

MAY 6, 2014

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 salute to the flag, which was conducted by Administrator/CFO Ruggeri.

Mayor Hamilton called the meeting to order.

Administrator/CFO Ruggeri read the opening statement regarding the Open Public Meetings Act.

Members present were: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Absent: Councilman Giampola. (excused), Borough Clerk VanScoy (sick).

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.

Anthony Kline, 579 North Delaware Street, questioned the flooding/run off from the new water tower property. The ground is higher now than when the playground was there and he knows the flooding is coming from that. He suggested taking the concrete pillars from the removal of the old tower and creating a retention pond.

Mayor Hamilton stated the Borough Engineer's will look into the problem and will respond.

Leonard Lombardo, 566 Nassau Avenue, he lives behind Mr. Kline's property and he previously suggested a swale or something higher to raise their property and make the tower property lower as the street still floods out. He would like to compliment the Township workers as they do keep the sewer drains cleaned and it does make a difference but he still believes his property is being polluted by gasoline and whatever lies on the road when it floods out.

Marvin Hamilton, 913 North Chestnut Street, complimented the Department of Public Works in keeping the snow removed during the winter and clearing the roads. He felt they did a good job. There are some things that need to be done such as the streets need to be cleaned with a sweeper, the water outlets need to be cleaned out, pot holes need to be filled and the Borough Hall parking lot needs redoing. The outside of the Borough Hall looks good but the parking lot has a lot of potholes. He read in the newspaper that NJDOT gave grant monies to some towns in South Jersey for road assistance. He felt the Borough should get their grant writer to apply for some of these grants. He also felt a digital sign was needed to let residents know what is going on in the town.

Mayor Hamilton stated there is grant money the Borough is getting in the amount of \$80,000 to complete Phase III of Billings Avenue.

Edgar Degothseir, 524 Mantua Avenue, commended the Mayor and Council for trying to clean up the public water but does it contain a carcinogen and how does it affect the property taxes, does it decrease the value of the homes? He heard a lot of communities in Gloucester County are now getting a program through the Governor to do a reassessment of the values of properties because a lot of them came back in error. He questioned if that was going to happen in Paulsboro.

Mayor Hamilton stated at this time he could not say if it would or wouldn't happen in Paulsboro but he can check into it.

Mr. Degothseir again commended everyone on Council for trying to fix the water problem and the reason he asked about the carcinogen was because he has gone back five (5) generations and no one in his family has cancer but he does and he wanted to know where it came from and why. He asked again how the water problem affects his property value in relation to his taxes. He is willing to pay his fair share.

Bradley Campbell, Borough's Environmental Attorney, stated the contaminate that was found in the water is not determined to be a carcinogen but as far as the current science that is not indicated. The well that had the very high levels of the contaminate has been shut off. The water under the standards that NJDEP has proposed hasn't yet been adopted for that toxic chemical. Through the Mayor and the Council's prompt action, the Borough is in a much better playing field with contention of Solvay that they bear the cost of the filtration for Well #7. He felt the Borough has made significant progress.

Theodore Holloway, 333 West Adams Street, discussed the potholes in this town and the purchase of a tamper machine. He further discussed the water issue and there has to be a filtration system available for each home.

Council President Giovannitti stated the NJDOT grant that the Borough applies for every year will complete Billings Avenue and the Borough also applied for a grant for Beacon Avenue. Also, last year the Council approved to re-do the parking

lot, Chestnut Street and these projects never were completed but it is in the budget and the budget hasn't been adopted yet. The Borough is addressing the issues of potholes which he will be discussing with the Borough Foreman. The Borough has to decide how to move forward and keep the slum off the streets. It has also been approved once the budget is adopted to rent a street sweeper throughout the year to clean the streets and also renting a machine to clean the catch basins and the sewer outlets. He further stated this is all in the budget and once it is approved, the Borough will move forward. The streets will get cleaned.

Erik Biermann, Sickels & Associates, stated the issue with the water system is being addressed. Well #7 is not on line and it hasn't been on line for several weeks. The newer wells are up and running and the additional chemical feed system is on and running. The Borough is monitoring it and making sure the system is up and running.

Barry Corradetti, 1820 Overbrook Avenue, stated he is here not only as President of the Neighborhood Watch but as a taxpayer and resident of this community for 25 years. He discussed Benny's on the Rail and the shooting that took place. He is pleading for the Mayor and Council to shut the bar down and take away their liquor license. It has been four (4) years, it has gotten worse and it is time for the nonsense to stop.

Mr. Corradetti further discussed the water problem and questioned what the parts per trillion was for wells #8 and #9.

Mr. Campbell stated 1 in 2/3 of water systems in the State of New Jersey have that contaminate at comparable levels to what is in wells #8 and #9. New Jersey is the only state that tests for this contaminate.

Mayor Hamilton stated this Governing Body did take a strong stand last year of the closing of Benny's on the Rail.

Ken Norris, 445 Summit Avenue, submitted his resume' and other material in reference to the Borough's chipper. Three weeks ago he asked the Borough about the chipper and he has many times offered his assistance free of charge to fix it. He was told there was \$12,000 worth of damage to it. He did a full inspection of the chipper. He feels he can fix the chipper for less than \$6,000. He sent Council President Giovannitti an email about this and he also heard the Borough was going to purchase a new chipper for \$45,000 and the Borough doesn't need a new chipper. The only damage to the machine is that the workers are too lazy to put the safety cable in the hood. He further stated he asked the Mayor if he could look at the chipper and was given permission but when he arrived at the Garage, Mr. Tinder wasn't there. His real concern is that the chipper weighs 35,000 pounds and a CDL B License with medical certification is required.

Councilman Haynes stated that is not true for a Government worker. For Intrastate a medical card is not required.

Mr. Norris stated the workers reconstructed a vehicle from two different vehicles which is not certified.

Mayor Hamilton stated the Supervisor for the Department will be able to answer Mr. Norris' questions.

Solicitor Angelini states these allegations will be reviewed with the Supervisor.

Council President Giovannitti informed Mr. Norris that the Government entity is different from the private entity and it is not the same as it is different regulations. It is not normal for a resident to go visit a place whether the Mayor approved or not approved. A resident would not be able to walk into the Police Station or the Water Department. There are procedures and policies in place. H appreciated Mr. Norris bringing the information to the Governing Body. He is not going to second guess the workers as he supports them.

Mayor Hamilton stated the issues will be looked into.

Erma McCauley, 209 Huff Avenue, questioned if the stop signs in town were surveyed and what was the outcome as she remembered Councilman Haynes had questioned this. She is concerned about the stop sign on Swedesboro Avenue where people come from Huff Street.

Administrator/CFO Ruggeri stated it was given to the Borough Engineers to look into and they are in the process of figuring out what has to happen and they have to work with the Police Department to do a certain kind of study to get it done.

Ms. McCauley stated she would like to see something done with Thomson Avenue as the potholes need to be done.

Mayor Hamilton stated this is something that is still being worked on and he is trying to get Thomson Avenue done. The Borough has been looking at different grants and is also looking into other avenues if the Borough doesn't get a grant to get Thomson Avenue done.

There being no further public participation, Mayor Hamilton closed the floor to the public.

Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on April 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to receive, file and adopt the above minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

R. #91.14: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF BILLS OUT OF THE 2014 TEMPORARY BUDGET. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to pay all bills properly signed and adopt R. #91.14. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman Haynes,

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

R. #92.14: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR DISALLOWANCE OF A SENIOR CITIZEN DEDUCTION. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to adopt R. #92.14. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. Motion carried.

R. #93.14: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN BALANCES ON WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to adopt R. #93.14. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING:

O. #02.14: ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2014. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to open the meeting to the public. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Corradetti asked for an explanation as to what this is.

Auditor Petroni explained there are two (2) CAPS which one is the actual levy and the second one is the CAP on the appropriations on the amount allowed to be spent and that CAP is not effected by the 2% CAP.

There wasn't any further public participation.

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

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to adopt O. #02.14 on second and final reading. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. Motion carried.

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING:

R. #03.14: BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR THE RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO GILL MEMORIAL

LIBRARY IN THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$473,560 THEREFOR; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY; IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$313,937, MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to open the meeting to the public. All were in favor of the motion.

There wasn't any public participation.

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

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to adopt O. #03.14 on second and final reading. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2014 BUDGET:

R. #94.14: 2014 BUDGET. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to adopt R. #94.14 and schedule the public hearing on June 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilman Kidd stated the introduced budget shows an increase of 4.2 cents and he would like to see an increase of 1 or 2 cents.

Mayor Hamilton asked Councilman Kidd how he expects this community to get things done if there isn't money in the budget.

Councilman Haynes questioned what percentage of the increase would be re-generated back into surplus. Projects can be bonded.

Auditor Petroni explained there aren't any projects in this budget even with the 4.2 cents increase. The Governing Body would put the finances of the town in the best financial position by going with the four (4) cents but the Governing Body would not be in a disastrous financial position if they go with the one (1) cent.

Councilman Kidd stated the Borough is the collection agency for the County, the School Board, the Borough and the Water and Sewer and there are certain situations coming to the Borough and that is why he is talking about two (2) cents rather than the four (4) cents.

Auditor Petroni stated the average home at \$113,000 will increase \$35.00 a year. A one (1) cent increase would go up \$2.00 per year.

Councilman Stevenson stated there should be a separate budget meeting to discuss the budget between the Council to determine what is included in the budget.

Councilman Haynes suggested introducing the budget at the low end and then if want to change the budget to amend it to the high end later.

Councilmen Stevenson and Kidd agreed.

Auditor Petroni stated from a logistical stand point it would be better to start at the higher number and work their way down to the lower number because if the budget's total number is increased one percent (1%) then a public hearing would have to be held on the amendment which requires advertising costs but to decrease the number would not require a public hearing.

Council President Giovannitti thanked Councilman Kidd who worked diligently holding numerous budget meetings and it is not so easy trying to understand the public sector regulations. He questioned Auditor Petroni regarding school and county taxes.

Auditor Petroni explained the Borough is the collection agent for all the governmental taxes so Council should worry only about the local municipality taxes and not look at school taxes, county taxes, etc.

Councilman Haynes felt four (4) cents was too high. The Budget should be introduced at a lower tax increase.

Roll call to introduce the 2014 Budget at 3.2 cents. Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd. Solicitor Angelini stated the motion passed.

Corrective Action Plan for Year 2012. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to receive and file the plan. All were in favor of the motion.

Letter from George Amey, Jr., George D. Patton, Jr., Post 678, Inc., requesting participation in wreath donation. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to receive, file the letter, approve the request and notify the proper departments of the event. All were in favor of the motion.

Letter from Oluvemisi Babajide, Glorious Light Christian Ministries, requesting to hold their second annual walk-a-thon on a Saturday, in May. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to receive, file the letter,

contact Glorious Light for the exact date, approve their request and notify the proper departments. All were in favor of the motion.

Administrator's Report:

Administrator/CFO Ruggeri requested an Executive Session with Attorney Brad Campbell regarding pending litigation involving Solvay Solexis.

R. #95.14: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE BOROUGH OF PAULSORO. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to adopt R. #95.14. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd, Councilman Stevenson, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Police Chief's Report:

Chief Wachter reported the Police Department will be holding their 3rd "Coffee with a Cop" event on May 10th, 2014 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. hosted by Greenwich Township at the Shop Rite on Harmony Road in Gibbstown.

OLD BUSINESS: There wasn't any old business at this time.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

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

Councilwoman Turner did not have any report on public property at this time.

Councilwoman Turner stated she was approached about the Miller Building across the street and the Borough is addressing the concerns with the storefront windows, homemade signs, etc. She is not happy with it either but she has to work with the departments and get this stuff addressed.

Councilwoman Turner discussed Community Service and there are some concerns with the different components that it takes to run that type of service in Paulsboro but she would be happy to bring it back to the Committee and have more discussions and revisit it.

Councilwoman Turner announced the following events such as the Memorial Day parade with the George D. Patton VFW and a special performance has been organized for that day around 11:00 a.m., on Friday, May 16th is the 10th annual Society for Poets of Southern New Jersey's 10th anniversary for the Artists, Musicians, Poets and Dancers that will be held at the High School in the Café from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. and they are asking for a \$5.00 donation and on May 31st the Borough is holding a Shredding event from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Loudenslager School.

Finance Committee/School Board Liaison: Councilman Kidd, Chairman:

Councilman Kidd discussed the bill list and why it has changed. He is glad it is this way as it gives more detail.

Councilman Kidd stated he appreciated Auditor Petroni for being here but he informed everyone that the Borough is the collection agency for all agencies. That is why he is only looking to raise taxes one (1) or two (2) cents.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Stevenson, Chairman:

Councilman Stevenson stated he is going to also give a report from the Code Committee due to the absence of Councilman Giampola.

Councilman Stevenson stated the Borough received a letter of resignation from Gerardo Batista, Rental Inspector. He would like to discuss this in Executive Session.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to include the letter of resignation in the Executive Session discussions. All were in favor of the motion.

Councilman Stevenson discussed an electronic sign at the corner of Scordo's property at the point.

Councilman Stevenson also discussed the fire trucks and the Borough is saving well over a million dollars over 20 years by just buying two (2) fire trucks. The Fire Company is down to two (2) trucks and that is why the fire truck was purchased and the money that purchased a Fire Command vehicle was through the Conrail money and it had to be used for fire department use only. He wanted people to understand the purchases that were made.

Utilities Committee: Councilman Haynes, Chairman:

Councilman Haynes stated he did not have anything to report as the water issue and the water tower issues have already been discussed.

Street and Highway Committee: Council President Giovannitti, Chairman:

Council President Giovannitti thanked everyone for coming out. He stated the Borough held a clean-up day in Paulsboro and in Gibbstown which he attended. He thanked the Mayor and Councilwoman Turner who was also present at the event. The park was cleaned for the Easter Egg Hunt. He further stated there is a cost to make improvements. He doesn't appreciate when someone speaks badly about the Department Heads as he supports them and believes in them. The Borough is working on the potholes and they are working on Thomson Avenue but the Borough

is not ready to move forward. A lot of time and effort has been spent. He informed the Department Heads that they had his respect. He supports the Governing Body and the Department Heads and the Street and Highway Department does a “damn good job” and he will not let anyone “throw them under the bus”.

Mayor Hamilton stated this week past he attended the Mayor’s Conference in Atlantic City and the biggest thing talked about that has been going on for years and years and led by State Senator Sweeney is Shared Services.

Mayor Hamilton stated the Borough is working very closely with Brad Campbell to work out things with Solvay Solexis. Once the Borough gets some information, the Council will let the community know what is going on.

Mayor Hamilton stated the Borough received a donation from Exxon Mobil of Mobil Oil Products to the Public Works Department and he would like to send a thank you letter to Exxon Mobil for the donation.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Kidd seconded to send a thank you letter to Exxon Mobil for their generous donation of oil products. All were in favor of the motion.

Mayor Hamilton stated he is going to hold the appointment of the Alternate 4 to the Land Use Board at the next meeting.

Councilman Kidd stated he would like to have a special meeting to discuss the budget before the next work session meeting.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to go into Executive Session.

Mayor and Council recessed at 9:00 p.m.

Mayor and Council convened in Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

The general nature of the subjects to be discussed at said closed meeting shall be to discuss pending litigation involving Solvay Solexis and personnel regarding letter of resignation from Gerardo Batista, Landlord Licensing Inspector.

Councilman Stevenson moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to open the meeting to the public at 9:38 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

Councilman Stevenson moved and Council President Giovannitti seconded to accept the resignation from Landlord Licensing Inspector Gerardo Batista. All were in favor of the motion except Councilman Kidd.

There wasn’t any further Borough business.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Stevenson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 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 6, 2014 and should not be considered a verbatim transcript of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. VanScoy, RMC/CMC
Borough Clerk

W. Jeffery Hamilton, Mayor