JUNE 2, 2020

PAULSBORO, N.J.

6:00 P.M.

REGULAR TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Mayor Stevenson presided at the Regular Meeting of Council held on the above date.

Due to the public health emergency caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19), and the subsequent issuance of the Governor’s Executive Order 107, the Borough of Paulsboro, effective April 7, 2020 and until further notice, will conduct all future meetings remotely and by electronic means without providing a physical meeting place. The Borough Hall will not be open to the public for this meeting. The electronic public meeting is being held in lieu of an in-person public meeting due to the state of emergency arising from the current situation involving the COVID-19 virus and to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the public.

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, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Also present: Auditor Nick Petroni.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Teleconference Regular Meeting – May 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
Special Teleconference Meeting – May 19, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman Holloway seconded to receive, file and adopt the minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

Summary of reports and copies of minutes of meeting. Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman Holloway seconded to receive and file. All were in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2020 Budget:
R. #108.20: RESOLUTION TO READ THE BUDGET BY TITLE ONLY.

PUBLIC HEARING on R. #94.20 the 2020 Budget of the Borough of Paulsboro.
Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to open the floor to the public. All were in favor of the motion.

There wasn't any public participation.

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

Councilman Kidd questioned the State budget's effect on the Borough's budget.

Auditor Petroni stated the State has extended its approval of its budget until September and the effect would be if the State Aid was cut. His concern is if the State cuts its Aid and the loss of revenues. The biggest problem would be the reduction of state aid. The Borough would have to put a freeze on spending and prioritize.

Administrator Jacobucci stated an estimated tax bill will be sent out for the 3rd quarter taxes. The State will approve their budget in September and there are several possibilities such as a spending freeze. She felt it was a very conservative budget.

Councilman Giampola stated the budget only included raised salaries due to Union contracts but that it kept the same level of services and stayed flat.

Mayor Stevenson stated the taxes will rise 2.9 cents.

Councilman Kidd questioned the School tax.

Mayor Stevenson stated it is 6.9 cents. He questioned if Auditor Petroni has heard anything from the County.

Auditor Petroni stated no, not yet but it looks like it could be a reduction.

Mayor Stevenson thanked Auditor Petroni, Councilman Giampola, the Finance Committee and Administrator Jacobucci on their work on the Budget.

COMMUNICATION – CORRESPONDENCE:

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Councilman Giampola, Chairman:

Councilman Giampola stated he has asked Administrator Jacobucci for a list of the Tax Appeals and the final numbers. The Borough has lost $70,000+ in tax appeals. He stated the Governing Body needs to speak with the Solicitor regarding the Tax Assessor Pilot Program with the County. The Borough has lost $20,000 in residential taxes and $50,000 in business taxes. The Borough needs to evaluate and try to opt out of the program. He wished everyone a good summer.

Mayor Stevenson agreed with Councilman Giampola.

Public Works Committee: Councilman Haynes, Chairman:

Councilman Haynes stated Pine Street construction has started and they are working on the concrete work installing the handicap ramps. He wished everyone a safe summer.

Construction and Licensing Committee: Council President Giovannitti, Chairman:

Council President Giovannitti also wished everyone a good summer. He reported in the next couple weeks, the Code Office will start to issue violations for high grass. He encouraged everyone to use the website to voice their complaints. He stated the Office will keep moving forward.

Public Property Committee: Councilman Holloway, II, Chairman:

Councilman Holloway stated he did not have anything to report, however, the Borough is moving forward with demolishing homes. There will be a meeting with a developer regarding the property on Dayton Avenue. He verbally sent his condolences to George Floyd and his family. He asked everyone to stay safe and stand together in unity with the Police force and Mayor and Council.

Community Betterment Committee: Councilman Kidd, Chairman:
Councilman Kidd questioned if any other towns were contacted regarding their tax appeals through the County.

Councilman Giampola stated the County Tax Assessor's Pilot Program was supposed to help Paulsboro.

Councilman Kidd stated the Borough will have to find out if this is happening in other towns.

Councilman Kidd also spoke regarding the murder of George Floyd and stated the racism hasn't changed.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman DiTonno, Chairman:

Councilman DiTonno questioned when the restrictions would be lifted on the Recreational/Sports Complexes.

Chief Kille stated he is waiting on Governor Murphy.

Administrator Jacobucci reported there have been 56 positive Covid-19 cases in Paulsboro with three (3) deaths. She has talked with Councilman Kidd and Councilman Holloway of the Community Betterment Committee regarding non-contact sports. She has asked for a proposal from Baseball and Soccer regarding how they will be dealing with the safety protocols. The Borough doesn't have the personnel to supervise the parks. She also stated as long as the numbers continue to rise, it may be after July 4th, when these events and parks can be opened. She will get the proposals and give them to the Community Betterment Committee and the Chief of Police.

Councilman DiTonno stated he was glad to see the Police Chief and the Department stand with the Protestors today. He would love to see the Department get to know people on a first name bases and have more community events with the Department. He wished everyone a safe summer.

Mayor Stevenson recommended rescheduling the July Meeting from Tuesday, July 7, 2020 to Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. due to the rescheduling of the Primary Election.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to reschedule the July meeting from Tuesday, July 7, 2020 to Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. which will also be a teleconferenced meeting. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. Motion carried.
Mayor Stevenson stated the Governor is announcing outdoor dining for restaurants soon. He will have a little more information on the restrictions soon.

Mayor Stevenson thanked Council for their thoughts and Chief Kille and he also thanked the public for voicing their opinions and holding peaceful protesting. He has emailed all of Council a letter he would like to put out to the residents. He asked Council to review the letter and let him know their feelings on it by 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

ORDINANCES ON INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:


RESOLUTIONS – BILLS:

R. #107.20: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF BILLS OUT
OF THE 2020 TEMPORARY BUDGET.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to pay
all bills properly signed and adopt R. #106.20 and R. #107.20. Roll call: Ayes:
Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola,
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT AGENDA:

R. #109.20: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAULSBORO BOROUGH
TAX COLLECTOR TO PREPARE AND MAIL ESTIMATED TAX BILLS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH P.L 1994, C.72. Council President Giovannitti moved and
Councilman Giampola seconded to adopt R. #109.20. Roll call: Ayes: Council
President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman
Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Raffles/Permits/Firemen’s Association Membership Applications:

Licenses:

RESOLUTIONS NOT ON CONSENT:

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING:

Administrator’s Report:

Administrator Jacobucci stated the Courts will re-open on June 15th by Zoom.
The building will still be closed to the public.

Administrator Jacobucci stated the feral cat program will be held on Sunday
June 28th but instead of using the Fire Hall, they will use the Borough's blue
building off Commerce Street. She has talked with Chief Kille and Water and
Sewer Superintendent Michael Reed. They will be using the building Sunday,
Monday, Tuesday and possibly Wednesday. She will have more information.

Administrator Jacobucci also stated the Borough will be holding their Shredding
Day event on Saturday, June 27th.

Engineer’s Report: (Everyone has received the Engineer’s Report.)

Police Chief’s Report:
Chief Kille stated he released a statement today which echoes all the Police Department regarding the George Floyd incident and protests. There will be an event this Saturday that is being organized by a resident. It is in the early planning stages. He will have a larger than normal police presence.

Chief Kille stated there has been a vacancy in the Police Department and he is seeking permission to advertise for a Full Time Police Officer. He would like to appoint someone at the September meeting.

Memo from Chief Gary Kille regarding request to hire Full-Time Police Officer. Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman DiTasso seconded to receive and file the memo. All were in favor of the motion.

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman DiTasso seconded to authorize Chief Kille to advertise for a Full Time Police Officer.

Councilman Giampola questioned if this appointment could be a promotion of a Class II Officer.

Chief Kille stated there are currently no Class II Officers.

All were in favor of the above motion.

Memo from Chief Gary Kille regarding recommendation of Promotion to next level Patrolman. Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman DiTasso seconded to receive and file the memo. All were in favor of the motion.


PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:
Mayor Stevenson opened the floor to the public and asked anyone speaking to give their name, address and reminded everyone there was a five (5) minute time limit.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Holloway seconded to open the floor to the public at 6:45 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

Marc Kamp, 250 West Broad Street, Greater Paulsboro Chamber of Commerce, stated the 4th of July Parade has been cancelled due to the current conditions.

Mayor Stevenson questioned if the October event at the Lighthouse is still scheduled.

Mr. Kamp stated it is still on at this time.

Mayor Stevenson also questioned the Paulsboro Day event.

Mr. Kamp stated it is still up in the air.

Councilman Kidd questioned if the six (6) foot distancing protocol would still be practical at the top of the lighthouse.

Mr. Kamp answered yes, and they will be very conscious of the amount of people.

There wasn't any further public participation.

Councilman Giambola moved and Councilman Holloway seconded to close the floor to the public at 6:49 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

Council President Giovannitti questioned the Port expansion project and if they would be required to give additional funding.

Solicitor Michael Maley stated they are looking into it.

Councilman Giampola stated Solicitor Jim Maley is looking into and reviewing the GCIA/Port lease.

Councilman Kidd stated he was not aware of the protest that was held today, and he would have appreciated a telephone call.

Chief Kille stated he texted everyone this morning regarding the protesters, but he will call and confirm next time.
Mayor Stevenson thanked Council and asked everyone to be safe. His thoughts and prayers are with everyone.

Councilman Kidd stated something has to be done regarding the lighting of fireworks.

Chief Kille stated his is aware of this and he has addressed it.

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

This is a brief summary of the Teleconference Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Paulsboro held on June 2, 2020 and should not be considered a verbatim transcript of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Gary C. Stevenson, Mayor