

MAY 3, 2016

PAULSBORO. N.J.

7:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING

Council Chamber:

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

Mayor Stevenson called the meeting to order.

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

The Opening Prayer was given by Reverend Michael Eggenberg of Taylor Memorial Baptist Church.

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

Members present were: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd.

Mayor Stevenson presented a proclamation for National Teachers' Appreciation Week to JoAnne Gayeski and Roseann Lombardo on behalf of the Teachers at the Paulsboro Public Schools.

Mrs. Lombardo thanked Mayor and Council and invited the Mayor and Council to the After Prom Party on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Michael's Club in Gibbstown from 11:30 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.

Mrs. Gayeski thanked Mayor and Council for the proclamation.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR.** (Agenda item questions only)

Mayor Stevenson explained the new agenda public discussion sessions which the first public portion is at the beginning of the meeting and is for questions regarding the agenda and then there will be another public portion at the end of the meeting for all other questions or discussions.

Councilman Haynes moved and Council President Giovannitti seconded to open the floor to the public for any questions on the agenda. All were in favor of the motion.

There wasn't any public participation.

Councilman Giampola moved and Council President Giovannitti seconded to close the floor to the public. All were in favor of the motion.

Minutes of a Special Meeting held on April 5, 2016 at 5:00 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.

Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on April 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of a Work Session Meeting held on April 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to receive, file and adopt the above minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

**R. #89.16: RESOLUTION TO READ 2016 BUDGET BY TITLE ONLY.** Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to adopt R. #89.16. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC HEARING at 7:00 p.m. on R. #77.16 the 2016 Budget of the Borough of Paulsboro.** Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to open the meeting to the public. All were in favor of the motion.

There wasn't any public participation.

Councilman Giampola moved and Council President Giovannitti seconded to close the floor to the public. All were in favor of the motion.

Councilman Kidd questioned the Group Insurance amount on page 15 as it went from \$900,000 to \$915,000.

CMFO/Acting Administrator Boyer stated it is an across the Board increase and includes a new officer and a new Administrator.

Councilman Kidd questioned the accumulated absences amount on page 15c.

CMFO/Acting Administrator Boyer stated the amount needed to be cut as there is a large trust fund for this.

Councilman Kidd questioned why the line "Total Programs Offset" on page 25 went from \$107,000 to 91,000.

CMFO/Acting Administrator Boyer stated these are State grants and the Borough can appropriate during the year.

Councilman Kidd questioned why the Capital Improvement Fund on page 32 went from \$80,000 to \$5,000.

CMFO/Acting Administrator Boyer stated because it was healthy enough and it wasn't needed to keep that amount. This is what the Auditor recommended.

**R. #77.16: 2016 BUDGET ADOPTION.** Councilman Giampola moved and Council President Giovannitti seconded to adopt R. #77.16. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

**R. #90.16: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF BILLS OUT OF THE 2016 BUDGET.** Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to pay all bills properly signed and adopt R. #90.16. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola (abstained on all fire department bills), Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

**R. #91.16: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR ALLOWANCE OF A SENIOR CITIZEN DEDUCTION.** Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to adopt R. #91.16. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

**R. #92.16: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN BALANCES ON WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS.** Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to adopt R. #92.16. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

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.

Letter from Tax Collector Georjean Widener regarding statement of Uncollectable Taxes. Council President Giovannitti moved and Council DiTonno seconded to receive and file the letter. All were in favor of the motion.

Letter from the New Jersey Senate & General Assembly requesting permission to use the Municipal Building on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to host a mobile office outreach. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to receive, file the letter, approve the request and notify all proper departments. All were in favor of the motion.

Letter from Beatrice Hemmings, Paulsboro Head Start Program Family Site Director requesting waiver of application fee for the use of Fort Billings Park on Wednesday, May 25, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Holloway seconded to receive, file the letter and grant waiver of fee. All were in favor of the motion except Councilman Kidd abstained.

Letter from Willie Carroll, Jr., Post Commander, George D. Patton, Jr. Post 678, Inc., requesting purchase of wreaths and donation of \$200.00. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to receive, file the letter, grant the purchase of the wreaths and the donation and notify the proper departments of the event. All were in favor of the motion.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Port Project.

Mayor Stevenson stated a letter was sent to John Burzichelli, Director of Project Management, asking him to give a presentation on the Port Project but he couldn't make it and hopefully will make the next meeting. The Port has hired 30 people and the first ship carrying steel will arrive around July and the project is moving forward.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Public Property Committee: Councilman Holloway, II, Chairman:

Councilman Holloway stated there is a tentative meeting scheduled between the Architect and the Borough on the 1638 Swedesboro Avenue property. He will report back once the meeting is held.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman DiTonno, Chairman:

Councilman DiTonno did not report anything at this time.

Mayor Stevenson stated there was a tanker truck accident that rolled over on Route 44 today in West Deptford. The diesel fuel is being pumped out and there were two (2) injuries. It could have been a lot worse but it wasn't.

Finance Committee: Councilman Giampola, Chairman:

Councilman Giampola thanked CMFO/Acting Administrator Boyer for her hard work on the Budget.

Councilman Giampola stated the Finance Committee is continuing to interview for the Administrator's position on Thursday and possibly next Tuesday.

Councilman Giampola informed the Borough Clerk to send the Resolution regarding the Hazardous Mitigation Plan to Dennis at the County.

Councilman Giampola discussed the Resolution for Request for Proposals (RFPs) for Financial Advisor.

**R. #93.16: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION AND ISSUANCE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR FINANCIAL ADVISOR.**

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to adopt R. #93.16. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Community Betterment Committee: Councilman Kidd, Chairman:

Councilman Kidd questioned the interviews being conducted by the Finance Committee as the Administrator comes under all of Mayor and Council.

Mayor Stevenson stated the interviews go through the Finance Committee and then the top candidates will come back to the Mayor and Council for approval.

Councilman Giampola stated the top three (3) candidates will come back to Mayor and Council and Council will have an Executive Session Meeting to interview the top three (3) candidates.

Councilman Kidd stated again the Administrator comes under all of Mayor and Council and Council should have voted for the Finance Committee to conduct the interviews.

Mayor Stevenson stated that it was done this way last time.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to authorize the Finance Committee to conduct the interviews for the Administrator's position. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno,

Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Councilman Kidd discussed the grants for the standpipe and water meters. He questioned if the Borough has sat down and figured out the cost to read the meters.

Mayor Stevenson stated this will be discussed under Councilman Haynes report.

Councilman Kidd wants figures for County taxes, school taxes, water and sewer rates and local taxes.

CMFO/Acting Administrator Boyer stated the County tax rate hasn't been cut yet.

Councilman Kidd stated when it is cut, he wants a figure as to how much it will all cost.

CMFO/Acting Administrator Boyer stated as soon as she has the County rate, she will let Councilman Kidd know.

Councilman Kidd discussed the Port Project. He has talked with Mr. Burzichelli and Council received a report. He questioned how much the report cost and where the affluent is going. The Port will be pumping sewerage to the County Authority and there are certain sections of town that doesn't have sewer. He hoped the Borough or the Council gets enough money to install sewer in that section of Billingsport and get a pumping station for those without sewer. He further stated someone has to find some money and he will ask the County when they come for their presentation. This is very important and the residents should know what is going on.

Councilman Kidd stated the Borough received a letter from Peter Mercanti, Purchasing Director, County of Gloucester, providing a Shared Service Agreement for the rental of the feature movie for a family-oriented movie night on Friday, August 26, 2016 with a rain date of August 27, 2016.

**R. #95.16: RESOLUTION ENTERING INTO A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO AND THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER TO PROVIDE FAMILY MOVIE ENTERTAINMENT.** Councilman Kidd moved and Council President Giovannitti seconded to adopt R. #95.16. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Public Works Committee: Councilman Haynes, Chairman:

Councilman Haynes stated the Borough will be holding their bi-annual shredding event on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Loudenslager School. He asked residents to use paper bags or cardboard boxes.

Councilman Haynes stated the Contractor of Spruce Street will be starting next week. Work should be underway in two (2) weeks.

Councilman Haynes stated Well No. 7's work is moving along and they will be testing the plant in two (2) weeks.

Councilman Haynes also stated the video has been completed on Thomson Avenue but to expect another four (4) days.

Councilman Haynes asked Erik Biermann, Sickels and Associates, Borough Engineer to give the Borough any updates.

Borough Engineer Biermann stated Sickels submitted an application for a CDBG Grant last week for handicap ramps and sidewalk at the intersection of West Buck Street and Penn Line. There was a meeting last week with USDA regarding the \$700,000 grant and the \$1.8 million low interest loan at 2 ¼ %.

Borough Engineer Biermann stated the cost to read the meters has been cut back as it would take less labor as there are two (2) systems which are both remote reads. One system is in the vehicle and the other system is a fixed transponder throughout the Borough and the Borough can automatically read the meters. The Borough would still have to physically read industrial meters. The Borough can also set up alerts and auto read meters.

Borough Engineer Biermann discussed the Supplemental Proposal from Sickels & Associates regarding Thomson Avenue Water Main, Storm and Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project (USDA Application and NJEIT Modification). The Borough is eligible for a 55% grant which is worth over \$2 million dollars to the Borough. The Borough asked him to prepare a proposal as there is a strict timeframe. The National funding cycle deadline is in August. USDA is looking favorably on this project.

Councilman Kidd questioned if the grant will do all of Thomson Avenue.

Borough Engineer Biermann stated it encompasses areas of the original project.

Councilman Kidd also questioned why it would only go to Elizabeth Avenue.

Borough Engineer Biermann stated because it is a different drainage shed.

**R. #94.16: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BOROUGH ENGINEER TO INITIATE THOMSON AVENUE WATER MAIN, STORM AND SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.** Councilman Haynes moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to adopt R. #94.16. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Stevenson thanked Sickels and Associates and Erik Biermann for the job they are doing for the Borough of Paulsboro.

Construction and Licensing Committee: Council President Giovannitti, Chairman:

Council President Giovannitti congratulated the Water Department and Borough Engineer Biermann.

Council President Giovannitti stated recently the Landlord Registration Ordinance was upheld by the Courts.

Emily Givens, Solicitor's Office, stated the injunction was not enforced and the Borough can proceed with enforcing the Ordinance.

Council President Giovannitti also stated the Code Office increased the hours of the Part-Time Employee who will be assisting the Code Enforcement Officer. He stated the Code Enforcement Office is giving warnings regarding grass cutting.

Council President Giovannitti stated the vehicle the Code Office uses is in very bad condition and he has met with the Code Committee to discuss the matter.

Council President Giovannitti thanked Code Enforcement Officer and Department Head Wayne Bender and the Code Office.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR.** (General questions only.)

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman Kidd seconded to open the floor to the public at 8:04 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

Cheryl Scott, 1645 Swedesboro Avenue, questioned the impact on the residents once the water meters are installed.

Borough Engineer Biermann stated once the meters are installed, then the Borough can set the rates but he doesn't have the data to answer Ms. Scott's question.

Ms. Scott questioned if all residents were receiving warnings regarding their grass even on Buck Street.

Code Enforcement Officer Bender stated the Borough is cut into thirds and each week the Office will review each section and every street and every property will be reviewed. A notice is placed on the property and it is mailed to the property owner.

Michael Eggenberg, Taylor Memorial Baptist Church, questioned the “No Parking” sign on Seventh Street. This would take away from his parking for the Church.

Councilman Haynes stated the signs have been taken down for some reason or another but they were erected as per the existing Ordinance.

Chief Marino stated the Borough has been replacing signs that have been removed or faded and they are trying to put them back up. When there is parking on both sides, it impacts emergency vehicles getting down the street.

Rhonda Lockleer-Holland, Taylor Memorial Baptist Church, suggested taking the yellow paint off on the curb by Carmen’s.

Councilman Haynes suggested a time span for parking especially on Sunday.

Chief Marino stated the Ordinance would need to be amended.

Mrs. Lockleer-Holland stated this parking sign would impact St. John’s as well.

Mayor and Council further discussed suggestions for the parking for Taylor Memorial Baptist Church.

Mayor Stevenson suggested clearing away the yellow paint by Carmen’s and try on Greenwich Avenue first. He asked Councilman Haynes and Chief Marino to review.

Chief Marino stated in speaking with Borough Foreman Tinder, there is some room for compromise.

Mr. Eggenberg stated there is a dead tree on the church side of Seventh Street. He asked how he would be able to remove it.

Councilman Haynes stated if the tree is in between the curb and the sidewalk then it is the homeowner’s responsibility.

Edith Bair, 240 West Buck Street, would like to see the property cleaned up at 126 Gill Avenue. Also, when it rains there is big puddles of water and she questioned what the procedure was to get the street black-topped.

Code Enforcement Officer Bender suggested Ms. Bair speak with the Zoning Officer.

Jennifer Turner, 233 West Buck Street, suggested using the same interview process for the Administrator's position as the Borough does for the Police Department hires. She felt the entire 15 candidates should be interviewed by the Council and use a point's process.

Mayor Stevenson stated he has the full trust in the Finance Committee to come up with the names.

Ms. Turner questioned why the Borough went into a Shared Service agreement with Gloucester County for the movie night event.

Councilman Kidd stated Gloucester County wanted the Shared Service for insurance purposes.

There wasn't any further public participation.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Holloway seconded to close the floor to the public at 8:22 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

Mayor Stevenson stated he spent three (3) days doing a walk around. He noticed the alleyway on Thomson Avenue and was disheartened with what he saw as it is atrocious as it is filled with garbage. At one time, one could easily get a Fire Truck through and now one could only get an ATV. He walks every area of town and the Borough can't let this happen. He is getting ready to meet with developers and he will be meeting with Loretta Winter of the NAACP. The Borough has to start getting people who owe a lot of money in taxes to pay as it should not get to this point. He thanked all of Council and he thanked the residents for coming to the meeting.

There wasn't any further Borough business.

Councilman Haynes moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 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 May 3, 2016 and should not be considered a verbatim transcript of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy A. VanScoy, RMC/CMC  
Borough Clerk

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Gary C. Stevenson, Mayor