

FEBRUARY 7, 2017

PAULSBORO, N.J.

6:00 P.M.

CAUCUS MEETING

Council Chamber:

Mayor Stevenson presided at the caucus 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.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR.

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

Mayor Stevenson 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.

There wasn't any public participation.

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

Councilman Haynes asked the Administrator to go over the Water and Sewer items with the Mayor and Council. The Public Works Committee has met and discussed these items and they agree on the increases.

Borough Engineer Biermann explained the Gloucester County Utilities Authority increased their rates and the Borough is 4% behind what they charge. There are also other operational costs.

Administrator Jacobucci stated the Ordinance for the increase in the rates and overages is on the agenda for second reading and the Ordinance for the amendment of interest and increases in the clean outs and connection fees will be introduced. For Ordinance #01.17, the residents will be paying an increase of \$34.00 per year for both water and sewer rates. For Ordinance #02.17, the residents will be paying 18% interest which is how it has been done for several years and the turn on fee will go to \$50.00 from \$20.00. The Borough has to start going after the delinquencies and shut them off. The connection fees will go from \$50.00 to \$1,500 which will cover materials and labor and clean outs will also go from \$50.00 to \$1,500.

Councilman Kidd questioned if this would give the line item a surplus.

Administrator Jacobucci stated the increases are not designed to be a surplus.

Councilman Kidd stated the Borough will have to get carbon filters on other wells which are another cost.

Mayor Stevenson informed Council that they should go over items on the agenda by the order of the Regular Meeting agenda.

Councilman Giampola discussed the receipt of bids for the Cellular Antenna Array and the responsibility of moving the antennas if it was necessary.

Solicitor Simone stated there is language in the contract that the Leasee is responsible.

Councilman Giampola also stated he is aware that AT&T will be moving their antennas from the standpipe that the Borough will be repainting.

Councilman Kidd has some questions regarding R. #58.17 Payment of Bills. He questioned page 3 the Exxon Mobil Program, page 6 the removal of a tree at the park and page 14 the Exxon Mobil Lube Plant.

Administrator Jacobucci stated the Borough is not giving anything back for the Exxon Mobil Program as it is a payment to the School. She also answered that she will find out what the tree removal bill is and the Exxon Mobil Lube Plant bill was being paid through their escrow account.

Administrator Jacobucci went over her report items on the agenda. South Jersey Gas Company is increasing costs. She proposed a process to pay the bills the third week of the month. The Council will retroactively adopt a Resolution at the first meeting of the month in order to pay the bills the third week of the month. She also received the request from the Engineer's to adopt a Resolution for the 2017

Roadway Program. If Council doesn't adopt by the deadline, the Borough will lose the grant funding.

Borough Engineer Biermann stated the project consists of roadway improvements for Spruce Street – Phase II (from Broad Street to Thomson Avenue), Pine Street (from Broad Street to Swedesboro Avenue) and Billings Avenue – Phase VI (from Second Street to Riverview Avenue). They have looked at Spruce Street from Swedesboro Avenue to the back of Loudenslager School. They will focus on this street this year and work with the school as a cooperative project.

Administrator Jacobucci stated the Annual Debt Statement and the Annual Financial Statement have been prepared and she is looking to introduce the Budget at the March Meeting. The School tax will go up 4 cents. She also stated that Axion Refining Company has filed a tax appeal. She further stated that the Public Defender will cost the Borough \$200.00 per client.

Chief Marino discussed a major vehicle repair as the power steering pump went in one of the police vehicles. He also stated there is a need to hire and advertise for Alternate Crossing Guards as several Crossing Guards have medical issues and one (1) Crossing Guard has resigned. He is requesting to hire one (1) Alternate Crossing Guard and hire another Alternate Crossing Guard once the position has been advertised. He proposed the name of Joseph Branco. He further discussed conducting the interviews to hire two (2) Patrol Officers. He has two (2) names he recommended for hire. One (1) name is to replace Patrol Officer Pierce.

Councilman Haynes felt before Council voted on the 2nd Officer, that Council wait until budgetary discussions.

Chief Marino stated he would like to get pre-approval to hire the 2nd Officer until the budget is approved. He further stated he interviewed five (5) Officers and he presented the names of Michael Konnick and Brian Freeman.

Councilman Holloway questioned if there were any minorities.

Chief Marino stated no.

Consensus of Council was to wait to hire the 2nd Officer once the Budget has been adopted.

Mayor Stevenson questioned if Council had any other discussions or questions.

Council President Giovannitti stated he will be meeting with Administrator Jacobucci on Thursday for a Code Committee Meeting.

Mayor Stevenson stated he was signing the bills and noticed the phone and utility costs are outrageous. One (1) phone bill is \$3,000 per month. The Borough needs to look at its in house costs.

Councilman Giampola stated the Finance Committee will be holding a Budget meeting on Friday at 2:00 p.m.

Councilman Kidd moved and Councilman Holloway seconded to adjourn the Caucus Meeting at 7:02 p.m.

This is a brief summary of the Caucus Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Paulsboro held on February 7, 2017 and should not be considered a verbatim transcript of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. VanScoy, RMC/CMC/CMR
Borough Clerk

Gary C. Stevenson, Mayor