

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

PAULSBORO. N.J.

6:00 P.M.

REGULAR TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Council Chamber:

Mayor Stevenson presided at the Regular Teleconference Meeting of Council held on the above date, place and by going to Zoom at <https://zoom.us>, enter Meeting ID: 847 0688 3886 and the passcode: 650458 to enter the meeting or at the following link:

Join Zoom Meeting:

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Meeting ID: 847 0688 3886

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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 Regular Teleconference Meeting to order.

Mayor Stevenson read the opening statement regarding the Open Public Meetings Act. Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1-1.7 AND P.L. 2020, C. 34, adequate notice of this Regular Teleconference Meeting, as required by said Act, has been provided by contacting each Council Member, posting the scheduled meeting on the Municipal Bulletin Board, and on the Borough's website, emailed and faxed to the South Jersey Times and the Courier Post and filed with the Borough Clerk on February 9, 2021.

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

This meeting had issues with Zoom. [A Special Meeting is being held on February 17, 2021 with an agenda similar to the February 2, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda]

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Teleconference Regular Year End Financial Meeting – December 29, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Teleconference Reorganization and First Regular Meeting, January 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Summary of reports and copies of minutes of meeting.

Councilman DiTonno moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to receive, file and approve the above minutes and reports. All were in favor of the motion.

COMMUNICATION – CORRESPONDENCE:

GCUA Resolution No. 2021-020 Establishing Rate Schedule for the GCUA.

GCUA Resolution No. 2021-022 Establishing a Sanitary Sewerage Connection Fee.

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to receive and file the above GCUA Resolutions. All were in favor of the motion.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Councilman Giampola, Chairman:

Councilman Giampola reported the Committee is working on the Budget.

Public Works Committee: Councilman Haynes, Chairman:

Councilman Haynes reported the trash will be picked up tomorrow, Wednesday, and the recycling will be picked up on Friday. Due to the snow storm, the contractor had a late start.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman DiTonno, Chairman:

Councilman DiTonno reported the Borough Ordinance states snow has to be removed from sidewalks 12 hours after a snow fall.

Community Betterment Committee: Councilman Kidd, Chairman:

Councilman Kidd did not have anything to report but discussed the property by Route 295.

Mayor Stevenson reported the property has been blocked off at the old bank as they are getting their permits to demolish the building. He also reported that the Plaza owners and ExxonMobil are getting together to discuss the development at the Plaza. He further reported the Port is moving ahead and they are getting through obstacles. It has been pushed back a couple of months.

Proclamation: Black History Month.

Mayor Stevenson read the Black History Month Proclamation into the record.

ORDINANCES ON INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:

O. #01.21: ORDINANCE AMENDING PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 61, ENTITLED "SEWER", AND CHAPTER 78, ENTITLED "WATER" OF THE BOROUGH CODE REGARDING SEWER AND WATER RATES AND BILLING. Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adopt O. #01.21 on introduction and first reading and schedule the second reading and public hearing on March 2, 2021. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti (response by text message), Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

O. #02.21: ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH CODE TO REVISE CHAPTER 68 GOVERNING "STORMWATER CONTROL". Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adopt O. #02.21 on

introduction and first reading and schedule the second reading and public hearing on March 2, 2021. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti (response by text message), Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

RESOLUTIONS/TRANSFERS – BILLS:

R. #50.21: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM CERTAIN ACCOUNTS TO OTHER ACCOUNTS IN THE 2020 BUDGET.

R. #51.21: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF BILLS OUT OF THE 2020 TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR THE THIRD WEEK OF THE MONTH (January 19, 2021).

R. #52.21: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF BILLS OUT OF THE 2020 TEMPORARY BUDGET.

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to pay all bills properly signed and adopt R. #50.21, R. #51.21 and R. #52.21. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti (response by text message), Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT AGENDA:

R. #53.21: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CREDIT OF WATER BALANCE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE 2021 FIRST QUARTER PROPERTY TAXES. (This Resolution provides for \$1,105.13 to be transferred to the Property taxes and \$51.39 on the Utility Account for 621 North Delaware Street, Block 31 Lot 11.)

R. #54.21: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF 2020 RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT BY THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO. (This Resolution authorizes the Recycling Coordinator to submit the annual 2020 Recycling Tonnage Grant.)

R. #55.21: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE RENEWAL OF A PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE #0814-33-009-006 MADIRA HOUSE, LLC. T/A POCKET LICENSE. (This Resolution provides for the renewal of a PRCL for Madira House, LLC which is a pocket license in the Borough and has received a 12:39 Special Ruling for the years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.)

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adopt R. #53.21, R. #54.21 and R. #55.21. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti (response by text message), Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Raffles/Permits/Firemen's Association Membership Applications:

RESOLUTIONS NOT ON CONSENT:

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING:

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Jacobucci stated they are working on the Budget, Annual Financial Statement and the Annual Debt Statement. They are moving forward with a draft budget.

Administrator Jacobucci discussed and recommended the re-appointment of Judge Whitcraft.

R. #56.21: RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO APPOINTING MARTIN WHITCRAFT AS MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE. (This Resolution re-appoints Municipal Court Judge Martin Whitcraft to a three (3) year term to expire January 31, 2022.)

R. #61.21: RESOLUTION REJECTING ALL BIDS FOR THE SALE OF 40 RIVERVIEW AVENUE (BLOCK 41, LOT 11) AND AUTHORIZING RE-ADVERTISEMENT AND RE-BID. (This Resolution authorizes the rejection of bids for the sale of 40 Riverview Avenue, Block 41 Lot 11 and authorizing re-advertisement and re-bid.)

R. #62.21: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO AUTHORIZING THE PAYOUT OF ACCUMULATED VACATION FOR AN EMPLOYEE WHO HAS SEPARATED FROM THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2021. (This Resolution authorizes the payout for vacation and sick time for Michael Minniti who has retired from the Borough as of February 1, 2021.)

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adopt R. #56.21, R. #61.21 and R. #62.21. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti (response by text message), Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Engineer's Report:

Letter from Project Engineer Stephen Cosaboon, Sickels & Associates, regarding Final Payment No. 6 – Thomson Avenue Infrastructure Improvement Project – Water & Sanitary Sewer, Contractor: South State, Inc. Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to receive and file the letter. All were in favor of the motion.

Borough Engineer Cosaboon discussed the 2019 NJDOT Grant for West Washington Street and the request for a six (6) month extension.

R. #57.21: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FINAL PAYMENT NO. 6 FOR THE THOMSON AVENUE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – WATER & SANITARY SEWER. (This Resolution authorizes Final Payment No. 6 in the amount of \$103,249.58 to South State, Inc. of Bridgeton, NJ for the Thomson Avenue Infrastructure Improvement Project – Water & Sanitary Sewer Project.)

R. #58.21: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REQUEST OF A SIX-MONTH EXTENSION FOR THE WEST WASHINGTON STREET ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS – N. DELAWARE ST. TO PINE ST. NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID FY2019 PROJECT. (this Resolution authorizing a request for a six (6) month extension of the construction award contract deadline to September 25, 2021 for the West Washington Street NJDOT Municipal Aid Fiscal Year 2019 funding.)

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to adopt R. #57.21 and R. #58.21. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti (response by text message), Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Councilman Giampola stated there was additional money leftover from the Thomson Avenue Project and he would like to see the road finished from Vanneman Boulevard to Cedar Avenue and add onto the Thomson Avenue and Paul Avenue Project, which this part would cost an estimate of \$18,000 that the Borough would have to pay.

Administrator Jacobucci stated this would be bid all at once and then look at what was left.

Councilman Haynes stated the section of Thomson Avenue from Vanneman Boulevard to Cedar Avenue would have to be an item for the budget and would have to be done as a change order or a separate project.

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to go out for bid for Paul Avenue from Elizabeth Avenue to Vanneman Boulevard. All were in favor of the motion.

Police Chief's Report:

(2) Memos from Chief Gary Kille regarding request to hire Alternate (Part-time) Crossing Guards. Councilman DiTonno moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to receive and file the memo. All were in favor of the motion.

R. #59.21: RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALTERNATE SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD. (This Resolution appoints Davetta Howard and Bettygene Castle as an Alternate (Part-time) Crossing Guards.) Councilman DiTonno moved and Councilman Giampola seconded__ to adopt R. #59.21. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti (response by text message), Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

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

R. #60.21: RESOLUTION PROMOTING MICHAEL KONNICK TO THE APPOINTMENT OF PATROLMAN FOURTH CLASS IN THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT. (This Resolution promotes Michael Konnick to Patrolman Fourth Class from Patrolman Fifth Class as per contractual obligation.) Councilman DiTonno moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to adopt R. #60.21. Roll call: Ayes: Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd. Nays: None. Abstained: Council President Giovannitti (response by text message). **Motion carried.**

Memo from Chief Gary Kille regarding recommendation to advertise for SLEO I Officers. Councilman DiTonno moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to receive, file the memo and approve advertisement. All were in favor of the motion.

Mayor Stevenson asked Councilman Kidd if he had anything to report for the Community Betterment Committee.

Councilman Kidd stated he did not have anything to report but questioned the status of the project off of Route 295.

Mayor Stevenson reported about two to three years ago the Borough declared Eminent Doman on some of the property.

Solicitor James Maley stated there was an appraisal on the property and the Borough was working with the County for financing and a potential developer but it did not materialize.

Mayor Stevenson stated other owners want to sell but the big landowner is holding it up. The Borough needs to bring it to the table again and to see if it is worth going through the legal means. This will be all part of a round table discussion.

Mayor Stevenson presented the proclamation for Black History Month and asked Councilman Kidd if he wanted to say something.

Councilman Kidd stated Black History Month should be every day, 365 days a year.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Councilman DiTonno moved and Councilman Giampola seconded to open the floor to the public at 7:17 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

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.

Jennifer Maden, 1501 South Commerce Street, stated she can work with the Borough regarding programs for Black History Month such as a speaker and offer a webinar. She asked the Mayor to get in touch with her and there isn't any cost.

Mayor Stevenson stated it is a good idea. He thanked Miss Maden and stated he will be in touch with her.

Jaime VanSciver, Greenwich Avenue, questioned who announces the opening statement.

Solicitor Maley stated the Mayor reads it but it is prepared by the Clerk.

Ms. VanSciver stated the statement is not in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Ms. VanSciver questioned the public access to the river at Fort Billings Park. She questioned if there were any future plans for the park betterment. She also stated she would like to know what educational training is done for the Police Department regarding the medical and recreational use of marijuana. She also questioned the park by the water tower on Lincoln Avenue. She has a lot of concerns.

Mayor Stevenson thanked Ms. VanSciver and advised her the Borough is advised by the Insurance Company that it is a liability.

Councilman Giampola stated it is also a security issue by Homeland Security due to the Refineries on each side of the park.

Chief Kille stated the Police Department are aware of the medical marijuana legalities but recreational marijuana is not legal yet as the bill is sitting on the Governor's desk.

Councilman Haynes stated the park on Lincoln Avenue was removed to build a new water tower. After the water tower was built, it was more of a security issue but he doesn't remember why the park wasn't put back.

Mayor Stevenson stated the Borough will work on these issues.

Edward Grimes questioned the Internal Affairs complaints on the Police Department's website. He specifically questioned why Officer Thigpen was listed four (4) times for complaints. He stated he supports the cops.

Solicitor Maley stated this question is not for public session.

Chief Kille agreed with Solicitor Maley.


There wasn't any further public participation.

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to close the floor to the public at 7:34 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 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 February 2, 2021 and should not be considered a verbatim transcript of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



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



John Giovannitti, Deputy Mayor

