

APRIL 7, 2015

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 Councilman Holloway.

Mayor Hamilton asked all those present to join in the salute to the flag, 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 Kidd, Councilman Giovannitti, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner.

Mayor Hamilton stated the Governing Body just hired Lorraine Boyer as Certified Municipal Finance Officer.

Ms. Boyer introduced herself.

Mayor Hamilton opened the floor to the public, asked anyone speaking to give their name and address and reminded everyone there was a five (5) minute time limit. He also asked everyone to turn down their cell phones.

Ben Mento, 204 Billingsport Road, stated the residents of Paulsboro receive a negative label once they inform someone they reside in Paulsboro especially if stopped by a Police Officer in another jurisdiction.

Linda Weber, 600 King Street, stated she is selling Paulsboro Little League Merchant Discount Cards for \$10.00 each. Please see her if anyone would want to purchase one.

Ms. Weber also discussed the hump in front of her house which is causing the flooding issues. She is hopeful the work can be done soon such as the hump being cut down and planed.

Councilman Holloway explained that the Engineers would be out to look at the matter to survey it and they will try to rectify the problems.

Ms. Weber stated she understood that the Engineer already reviewed it and said it just has to be cut out and planed down.

Robert Parks, 451 Mantua Avenue, Coach of the Paulsboro Little League, thanked Councilwoman Turner, Councilman Haynes, and the Public Works Employees, especially Borough Foreman Tinder, Operation/Maintenance Work Leader Virden and Assistant Water and Sewer Superintendent Reed for their help in getting the Damminger Complex ready for the Little League season. He especially gave a big thank you to Administrator Ruggeri. The complex was really bad and if it wasn't for Administrator Ruggeri, things wouldn't have gotten done. He doesn't understand why it took ten years. He questioned the monies in the Tower Fund. He stated the budget for the Little League hasn't been increased which is \$3,200 which isn't much but they have the lowest registration fee in Gloucester County. The Football fields playing conditions are atrocious and things are getting done. He owes a lot of that to Administrator Ruggeri and he fully supports Administrator Ruggeri.

Michelle Shirey, Gloucester County Economic Development Office, stated she is taking over for Anna Docimo as liaison for the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Emma Hackley, 201 West Buck Street, questioned if Paulsboro had enough Police Officer's as the summer months are coming. It is disgraceful that the same thing is going on year after year. People are paying their taxes but they cannot enjoy their homes. There has been a spat of burglaries and she finds it offensive that the Church on Billingsport Road was burglarized. The damage that was done was terrible. The Police need help and this matter requires aggressive action. She would like something done.

Evans Lavard, 9 West Washington Street, stated people over age 18 are "knuckleheads" and are selling drugs. There are people selling single cigarettes and questioned why the owner of the store wasn't fined. He felt further investigation needed to be done and then Council should pull their license. He further questioned what the code was for commercial leases. He felt the store needed to be closed and Council needs to do better.

Barry Corradetti, 1820 Overbrook Avenue, questioned the curfew ordinance and the fact the Borough doesn't have one.

Solicitor Angelini prepared a draft ordinance and he is comfortable it will sustain scrutiny and hopefully it will be on the books before summer.

Mr. Corradetti, President of Neighborhood Watch Association, also spoke regarding comments Mr. Parks stated in reference to Administrator Ruggeri. He stated every time he has contacted Administrator Ruggeri, if she was not available, she would always get back to him.

Ken Norris, 445 Summit Avenue, discussed the Administrator's position and Chapter 1 of the Code Book.

Solicitor Angelini thanked Mr. Norris and informed him his five (5) minutes was over.

There wasn't any further public participation.

Council President Kidd moved and Councilman Giovannitti seconded to close the floor to the public at 7:37 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

Proclamation: PHS Boys Basketball Team.

Mayor Hamilton presented the proclamation to Coach Sean Collins of the PHS Boys Basketball Team.

Minutes of a Special Meeting held on March 3, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Council President Kidd moved and Councilman Giovannitti seconded to receive, file and adopt the above minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 3, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Council President Kidd moved and Councilman Giovannitti seconded to receive, file and adopt the above minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

R. #82.15: EMERGENCY TEMPORARY RESOLUTION PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET. Council President Kidd moved and Councilman Giovannitti seconded to adopt R. #82.15. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Kidd, Councilman Giovannitti, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

R. #83.15: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF BILLS OUT OF THE 2015 TEMPORARY BUDGET. Council President Kidd moved and Councilman Giovannitti seconded to pay all bills properly signed except Purchase Order No. #15-00356 out of account #5- 01-20-130-000-200 in the amount of \$1,016.00 and adopt R. #83.15. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Kidd, Councilman Giovannitti, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Solicitor Angelini stated the Administrator would like to discuss this bill in Executive Session.

R. #84.15: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN BALANCES ON WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS. Council President Kidd moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to adopt R. #84.15. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Kidd, Councilman Giovannitti, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. Motion carried.

R. #85.15: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR DISALLOWANCE OF SENIOR CITIZEN DEDUCTIONS. Council President Kidd moved and Councilman Giovannitti seconded to adopt R. #85.15. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Kidd, Councilman Giovannitti, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Hamilton stated there is a need to appoint a Flood Plan Administrator which would be the General Engineer, T&M Associates.

Council President Kidd moved and Councilman Giovannitti seconded to appoint T&M Associates as the Flood Plan Administrator for the Borough of Paulsboro. All were in favor of the motion.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Stevenson, Chairman:

Councilman Stevenson thanked Fire Chief Alfonso Giampola for fighting the house fire on the 400 block of West Broad Street. The fire was contained to just the second floor.

Councilman Stevenson discussed hiring in the Police Department and stated if the Borough wanted to declare war on crime, then it has to have the manpower or womanpower. They have to be willing to get out on the streets and walking the streets. The Police Department did a great job on handling the shootings. Everyone has to work together. He thanked the Police Department.

Chief Wachter stated three (3) Officers have received certification in Child Seats. The Department will be doing a community outreach to make appointments to have the child car seats inspected or installed.

Councilman Stevenson stated he supported the Administrator 100% and will fight anybody anywhere to make sure she keeps her job.

Public Property Committee/Community Betterment Committee: Councilwoman Turner, Chair:

Councilwoman Turner thanked the Recreation Committee for their support and their volunteer time for the Easter Egg Hunt as it was a successful event. She also thanked Council President Kidd and Councilman Haynes for their assistance.

Councilwoman Turner stated Administrator Ruggeri has done a fabulous job and she works well with the Council.

Councilwoman Turner stated there was a breakdown of communication between the Little League and the Recreation Committee, but they are chipping away at the Damminger Complex in getting it ready for the Little League season. There has to be better communication and what everyone is saying is not going on deaf ears. She is 100% for cleaning up the town, for Administrator Ruggeri and Council.

Councilwoman Turner also thanked Mayor Hamilton for his assistance at the Easter Egg Hunt.

Street and Highway Committee/School Board Liaison Committee: Councilman Theodore D. Holloway, II:

Councilman Holloway stated Borough Foreman Tinder and the Public Works employees are working tirelessly for the Little League's Opening Day. The streets will be swept on Friday. The Borough's parking lot is completed and will be striped around April 14th. There will be an event at the High School called Ampd Around the World for Artists, Musicians, Poets, etc. and they are looking for a donation of \$5.00. The Little League Opening Day will be held on April 11th.

Utilities Committee: Councilman Haynes, Chairman:

Councilman Haynes stated the Water and Sewer Department will start to flush hydrants on April 20th, April 21st and end on April 22nd. He asked residents to run their faucet if they see discolored water.

Councilman Haynes thanked the Borough workers for the work they did on the Damminger Complex. He stated it is tough to get parents out to help. It was a quick fix and there are some long term projects he would like to see done.

Councilman Haynes discussed the Tower Fund and stated the funds are for any improvements to the Damminger Complex. There aren't millions of dollars in the fund, maybe \$125,000 but easily \$25,000 to \$30,000 is in the fund. There are numerous things being done, and there needs to be more dedication from the Mayor and Council to make sure the complex is safe for the kids. The Borough has an Administrator that works well with the organizations, Council, Department Heads, etc. and he gave "hats off" to Administrator Ruggeri.

Construction and Licensing Committee: Councilman Giovannitti, Chairman:

Councilman Giovannitti stated Lorraine Boyer is a welcome addition to the Borough and this hiring will allow the Administrator many more opportunities to get projects done. He gave “kudos” to the organizations and asked Administrator Ruggeri to continue the good work and she has all his support.

Councilman Giovannitti discussed the Landlord Licensing Ordinance and stated every rental unit is inspected yearly. The Committee is looking at the Ordinance. They are finding out that another part time person is needed and the Borough could raise the Landlord Licensing fee to pay for the additional help. At this time the Borough doesn't have the manpower to address abandoned and foreclosed properties. He will address this further at the next meeting. He will have a proposal to raise the fees and the late fees so the residents did not have to be burdened. He gave “kudos” to the Public Work Department, the Police Department, the Fire Department and all employees who work for the Borough every day. He felt the Borough had a fine group of employees and they continue to work together.

Finance Committee: Council President Kidd, Chairman:

Council President Kidd stated Tax Collector Georjean Widener will be attending the TCTANJ Conference on May 19, 20 and 21, 2015.

Council President Kidd stated the Borough is not in a position to discuss the possible introduction of the Salary Ordinance at this time.

Council President Kidd also discussed the Recreation Committee versus the Recreation Commission which is what it used to be. He explained what transpired with the Recreation Commission. The Damminger Complex has been neglected. There are two (2) organizations at that complex and a lot of times the same kids play both sports.

Council President Kidd asked Council to watch the capital projects to be included in the General budget.

Mayor Hamilton stated the Borough held a Town Forum last Saturday and the Paulsboro Refinery will be installing a reventilating system for the High School. They will work with the High School and Dr. Quint. He further stated the Little League Complex has been cleaned up and the ground elevated by putting in new dirt. The community has taken the time out and it has been all volunteer work.

Mayor Hamilton received a letter from Glorious Light Christian Ministries regarding their annual Walk-a-thon on May 16, 2015.

Council President Kidd moved and Councilman Giovannitti seconded to approve the Glorious Light Christian Ministries Walk-a-thon on May 16, 2015 and notify the proper departments. All were in favor of the motion.

Councilman Haynes discussed the issue Mr. Lavard talked about and possibly issuing mercantile licenses. He will talk more about it at a Work Session Meeting.

Solicitor Angelini asked if Council wanted him to look into mercantile licensing.

Councilman Kidd moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to authorize Solicitor Angelini to look into mercantile licenses. All were in favor of the motion.

R. #86.15: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO. Councilman Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to adopt R. #86.15. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Kidd, Councilman Giovannitti, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Mayor and Council recessed at 8:25 p.m.

Mayor and Council went into Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. to discuss personnel in reference to the Administrator's school attendance.

Mayor and Council reconvened the Regular Meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Councilman Stevenson moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to restore the voucher for the Administrator's schooling to the bill list and approve the Administrator to continue her courses. Roll: Ayes: Councilman Giovannitti, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: Council President Kidd. **Motion carried.**

Councilman Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to accept the resignation of Donna Nestore as Chief Municipal Finance Officer and send a letter of thanks to Ms. Nestore and the Mayor of Clayton. All were in favor of the motion.

Council President Kidd stated he is trying to find office space to put the new CMFO.

Councilwoman Turner informed Council President Kidd to make sure he goes through the proper Committee chairpersons.

There wasn't any further Borough business.

Councilman Stevenson moved and Councilman Giovannitti seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 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 April 7, 2015 and should not be considered a verbatim transcript of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. VanScoy, RMC/CMC
Borough Clerk

W. Jeffery Hamilton, Mayor