FEBRUARY 4, 2020

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.

Borough 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. Absent: Administrator Jacobucci.

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, address and reminded everyone there was a five (5) minute time limit.

There wasn’t any public participation.

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

Mayor Stevenson introduced Robert J. Laumbach and Kerry Butch of Rutgers University who will be giving a presentation on a PFAS water study they will be conducting in Paulsboro. Rutgers School of Public Health have been selected to spearhead the New Jersey site by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to investigate relationships between drinking water contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and health. The Study plans to enroll 1,000 adults and 300 children in the project. The research will determine the level of PFAS in community members’ blood, estimate past exposure, and assess the health of study participants. The study will also provide tests of growth and development for children. Results of all tests and interviews will be kept confidential and
provided to the participants. PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since 1950s, including some cosmetics; water, grease and oil resistant products; and firefighting foam. The chemicals include perfluoronnanoic acid, or PFNA, a PFAS compound that has been found in 98% or more of the U.S. population, and which has been found in Paulsboro and West Deptford water. A Citizen's Advisory Panel (CAP) will be made up of a majority of residents of Paulsboro and West Deptford. The CAP members will support the mission of the study, advise researchers on community environmental health concerns, assist in translating research to be understood by the community, attend citizen's advisory panel meetings, "Open doors" to the community by identifying appropriate partnerships, give input in the planning of research that asks critical questions. Other possible additional opportunities are: canvassing door to door-neighbor to neighbor, tabling at community events, Environmental Health Leadership Training, Small Grant opportunities, space in Paulsboro for the study and hiring a full-time staff member from the local area.

Kerry Butch, Outreach Coordinator, appreciated the welcome and she is respectfully coming to the Mayor and Council and asks what they could do to engage the community. They would like to try to partner with Mayor and Council.

Mayor Stevenson felt this could be considered a double edged sword as it could help future wise or will it set off media alarms. The Council needs to determine how much it is benefitting and how much it is losing. The Mayor asked for a time frame.

Mr. Laumbach stated it has to go through the Office of Management and Budget at the White House. It could possibly start in September and run for about two (2) years. He has met with Dr. Quint at the High School and he seems to be supportive.

Mayor Stevenson questioned how the Borough diffuses the social media exposure. He feels the study needs to be done but the Governing Body needs to discuss the pros and cons of the study.

Councilman Haynes felt the word has to get out of what the Borough had done regarding this as the Borough took action right away.

Borough Engineer Biermann stated the residents need to be aware of what has been done.

Mayor Stevenson stated the study does not play the blame game and questioned what they needed from the Governing Body.
Mr. Laumbach stated he would like to have an informal meeting in the community. He would like to get the word out informally and an Advisory Board is needed. He suggested possibly next month, mid-March, having the informal meeting.

Mayor Stevenson stated this would go through certain Council Committees. The Governing Body will discuss this at their next Caucus Meeting in March. He thinks it is a great program and worth doing. He appreciated them being here and someone will be in touch with them. He hoped all could work together.

Mayor Stevenson stated Administrator Jacobucci is not present.

Councilman Giampola stated the Committee had a budgetary meeting and they discussed the project on Pine Street. It has to be awarded by February 18th or risk losing the grant. The Borough has to find $75,000 and the bid came in $15,000 over budget.

Councilman Haynes stated the grant is for $280,000 but the bid came in higher. The Borough will need $40,000 to $95,000 to do the project. He didn’t feel the project should be scaled back. The bid would complete the whole road. He would like to see the Borough do the whole project. He also suggested doing a phone poll or a Special Meeting to award the project.

Councilman Giampola stated the grant does not cover the engineering costs. The Borough has to make sure the funding is there to do the whole project including engineering for any project. They would need certificate of available funds from the CMFO.

Borough Engineer Biermann stated the design cannot be paid by the grant but inspection during the project can. It is always a judgement call. This should be resolved next week.

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

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman Holloway seconded to adjourn the Caucus meeting at 6:53 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 February 4, 2020 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