

OCTOBER 1, 2019

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.

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

Members present were: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno (arrived at 6:15 p.m.), Councilman Giampola, Councilman Holloway (arrived at 6:53 p.m.), Councilman Kidd. Absent: Councilman Haynes.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola 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, address and reminded everyone there was a five (5) minute time limit.

Jennifer Maden, 1501 South Commerce Street, discussed the "Big Dig Project" on Commerce Street. This is the storm drain replacement project for Thomson Avenue. The Borough guaranteed that their property would be restored to its original condition. She is requesting repairing the ground above the replaced drain pipe, repairing the 12-foot wide auto-gate and 6-foot tall aluminum fence and landscaping repair. There hasn't been any progress in repairing the cracks in the ceiling and walls in the interior of the home including paint repair due to the heavy excavation equipment.

Borough Engineer Biermann stated the contractor has been minimally or non-responsive to this matter. The Borough will have to get hard-nosed and possibly assess liquidation damages. The Borough is holding 2% of their funding which is around \$50,000.

Mayor Stevenson suggested touching base with Councilman Haynes and the Public Works Committee.

Solicitor James Maley suggested sending the Contractor a letter.

Mayor Stevenson stated they will be in touch with Ms. Maden.

There wasn't any further public participation.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to close the floor to the public at 6:22 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

Councilman Giampola asked Auditor Petroni to attend this meeting to go over the 2018 Audit.

Auditor Petroni stated there were seven (7) findings and one (1) of those findings was a repeat from the year before. The one (1) finding was regarding a National Cooperative Services Contract and it did not have any documentation on the cost savings. Another finding had to do with developer escrows over \$5,000 and is required to have their own bank account and quarterly statements are to be submitted.

Administrator Jacobucci stated she has since changed the whole escrow process with the Land Use Board having to fill out a form regarding the escrow monies received for each project.

Auditor Petroni stated another finding was there was an employee that was not enrolled in the Pension Plan. He further stated all findings are correctible and some already have been corrected.

Councilman Kidd stated he requests the Auditor to come to a meeting and explain the Audit as pages 139 and 140 are the most important pages of the Audit.

Mayor Stevenson thanked Auditor Petroni for coming to the meeting.

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Jacobucci discussed formally naming a street but not taking ownership of the street. This is due to the recommendation of the Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management.

Councilman Giampola stated he believes it is already named 43 Borrelli Boulevard which is the road by McDonald's.

Mayor Stevenson stated once it is discovered which street, then a Resolution would need to be adopted.

Administrator Jacobucci stated two (2) Resolutions are required for USDA for the Thomson Avenue Engineer Agreements – Amendments 2 & 3.

Borough Engineer Biermann stated amendment #2 is for the additional water main installation along Pine Street from Thomson Avenue to Swedesboro Avenue and amendment #3 includes additional water main replacement work along Thomson Avenue from Elizabeth Avenue to Vanneman Boulevard, as well as water main replacement work along Paul Avenue from Thomson Avenue to Swedesboro Avenue.

Administrator Jacobucci stated there are four (4) Resolutions required for the USDA Billingsport Water Main Project. The Borough has received \$7.4 million dollars from SJPC to reimburse the Borough for this project.

Administrator Jacobucci also stated a Redevelopment Resolution was also required for the Mazza property.

Administrator Jacobucci reported on the Tax Sale that was held on October 8th. There was \$98,000 of tax and water and sewer bills outstanding from 2018 and it is now less than \$50,000.

Police Chief's Report:

Chief Kille stated he has positioned stationary foot patrols and vehicles at the store on North Delaware Street.

Mayor Stevenson stated there will be a meeting to go over the issues with that store.

Chief Kille discussed the Halloween hours for mischief night and Halloween.

Chief Kille stated he is asking for authorization to advertise to hire SLEO I and II Officers that are already trained.

Councilman Giampola questioned if the Borough could set the hours of operation for the store on North Delaware Street.

Chief Kille stated Crown Fried Chicken had set hours.

Mayor Stevenson stated Council would have to adopt a Resolution.

Solicitor Jim Maley stated the Resolution would have to specify an area/location for those hours.

Mayor Stevenson suggested meeting with the owner and then revisit adopting a Resolution.

Mayor Stevenson stated he mentioned at the last meeting to form a Committee to review the water bills for the churches. He appointed Councilman Giampola from the Finance Committee, Councilman Kidd from the Community Betterment Committee and Councilman Haynes from the Public Works Committee. He asked them to meet, discuss the matter and bring back their recommendation to the Governing Body early next year.

Council President Giovannitti and Councilman DiTonno seconded to appoint Councilman Giampola, Councilman Kidd and Councilman Haynes as a Committee to review and recommend the water bills for the churches. All were in favor of the motion.

Mayor Stevenson reported the State VFW Coordinator was at the Paulsboro VFW. The State closed the George D. Patton VFW for 90 days and they are going to pull their charter. He further reported there were issues at the Damminger Complex Football field in regards to food, parking, etc. He had a meeting with Erica Scott, the President of Midget Football, the Chief, the Mayor and members of the Community Betterment Committee to discuss these issues.

Councilman Kidd stated it was a good meeting. There are 150 children involved in football and Midget Football will make sure everything works out. There is a person that will be picking up and collecting the trash.

There wasn't any further business for the Caucus Meeting.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adjourn the Caucus meeting at 6:56 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

This is a brief summary of the Caucus Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Paulsboro held on October 1, 2019 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