

BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE
Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2021

Mayor Canose called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. remotely via Zoom. Present were Council Members John Donahue, Jeff Hammond, Jena McCredie, Chad McQueen, Thomas O'Dea, Jr. and Christine Zamarra. Also present were John Pidgeon, Borough Attorney, Ralph A. Maresca, Jr., Administrator/CMFO and Anthony Suriano, Borough Clerk.

STATEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER

Notice of this meeting was provided to the Bernardsville News, Courier News and the Star Ledger, filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board on December 24, 2020.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATIONS - None

OPEN SESSION

Mayor Canose opened the meeting to the public. Hearing no comments, Mayor Canose closed the open session.

ORDINANCES (Public Hearing) - None

ORDINANCES (Introduction)

Ms. Zamarra moved that Ordinance #2021-1871, **CONCERNING SEWER CONNECTION FEES AND SEWER USER RATES AND ALLOCATION AND AMENDING CHAPTER XVI OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "SEWER REGULATIONS"**, be introduced by title, passed on first reading, published according to law, and that a public hearing be scheduled for a meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m., Monday, January 25, 2021. Mr. Hammond seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

RESOLUTIONS

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| #21-20 | AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS |
| #21-21 | AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS TO WASHINGTON CORNER ROAD AND CARRIAGE HOUSE ROAD |
| #21-22 | AUTHORIZING AN EXCHANGE OF CERTAIN HOLIDAYS |

- #21-23 AUTHORIZING REFUND OF POLICE OFF-DUTY ESCROW FUND BALANCES**
- #21-24 AWARDING CONTRACT FOR SALE OF 271 MINE BROOK ROAD (BLOCK 81, LOT 6.01) TO HIGHEST BIDDER**
- #21-25 AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOMERSET HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS IN DISTRICT SCHOOLS**
- #21-26 AUTHORIZING REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT OF 2020 TAXES FOR COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION APPEAL 41 CENTER STREET**
- #21-27 CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF THOMAS J. CZERNIECKI, PP, AICP, AS BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR**
- #21-28 ESTABLISHING MECHANISM FOR APPOINTMENT OF FIRE SUBCODE OFFICIAL DENNIS BUTLER AS ACTING CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL WHEN THE CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL IS ABSENT**
- #21-29 AUTHORIZING PERMISSION FOR THE USE OF AND WAIVING OF FEES FOR THE USE OF THE BOROUGH OWNED PROPERTY ACROSS FROM BOROUGH HALL FOR THE STORAGE OF MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE CRESTVIEW DRIVE AND CHESTNUT AVENUE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

Regarding Resolution #21-21, Mr. McQueen asked where the funding is coming from. Mr. Maresca said it is from a 2020 ordinance and a 2015 bond ordinance. Following further discussion, it was decided to review this resolution further and table it to a future meeting.

Regarding Resolution #21-29, Mr. McQueen suggested finding an alternate location for storage of materials and equipment for future projects. Mr. O'Dea said the resolution passed last year setting fees for use of borough owned properties was mainly meant for utility companies who need a storage area for their materials and equipment. Ms. McCredie suggested the Public Works Committee look for other options for storage of materials and equipment.

Mr. McQueen moved to adopt Resolutions #21-20 to #21-29 except #21-21 and #21-27. Mr. Hammond seconded and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote. Mr. Donahue, Mr. Hammond, Ms. McCredie, Mr. McQueen, Mr. O'Dea, and Ms. Zamarra voted yes.

Regarding Resolution #21-27, Mr. McQueen explained the process taken by the borough for the search for a new Administrator due to the retirement of Mr. Maresca. Mayor Canose introduced

Tom Czerniecki as the new Administrator effective February 8, 2021. Mr. McQueen moved to adopt Resolution #21-27. Ms. McCredie seconded and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote. Mr. Donahue, Mr. Hammond, Ms. McCredie, Mr. McQueen, and Ms. Zamarra voted yes. Mr. O'Dea abstained.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Girl Scout Cookie Sales

Council consent was given for the Girl Scouts to sell cookies at the Millicent Fenwick statue from 10:00am to 4:00pm on February 27th and 28th, and March 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st, 27th, 28th. The Girl Scouts must submit a certificate of insurance naming the borough as an additional insured and a completed hold harmless agreement.

Extension of Peddlers License

Jeff Lewis asked permission to extend use of his 2020 peddlers license throughout 2021 since he did not get any use out of it in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. It was moved and seconded to extend Mr. Lewis' peddlers license through December 31, 2021 as long as he observes all state and local Covid guidelines. The motion was approved with five yes votes. Mr. Donahue voted no.

Correspondence - CARES Grant Funding for School Districts

Mayor Canose said we have been notified that Somerset County will reallocate CARES funding they received from the State of NJ in the amount of \$35,000 to the Somerset Hills School District.

Mayor's Update

Mayor Canose said we received one RFP for the Audi Dealership but it is incomplete. She spoke to Chris Colley of Topology and he will contact the sender of the RFP to get more information. The state is looking for retired healthcare professionals to help with the Covid vaccine. Mr. McQueen asked if they are providing refresher training. Mr. Hammond responded that a person would have to join the medical reserve corps and have a current license. He said if someone did not normally give injections or vaccinations, it is required that they go through as supervised process to make sure they are capable. Mr. McQueen asked what other medical providers they are looking for other than MD, RN, and PA. Mr. Hammond said pharmacists. Mayor Canose asked Mr. Hammond for an update on his committee. Mr. Hammond said he is on an advisory committee to county commissioners and there is a number of constraints but most formidable, right now there is no set cadence on how many vaccinations doses are given to the county on a week-to-week basis. They have opened up one vaccination site not run by the state, a county site at Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC). This will be the sole site through January and then they will open three sites in February in addition to RVCC. He said as they get vaccines, they will open up more site. He said the county would like to make the decision when to move onto vaccinating the various groups 1a, 1b, and 1c, but the state has made that process uniform

for all counties. He said the goal is to vaccinate 70% of the 300,000+ people in the county by the end of the summer, we would have to do at least 1,000 people per day. He said we are behind that pace and we will have to escalate when the vaccine becomes more readily available and we can do 2,500 people per day. He said this is the reason for wanting volunteers so we can run the vaccination clinics more than 12 hours per day. Mayor Canose said the county had their reorganization meeting on January 8th and had the swearing in of the new County Commissioners, formerly called Freeholders, and the Surrogate. She said Shanel Robinson will once again be the Director and Sara Sooy will be the Deputy Director for this year. Mayor Canose said this past Saturday we had another mural painting session in the train station and it was fully booked and a very successful day. The next session will be on January 22nd and people can sign up on downtownbernardsville.com and then again on January 29th. The Winter Farmers Market was also held this past Saturday and was well attended. Ms. McCredie said signing up for mural painting is very easy online and they are also accepting donations. Mayor Canose said tomorrow she will be attending a seminar regarding the rolling out of the Somerset County Marketplace. This will be a website to share services and equipment. Walter Lane of Somerset County has helped us get our first meeting on January 13th to become a transit village. She said this would make us eligible for more grants than we can get now. Mayor Canose said there is a Somerset County Government Officials meeting on January 13th at 6:30pm. She said she usually attends as does Mr. Hammond and she encouraged other council members to attend.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Hammond moved to adopt Resolution #21-30,

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FROM LOCAL GOVERNING BODY AUTHORIZING THE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY ENERGY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION.

Ms. Zamarra seconded. It was noted that no money is awarded for this grant and what is received are expert recommendations regarding better energy efficiency for borough buildings. The recommendations are not binding. The motion was approved with six yes votes.

Ms. McCredie asked about maximizing the advertising of our RFPs. Mayor Canose said that is a task for Topology and she would follow up with Chris Colley.

New Business

Mr. McQueen asked if we could ask each committee to complete a charter. It was decided that Mr. McQueen will work with Mr. Suriano in creating a form and sending each committee chair what is on file in the ordinance pertaining to their committee. The committee chairs will review and advise if there are any changes.

Ms. Zamarra said there was a delay with recycling pickup by Somerset County but they are back on schedule. She said there is information on the county website about buying additional recycling totes.

Ms. Zamarra said the Health Department is offering testing for Covid.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved to adjourn to an executive session to consider Personnel Matters and Pending Litigation and that the time when and circumstances under which the matter can be disclosed to the public is when it is finally resolved. The motion was seconded and approved with four yes votes.

REOPEN

It was moved and seconded to reopen the meeting to the public.

Mr. McQueen moved to adopt Resolution #21-31, **APPOINTING LESLIE ROBERSON AS CMFO**. Mr. Hammond seconded and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote. Mr. Donahue, Mr. Hammond, Mr. McQueen, Mr. O'Dea, and Ms. Zamarra voted yes. Ms. McCredie voted no.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.
