

MAY 3, 2022

PAULSBORO, N.J.

7:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING

Council Chamber:

Mayor Stevenson presided at the Regular 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.

Councilwoman Armistead gave the Invocation.

Mayor Stevenson asked all those present to join in the salute to the flag, which was conducted by Borough Clerk VanScoy.

Councilman DiTonno presented proclamations to the Boys Basketball Team 5th & 6th Grades and the Girls Basketball Team 3rd & 4th Grades.

Mayor Stevenson thanked the Coaches.

Former Councilwoman of Deptford performed the Swearing in of Councilwoman Jennifer Turner and Councilwoman Karen Armistead.

Councilman Armistead recognized and thanked everyone, her church, her family and the residents.

Councilwoman Turner thanked her family, especially her son and her church.

Mayor Stevenson thanked Jackie Love for performing the Swearing In.

Roll call: Present: Council President Giovannitti, Councilwoman Armistead, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd, Councilwoman Turner.

Mayor and Council recessed the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Mayor and Council reconvened the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR. (Regular Meeting – Agenda item questions only.)

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 DiTonno seconded to open the floor to the public at 7:30 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

There wasn't any public participation at this time.

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

Mayor Stevenson recognized former Mayor Jeffery Hamilton.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Teleconference Meeting – April 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Summary of reports and copies of minutes of meeting. __moved seconded__ to receive and file.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to receive, file the reports and adopt the minutes. All were in favor of the motion

COMMUNICATION – CORRESPONDENCE:

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Safety Committee: Councilwoman Armistead, Chairwoman:

Councilwoman Armistead stated she has been in touch with the Police Chief and the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief discussed a shared service for the Fire Department. It is a great program and it would be the first in the State. The Fire Company will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary in 2024. She is trying to get more volunteers involved with the Junior Fireman's Program at the school level. It was a great meeting. The Police Chief will be bringing back the "Night Out" event. She would like to see the police department building and establishing relationships with the Community. She is looking to put together a Parking Committee. She is working on a lot of things but it takes a little time. She wished everyone to be safe.

Public Property Committee: Councilwoman Turner, Chairwoman:

Councilwoman Turner the public properties on Mayor Stevenson's list are a work in progress. There are a few people interested in purchasing property and she will be planning a Property Committee Meeting.

Construction and Licensing Committee: Council President Giovannitti, Chairman:

Council President Giovannitti congratulated Councilwomen Turner and Armistead on their Swearing In. He congratulated the teams and the Coaches. He thanked the teachers as it is Teacher Appreciation Week. He thanked Administrator Jacobucci and the Council for the "Clean Up Day" event. There will be another one in the fall. He asked anyone who has a concern to go to the Borough's website to "report a concern".

Community Betterment Committee: Councilman DiTonno, Chairman:

Councilman DiTonno also congratulated Councilwomen Turner and Armistead on their Swearing In. He also congratulated the Boys and Girls Basketball Teams. The Easter Egg Hunt event was very successful and he thanked the members of the Recreation Committee especially Kyana Evans and Erica Scott who are present at tonight's meeting. He will be hold "Movie Night" at the Fort Billings Park on August 5th. He would like to move the Recreation Committee meetings to the Municipal Building.

Public Works Committee: Councilman Holloway, Chairman:

Councilman Holloway reported the Borough will be hiring a full-time Public Works employee.

Finance Committee: Councilman Kidd, Chairman:

Councilman Kidd asked Administrator Jacobucci to give the Finance Committee report.

Administrator Jacobucci stated she had a meeting with the part-time CFO and she is working with Councilman Kidd and an outside Consultant regarding the budget. She has met with the Department Heads regarding their budgets. She is requesting Mayor and Council to schedule a Special Meeting on May 24th at 6:00 p.m. for the possible introduction of the 2022 Budget.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to schedule a Special Meeting on Tuesday, May 24th, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. to possibly introduce the 2022 Budget. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilwoman Armistead, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Holloway,

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

Mayor Stevenson is continuing to plan for the Memorial Day plaque dedication on Memorial Day, May 31st at 1:00 p.m. He thanked Maintenance Supervisor Herman Schoch for his assistance with the VFW plaque. The plaque will be rededicated with a new monument. The Gibbstown VFW and other speakers will be present for the ceremony.

Mayor Stevenson thanked Councilwoman Turner, Public Property Committee, as they walked the entire town and compiled a list of Borough owned property.

Mayor Stevenson stated there will be a Port meeting this week regarding the hiring and training process and he will get the information out to everyone.

Mayor Stevenson stated the Borough will be building a new Municipal Building and it is in the preliminary stage. It will be built on the lot next to the current building. The current building has health and safety issues.

Mayor Stevenson asked everyone to say prayers for Marc Kamp who is in the hospital. He needs volunteers to step up.

Mayor Stevenson stated this week is Municipal Clerk's Week and he thanked Borough Clerk VanScoy.

ORDINANCES ON INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:

RESOLUTIONS – BILLS:

R. #102.22: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF BILLS OUT OF THE 2022 TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR THE THIRD WEEK OF THE MONTH (April 19, 2022).

R. #103.22: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF BILLS OUT OF THE 2022 TEMPORARY BUDGET.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to pay all bills properly signed and adopt R. #102.22 and R. #103.22. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilwoman Armistead, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT AGENDA:

R. #104.22: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR ALLOWANCE/DISALLOWANCE OF VETERANS, SENIOR CITIZENS OR DISABILITY DEDUCTIONS. (This Resolution allows or disallows the tax deduction for Veteran, Disability or Senior Citizens.)

R. #105.22: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFUND OF AN OVERPAYMENT BY CITY ABSTRACT LLC TO THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO FOR THE TAX YEAR 2022. (This Resolution authorizes a refund to Block 23 Lot 17, 564 Billings Avenue, in the amount of \$1,228.34 due to an overpayment.)

R. #106.22: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF MUNICIPAL LIENS OF VARIOUS PROPERTIES WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO. (This Resolution authorizes a lien to be placed on the property due to the demolition of the property.)

R. #107.22: RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO AUTHORIZING DISCHARGE OF MORTGAGES. (This Resolution authorizes the discharge of mortgages that were through the RCA Program.)

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adopt R. #104.22 to R. #107.22. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilwoman Armistead, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Raffles/Permits/Firemen's Association Membership Applications:

Received Raffle License Application #RA-689 from St. Clare of Assisi Parish for their annual Instant Raffles. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to receive, file the application and approve the raffle license. All were in favor of the motion.

Licenses:

RESOLUTIONS NOT ON CONSENT:

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING:

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Jacobucci stated Mayor and Council has scheduled a Special Meeting for the possible introduction of the 2022 Budget.

Administrator Jacobucci reported there needs to be further topographic studies done on the current lot of the Municipal Building and she recommended Roberts Engineering to perform the topographic study at a cost of \$6,750.00.

R. #108.22: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH ROBERTS ENGINEERING FOR THE TOPOGRAPHIC STUDY OF THE LOT(S) ON WHICH THE CURRENT BOROUGH BUILDING SITS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT LOT(S). Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adopt R. #108.22. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilwoman Armistead, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Administrator Jacobucci recommended a contract with Triad Associates to provide USEDA Grant Administration/Project Implementation Services for the Paulsboro Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project.

R. #101.22: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT WITH TRIAD ASSOCIATES TO PROVIDE GRANT ADMINISTRATION AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO WATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adopt R. #101.22. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilwoman Armistead, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Administrator Jacobucci requested the authority to advertise for a Full-Time Public Works Employee, a part-time Finance Office employee and a full-time Deputy Clerk.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to authorize Administrator Jacobucci to advertise for the Full-time Public Works employee, a Part-Time Finance Office Clerk and a Full-Time Deputy Clerk. All were in favor of the motion.

Administrator Jacobucci stated during the COVID pandemic issued Executive Order 190 and under Executive Order 190 utilities including water/sewer were not permitted to be shut off nor was interest to be charged during this moratorium. The recent Bill S-2356 were signed into law by Governor Murphy that requires a payment plan to be offered to all residential customers with delinquent water/sewer balances during the period of October 15, 2020 through March 15, 2022 and in addition to the payment plan, the State has instituted a low-income qualified assistance program called "LIHWAP" which is open to residential ratepayers. She

is requesting a Resolution be adopted authorizing the Water/Sewer Payment Plan and "LIHWAP program.

R. #111.22: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT TO OFFER A ONE-YEAR (12 MONTH) PAYMENT PLAN TO THOSE RATEPAYERS THAT BECAME DELINQUENT DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC AND GOVERNOR MURPHY'S RESULTANT MORATORIUM ON WATER SHUT OFFS. Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adopt R. #111.22. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilwoman Armistead, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Engineer's Report:

Letter from Erik K. Biermann, Sickels & Associates, regarding partial payment No. 8 Billingsport & Paulsboro Marine Terminal Water Main Improvements.

Letter from Erik K. Biermann, Sickels & Associates, regarding Performance & Payment Bond Release – Well No. 7 VFD – A.C. Schultes, Inc.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to receive and file the above letters. All were in favor of the motion.

R. #109.22: RESOLUTION PROVIDING PARTIAL PAYMENT NO. 8 FOR THE BILLINGSPORT & PAULSBORO MARINE TERMINAL WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

R. #110.22: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT BONDS BY A.C. SCHULTES, INC. FOR THE WELL NO. 7 VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVE (VFD) PROJECT IN THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY. (This Resolution releases the Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of \$55,033.00 to A.C. Schultes, Inc. for the Well No. 7 VFD project.)

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adopt R. #109.22 and R. #110.22. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilwoman Armistead, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Borough Engineer Biermann reported they are in the contract phase for both the W. Washington Street Water Main and Roadway Improvements and the Thomson & Paul Avenue Water Main Extension Projects.

Borough Engineer Biermann also reported that Sickels has submitted a proposal for the Paulsboro NJDOT 2021/2022 Road Program and also for the NJDOT 2023 potential Road projects.

Police Chief's Report:

Memo from Chief Gary Kille regarding recommendation of promotion to next level Patrolman. __moved seconded__ to receive and file the memo. R/C:

Memo from Chief Gary Kille regarding request to hire full-time Police Officers.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to receive and file the above memos. All were in favor of the motion.

R. #112.22: RESOLUTION PROMOTING PTLM. JOSHUA GRAHAM TO THE APPOINTMENT OF PATROLMAN SEVENTH CLASS IN THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT.

R. #113.22: RESOLUTION PROMOTING PTLM. VINCENT DIGIACOMO TO THE APPOINTMENT OF PATROLMAN SEVENTH CLASS IN THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT.

R. #114.22: RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO TO EXTEND A CONDITIONAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT TO MICHAEL MONTS AS NEW PROBATIONARY PATROL OFFICER WITHIN THE PAULSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT.

R. #115.22: RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO TO EXTEND A CONDITIONAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT TO BRYAN GARRETT AS NEW PROBATIONARY PATROL OFFICER WITHIN THE PAULSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adopt R. #1112.22, R. #113.22, R. #114.22 and R. #115.22. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilwoman Armistead, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd, Councilwoman Turner. Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Chief Kille stated he will be presenting a name for a Part-Time SLEO Class II Officer in June.

Chief Kille reported he will be implementing the Junior Police Academy for two (2) weeks. The first week will be for the younger kids and the second week is for the older kids.

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 DiTonno seconded to open the floor to the public at 8:05 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

Laura Marcelin, 579 North Delaware Street, stated she is a real estate agent and she would love to meet with Councilwoman Turner regarding the Borough's public properties.

Cheryl Scott, 1645 Swedesboro Avenue, questioned the water and sewer bill and where the money went the Borough received for the COVID pandemic.

Administrator Jacobucci stated the water and sewer bills increased due to the GCUA increase in their fees. She further stated the Borough has only received ½ of the COVID funding and she will prepare a report for the next meeting.

Rhonda Sharper, 1690 Swedesboro Avenue, questioned if Mayor Stevenson lived in Florida.

Mayor Stevenson stated no, in 2018 he retired, bought a home in Florida and his wife has a job in Florida. The first three (3) weeks of the month he is in Paulsboro and the last week he is in Florida. Council President Giovannitti is available when the Mayor is in Florida. He is fully committed to his last term. It will be his last term as it is time to get fresh blood.

Kyana Evans, 712 Clonmell Road, thanked Councilman DiTonno, Erica Scott and the Recreation Committee for the Easter Egg Hunt event. She thanked Administrator Jacobucci for the annual spring clean up event. She further informed everyone there will be a Juneteenth event at the Second Baptist Church. The Church also held an open-air market for business owners which was very successful. She is a part of Gateway Community (Tri-County, Head Start), and they provide energy assistance, County Counsel for Young Children and transitional housing. Councilman Kidd has been on the board for 35 years.

Rhonda Sharper, 1690 Swedesboro Avenue, discussed K & L Store and the people who congregate outside. She questioned why the Police Department doesn't get out of their car to get the people to move.

Mayor Stevenson stated there was two (2) shooting incidents and a guy came in the building and threatened him.

Police Chief Kille stated there has been a recent uptick in gun violence. One incident was three (3) weeks and an arrest has been made. The majority of these incidents are from out-of-town individuals interacting with in town residents. He also explained the second incident.

Mayor Stevenson stated there is something in the works regarding the stores across from the empty lot next to the Municipal Building.

Councilwoman Armistead thanked the Chief for bringing everyone up to date and the start of the Junior Program.

Councilwoman Turner also thanked Chief Kille.

Councilman Kidd stated everyone has to work together and he appreciates the community reaching out. He asked them not to give up.

Paula Elam, 242 West Adams Street, stated during the recent incidents she saw the Prosecutor's Office walking the block and not the Paulsboro Police. She felt the Police Department should talk with their residents with care and empathy and the Police Department might get more cooperation with the residents.

Chief Kille stated the Prosecutor's Office was walking the block in assistance with the Paulsboro Police Department.

Erica Scott, 1675 Swedesboro Avenue, stated "housing is the elephant in the room". The Borough has to address the housing issue.

Danielle Scott, 355 Billings Avenue, stated the Borough is the 20th most distressed municipality in New Jersey and there is funding available for prevention as the risk factors are there such as the school and the poverty rate.

Mayor Stevenson also stated the housing rentals are an issue.

Teresa Cooper, 300 West Buck Street, discussed the landlords and the quality of life.

Tyesha Scott, 10 West Adams Street, stated she is a School Board Member and felt housing needs to be addressed and the store needs to close.

Barbara Sharper, 248 Vanneman Boulevard, stated the trucks are coming through on Vanneman Boulevard again.

Chief Kille will look into this.

Cheryl Scott, 1645 Swedesboro Avenue, questioned how the Landlords are held accountable and can the Borough revisit a moratorium.

Mayor Stevenson stated the Landlords know how to play the system.

Carol Rone, 229 West Adams Street, stated the cars fly up and down the street and one day a killed is going to be killed.

Edith Bair, 240 West Buck Street, stated the cars speed up and down Buck Street. She complained about the furniture on the porch across the street from her as well as the grass is s forest.

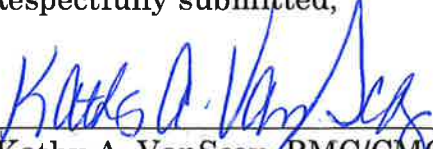
There wasn't any further public participation.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to close the floor to the public at 9:30 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Holloway seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 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 3, 2022 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

