

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 2021

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
Committeewoman Aneka Miller
Administrator Michael Theokas
Clerk Maria Carrington
Attorney Eileen Fahey

ABSENT: None

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

Roll Call was taken by Township Clerk Carrington.

Resolution 2021-2-22 entitled RESOLUTION TO MEET IN CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION moved by Committeewoman Miller 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

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 closed session was adjourned at 7:12 p.m. through a motion made by Committeewoman Miller, seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye. The meeting was reopened to the public at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The Mayor led a salute to the flag and a moment of silence dedicated to the tragic loss of over 500,000 Americans due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our prayers and concerns go out to their families and they will never be forgotten.

Township Clerk Carrington read the following Open Public Meeting Announcement:

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act. Adequate and electronic notice of this meeting was provided. The notice of the 2021 meeting schedule was sent to the *Burlington County Times* and *The Times* on January 5, 2021 and subsequently published by the *Burlington County Times* on January 8, 2021. The notice has been, and remains, posted on the Township website and the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building. A copy of the notice is also on file in the Township Clerk's office to be made available to the public upon request. The proceedings of this meeting are being electronically recorded

Correspondence: None

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

Consent Agenda:

Resolution #2021-57 entitled APPROVING ROUTINE BUSINESS: MINUTES OF MEETINGS AND FILING OF REPORTS

Resolution #2021-58 entitled AUTHORIZED REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES

Resolution #2021-59 entitled RESOLUTION APPOINTING SHANNON LIGHTBODY AS FULL-TIME KEYBOARD CLERK I IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION, UCC AND INSPECTIONS

Resolution #2020-60 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE 2020 ROAD PROGRAM FOR ADDITIONAL CROSSWALKS AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MEASURES

Resolution #2021-61 entitled REFUND OF ESCROW BALANCE FOR BNF CONTRACTORS DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Resolution #2021-62 entitled APPROVING ROUTINE BUSINESS: PAYMENT OF BILLS

Township Committee review and discussion of Consent Agenda Items Resolutions #2021-57 through #2021-62: None.

Committeeman Fuzy made a motion to open the Consent Agenda items for public comment; seconded by Committeewoman Miller. Voice Vote: All Aye. There being no public comment, Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to close the Consent Agenda to public comment; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye.

Committeeman Fuzy made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; seconded by Committeewoman Miller. Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeewoman Miller, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

Introduction of Ordinance #2021-1 entitled ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021 (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Committeeman Kostoplis made a motion to introduce Ordinance #2021-1: seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeewoman Miller, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

The Public Hearing on Ordinance #2021-1 will be held at the March 8, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Introduction of Ordinance #2021-2 entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN AMENDING SECTION 15.04.020 OF THE BORDENTOWN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISH PERMIT AND FEE SCHEDULE

Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to introduce Ordinance #2021-2: seconded by Committeewoman Miller. Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeewoman Miller, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

The Public Hearing on Ordinance #2021-2 will be held at the March 8, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Introduction of Ordinance #2021-3 entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN, BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND MODIFYING SECTION 25.502, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, OF THE BORDENTOWN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CODE

Committeewoman Miller made a motion to introduce Ordinance #2021-3: seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeewoman Miller, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

The Ordinance will be referred to the Planning Board and the Environmental Commission for review. The Public Hearing on Ordinance #2021-3 will be held at the March 22, 2021 Regular Meeting.

New Business:

- a. Update on the Rezoning Request of 115 U.S. Route 130 (Block 58, Lot 36.01) – The Township Committee continues its consideration of the request for rezoning a property within our Highway Commercial Zone. The Committee has reviewed the request with its planning professionals and has been advised that, in most instances, rezoning should not be limited to one particular parcel, but should take into account all or at least a significant portion of the Township’s Highway Commercial corridor. That is not a small undertaking. It requires a re-examination of the Master Plan and its Land Use Element. Before the Committee requests a re-examination from the Planning Board, further information needs to be examined and discussed. The Committee hopes to have an answer to the rezoning request in the coming weeks; however, the Committee must consider the potential impact the rezoning would have on the land use character on the Township as a whole. The Committee will continue to update the public as this process moves forward.
- b. Fleet Management – CFO Elsasser and Administrator Theokas have been looking into alternate methods of providing vehicles to the Police and Public Works departments. In the past, vehicles have been purchased through the Township’s capital budget. Enterprise (corporate office) has a program where vehicles are leased. This is an interesting concept which would keep the fleet newer, lower maintenance costs and free up capital budget dollars. Cost is negligible as Enterprise will give us credit for older cars turned in. The Police and Public Works department have been consulted and neither has issues with the fact that the vehicles would no longer be owned by the Township. Administrator Theokas wanted to make the Committee aware of this concept. The Township could start small. There would be no obligation to continue. More information and requests for action will be forthcoming.

COVID-19 Update:

The Mayor stated that there have been 631 confirmed cases in the Township. All Township first responders have been fully vaccinated. Vaccine information for the general public is on our website.

Town Hall remains open but public access is restricted to the lobby area. Secure drop boxes are available in the lobby for all payments and submission of forms. All Township services are available. All Township employees are temperature screened daily. All safety precautions are being enforced and contact tracing protocols are in place.

Congressman Andy Kim has held several town hall meetings regarding the vaccination process. More vaccines are becoming available and all residents are encouraged to make appointments at any NJ facility. Although vaccination numbers are up and infection rates are stabilizing, all residents are reminded to stay vigilant and wear masks, socially distance and wash hands and surfaces.

Administrator’s Report:

We continue to battle the weather. The Public Works Department is commended for doing a great job. Snow removal costs are allowed to be banked from year to year. This is proving useful this year as we have needed to purchase salt and pay for overtime. Please be careful on the roads.

Township Committee Liaison Reports

Committeewoman Miller, Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, 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 Fuzy Voice Vote: All aye.

KEVIN JOHNSON, TEAM CAMPUS II, 115 US ROUTE 30: Mr. Johnson thanked the Mayor for the update concerning the rezoning request. He asked the Committee what has done to help local businesses during COVID-19. He feels that as an owner of large tax generating businesses that the Community Development office or the Township should have reached out to him to see how he was doing. The Mayor stated that the Township waived business license fees. Assistance was also make for local restaurants to open safely outside circumventing site plans and fees. Unlike State and federal governments, the Township does not have financial resources at its disposal to help businesses.

Committeewoman Miller made a motion to close the meeting to the public; seconded by Deputy Mayor Holliday. Voice Vote: All aye.

There were no final comments by the Township Committee.

Committeeman Fuzy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:08 PM; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

MARIA CARRINGTON, TOWNSHIP CLERK