route 206: Mr. Kosul asked for a copy of the Waterfront Ordinance #2014-28. He will obtain a copy from Township Clerk Eckert.

BILL POPKO, 3 Henry Marshall Drive: Mr. Popko asked for a report from the liaison for the Board of Education. Committeeman Carson advised Mr. Popko that it is a separate board, the Township has no authority over the Board, and if he was concerned as a resident that he should attend their meetings. Committeeman Carson then gave Mr. Popko an update of what occurred at the most recent meeting he attended.

Mr. Popko commented on the 2008 revaluation and the required Local Financial Statement.

Mr. Popko stated that at the April 24, 2014 Planning Board Meeting it was unanimously agreed by the Planning board to allow convenience stores as a conditional use of the (Waterfront) Redevelopment, and now it seems there have been second thoughts as to that decision.

ROBERT DELANEY, 5 Alfred Drive: Mr. Delaney said he was opposed to the convenience store/gas station at the Waterfront. The Planning Board makes a recommendation to the Township Committee and then the Township Committee has the authorization to either accept the recommendation or to deny it and act in whatever manner they feel acceptable.

LEN deGROOT, 8 Arlington Road: Mr. deGroot said that there were many residents present tonight and welcomed everyone to come back.

Seeing no further comments, Deputy Mayor Cann made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting; seconded by Committeeman Moynihan.

AYE: Committeeman Carson, Committeeman Moynihan, Committeewoman Popko, Deputy Mayor Cann, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

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COMMITTEEMAN CANN: Committeeman Cann said in 2008, the revaluation was not required by the County and he asked the Township not to perform the revaluation because the home values were declining. This cost the Township \$3.3 million. Deputy Mayor Cann explained what the status is with the Monmouth Plan where the assessments would be handled by the County.

At this time, Committeeman Carson made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown that it does hereby adjourn the regular meeting; seconded by Committeeman Moynihan.

AYE: Committeeman Carson, Committeeman Moynihan, Committeewoman Popko, Deputy Mayor Cann, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

The regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown was adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m.

STEPHEN BENOWITZ, MAYOR

COLLEEN M. ECKERT, TOWNSHIP CLERK