

DECEMBER 3, 2013

PAULSBORO, N.J.

7:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING

Council Chamber:

Mayor Hamilton presided at the regular meeting of Council held on the above date and place.

The Opening Prayer was given by Mayor Hamilton.

Mayor Hamilton asked all those present to join in the flag salute, which was conducted by Borough Clerk VanScoy.

Mayor Hamilton called the meeting to order.

Borough Clerk VanScoy read the opening statement regarding the Open Public Meetings Act.

Members present were: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR.

Mayor Hamilton opened the floor to the public and reminded everyone to give their name and address and there was a five (5) minute time limit to speak.

Mr. Lavard, 9 West Adams Street, asked if the Council could try and pay attention to the kids as he owns property on Spruce Street and he has contacted the Police twice as the kids are going up on the roof and destroying the roof. He questioned what could be done by the Police.

Mayor Hamilton suggested Mr. Lavard speak with the Chief or the Captain and they will address the matter and take care of it for him.

Al Capree, 720 Beacon Avenue, stated he is checking on the progress of the flooding issues on his block.

Mayor Hamilton stated the Borough is working as best as it can and there were other projects in front of this issue. He further stated at this moment the Borough can't work on this project but will do all it can to address the problem as it takes a process.

Mr. Capree stated he is still waiting on the Engineer's report and then the camera broke and the drains weren't checked and there has been nothing but problems. He is financially ruined putting in money for mold, heaters, etc.

Mayor Hamilton stated he will see what the Engineer says and try to address all at once but the Borough is doing the best it can.

Marvin Hamilton, 913 Chestnut Street, stated there has been a lot of rain this year and he has been complaining about Thomson Avenue for years and he felt Thomson Avenue flooding should come first. The sewer drain hasn't been cleaned. The Borough has to buy a street sweeper and not go through a shared service. He further stated two (2) Councilpersons were overheard talking about the Mayor and they have to realize the Mayor is the leader.

Mayor Hamilton stated the Borough is working and trying to do what it can to get a street sweeper and vacuum.

Ed Degothseir, 524 Mantua Avenue, stated he is having a problem with his property taxes as he is paying \$17,000 in taxes on property that doesn't exist.

Theresa Cooper, 300 Buck Street stated she has paid \$4,000 for her son's court case which was dismissed and she still sees the same problems with the Police Department and the way they talk to people. She will contact the ACLU and NAACP which she has done in the past and will call them again.

Michael Pidliskey, 572 Billings Avenue, questioned if the stores are allowed to stay open after 2:00 a.m. such as Pearl's Girls.

Mayor Hamilton stated he will look into this matter and get Mr. Pidliskey an answer.

There wasn't any further public participation.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to close the floor to the public at 7:15 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

Minutes of Regular Meeting held on November 6, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to receive, file and adopt the above minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

R. #208.13: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS OUT OF THE 2013 BUDGET. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to pay all bills properly signed and adopt R. #208.13. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. Motion carried.

R. #209.13: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM CERTAIN ACCOUNTS TO OTHER ACCOUNTS IN THE 2013 BUDGET. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to adopt R. #209.13. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. Motion carried.

R. #210.13: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET IN THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY PURSUANT TO N.J.S. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948). (Safe and Secure Grant). Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to adopt R. #210.13. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. Motion carried.

R. #211.13: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET IN THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY PURSUANT TO N.J.S. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948). (2011 Recycling Tonnage Grant). Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to adopt R. #211.13. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. Motion carried.

R. #212.13: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN BALANCES ON WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS.

R. #213.13: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN BALANCES ON WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS.

R. #214.13: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN BALANCES ON WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to adopt R. #212.13 to R. #214.13. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti,

Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

R. #215.13: RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO PROVIDING ASSURANCES TO NJDOT AND FHWA FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARRA STREETScape II PROJECT. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to adopt R. #215.13. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Administrator/CFO Ruggeri stated the construction will take place in the spring and there will be traffic detours.

Summary of reports and copies of minutes of meetings. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to receive and file. All were in favor of the motion.

Received Bingo License Application, BA-571, Guardian Angels Regional School Board for their 2014 annual bingos. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to receive, file and approve the Bingo License. All were in favor of the motion.

Received Bingo License Application, BA-572, St. Clare of Assisi Parish for their 2014 annual bingos. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to receive, file and approve the Bingo License. All were in favor of the motion.

Letter from Sr. Jerilyn Einstein, Guardian Angels Regional School, requesting to block Seventh Street from Mantua to Beacon Avenues to safely cross the children on Friday, December 6, 2013 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. for their St. Nick Shop Event. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giovannitti seconded to receive, file, approve the request and notify the proper departments. All were in favor of the motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Administrator/CFO Ruggeri reported an update to Chapter 78. Chapter 78 will be instituted in the next employee pay checks. She sent out notifications to the employees and the Borough is in compliance with the State.

Administrator/CFO Ruggeri updated Mayor and Council on the CDBG Grant money of \$45,000 for improvements to the Senior Citizen Building. The Historic Preservation Architect has inspected the building. The windows look relatively new

and she stated the money would not be used for that but there are other items to be repaired such as an alarm system, etc. The Borough has been approved to move forward.

Administrator/CFO Ruggeri stated she received a telephone call today from AP Construction and they informed her they will be working at the Port and there will be some noise. They have notified the residents in the three (3) blocks surrounding the Port. On December 9th there will be loud bangs for several hours due to concrete piles and on December 13th there will be a loud boom explosion as well as there will be three (3) more dates that will be a lot of noise but they will provide a better time frame once they know when it will happen.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Giampola wished everyone Happy Holidays and hoped everyone had a good Thanksgiving.

Councilman Giampola stated interviews for the Code Enforcement Officer's position were completed and he will have a recommendation at the next Meeting.

Councilwoman Turner hoped everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving.

Councilwoman Turner stated flyers were on the table regarding the Holiday Tree Lighting as well as on the website. It will be held on Saturday December 7th, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. The Parade will leave the Fire House at 5:30 p.m. and the tree lighting will take place at 6:00 p.m. There will be singing, entertainment, hot cocoa, pictures with Santa and presents.

Councilwoman Turner also stated the Second Baptist Church is holding a Program on Monday, December 16th at 6:30 p.m. and includes a dinner.

Councilwoman Turner further stated the Paulsboro High School's Holiday Program will be held on December 14th, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium.

Councilwoman Turner reported that she has sat down with the Administrator to discuss some vacant lands to be sold.

Councilwoman Turner stated she attended the annual New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City and it was a great experience as she networked with her peers and attended some really good seminars. She felt it is a valuable conference.

Councilwoman Turner discussed the Kaboom Grant from the last meeting and requested to approve the amount of \$7,500 to match the School's match.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to approve the funding match for the Kaboom Grant in the amount of \$7,500. All were in favor of the motion.

Councilwoman Turner stated a letter of intent was required and it is to go to Dr. Quint.

Councilman Stevenson stated as some have heard or read lately there have been some serious crimes that have happened recently. He is glad to report that the Police Department has been successful in making a couple of arrests in regard to those crimes. He thanked the Police Chief, Detective and the rest of the Police Department for their diligent work.

Councilman Stevenson also stated the Borough has received mostly positive feedback on the placement of the three and four-way stop signs on Mantua, Swedesboro and Thomson Avenues. It will continue to be monitored for their effectiveness and if need be, place a few more in locations where they are needed.

Councilman Stevenson further stated the Borough recently came upon the one (1) year anniversary of the train derailment. Congressman Andrews spoke at the site last week that he will be introducing a bill for better rail safety as well as another bill for Incident Command Structure on incidents of this magnitude. He hoped these bills will be acted upon and not languish in committees for years. He spoke with Federal, State and Local Officials that day regarding Conrail sitting down with Council before the first train comes across the new bridge, to discuss all of the Council's concerns to make sure whatever procedures, training, negligence, rail maintenance conditions that contributed to the accident will not happen again.

Mayor Hamilton stated there was a trial base on the new stop signs and they were going to be enforced very soon.

Councilman Kidd stated he did not have a report regarding the Finance Committee but he also felt Conrail should come to the Governing Body to discuss the new bridge.

Councilman Kidd moved and Councilwoman Turner seconded to send a letter to Conrail asking them to meet with the Mayor and Council before the first train crosses the new bridge to address the Borough's concerns. All were in favor of the motion.

It was suggested that the Borough's Engineer also attend the above meeting once it has been confirmed.

Councilman Kidd also stated the report from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) should be coming in January and also felt they should meet with Mayor and Council and give a verbal report.

Mayor Hamilton stated Congressman Andrews will be coming in January.

Councilman Kidd stated it should be the NTSB giving the report.

Councilman Kidd further stated he also went to the League Conference and he attended two mini seminars regarding “humps and bumps in the street” which some laws says they are legal and some laws says they are not and one seminar on the 2% tax.

Councilman Kidd wished everyone a nice holiday and hoped everyone had a good Thanksgiving.

Councilman Haynes stated he did not have a report from the Utilities Committee but he discussed the placement of the three and four-way stop signs. The stop signs do not meet the guidelines of the MUTCD and he questioned what standards were used. The Engineer has to review the placement and the Borough is not following the procedure. He wants to see the procedure used and if he is wrong, he will apologize.

Councilman Haynes moved and Council President Giovannitti seconded to find out what standard was used in placing the stop signs. All were in favor of the motion.

Council President Giovannitti stated the Holiday Tree Lighting is always a nice event and reported that the Recycling Truck is officially dead. The Borough has contracted through Casworth to collect the recycling for the rest of the year which this will allow the part time employees to do other projects.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to authorize Borough Foreman Tinder to relook at the trash and recycling guide and give recommendations.

Councilman Kidd questioned the use of Casworth.

Administrator/CFO Ruggeri stated Casworth is using their trucks, their driver and two (2) of the Borough employees.

Council President Giovannitti stated there have been shootings and he hoped the Police Department will continue to make arrests and keep on top of the shootings.

Council President Giovannitti wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mayor Hamilton stated he also went to the League Conference and attended seminars such as: Law and Municipal Government seminar, how to redevelop areas in New Jersey seminar which takes funding and a developer, State and Federal Funding seminar which the Borough should have a grant writer and he stopped by a booth that had a street sweeper and vacuum on display and he will turn the information over to the Street and Highway Committee.

Mayor Hamilton wished everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and all the other observances.

There wasn't any further Borough business.

Councilman Haynes moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

This is a brief summary of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Paulsboro held on December 3, 2013 and should not be considered a verbatim transcript of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. VanScoy, RMC/CMC
Borough Clerk

W. Jeffery Hamilton, Mayor