

Public Meeting
August 15th, 2016

Meeting was opened by T. Branella at 6:00pm. Those present were J. McCleary, J. Granstrom, M. Mevoli, and G. Gilbert. J. Meehan and P. MacAdams were absent. The Solicitor was Timothy Higgins, Esq..

This Meeting was advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, and complies with all the laws therein.

Reading and Approval of Minutes of July 18th, 2016:

Motion – M. Mevoli
2nd – G. Gilbert
All In Favor: Carried.

Committee Reports:

Motion – J. McCleary
2nd – J. Granstrom
All in Favor: Carried.

Open to the Public:

Jim Everett, 111 Browning Road, asked about the reassessment of the town and its effect on the taxpayers. Administrator, Ryan Giles, explained that the county has the borough assessed approximately 21% higher than they have the borough assessed. The reassessment will bring us even with the county. This will lower individual assessment and increase our tax rate. The whole process will keep our total tax base neutral. For example, if we have a 5,000,000 dollar base. We will do our reassessment and after all the adjustments to the assessed values, we still will only be collecting 5,000,000 dollars. Mr. Everett asked about a water allocation agreement in Westville. Mr. Giles said that there is an agreement to send a specific amount of excess allocation we are allowed for water to Westville. This is not actual water, this is a paper transfer of the amounts towns are allowed to pump in a given year. The total amount agreed is 75,000 dollars spread across 5 years. Mr. Everett pleaded with council to get together with the school to help fix all the issues they are facing. Mayor Branella thanked him for his questions and input.

Elena Young, 214 Browning Road, explained that the apartment complex is over run by animals and the property is a disgrace. Police Chief Ellis said that he is well aware of the issues and this is the hottest topic in town right now and we are addressing issues as they come in. He encouraged that people need to call about everything going on with the location so we can correct the problems.

Engineers Report from Greg Fusco, Kei Engineering:

Mr. Fusco said there is very little update this month and went over a couple items.

Item #1: CDBG Year 38 funding and application should be out within the next few months. When it's available, the county will send the application to the borough.

Item #7: NJDOT Municipal Aid for Sixth Street reconstruction has been suspended by the state. The field survey and preliminary engineering has been completed and will be ready to bid once the state lifts the freeze on the funding.

Item #13: We are waiting on the DEP for our application for the pump station on Creek Road under the USDA. When we receive approval, we will commence with the bidding process.

Greg Fusco thanked everyone for the time.

Old Business

Ordinance:

- # 16-16 Amending Chapter 116 – Rental Properties
Public Hearing – Nothing Noted from Public.
Motion – J. Granstrom
2nd – M. Mevoli
All in Favor: Carried.

New Business

Ordinances:

- # 17-16 Amending Article II Chapter 114 – Vacant Properties
First Reading
Motion – J. McCleary
2nd – J. Granstrom
All in Favor: Carried.

Resolutions:

- # 115-16 Authorization to Apply Municipal Liens
- # 116-16 Authorizing the Refund of Escrow Overpayment
- # 117-16 Authorizing Shared Service Agreement with Bellmawr for EMS Services
- # 118-16 Acceptance of Resignation for Council – Patrick MacAdams
Motion – J. Granstrom
2nd – G. Gilbert
All in Favor: Carried.

Resolution # 119-16 Appointment of Vacancy For Council Seat

- Motion – M. Mevoli nominated Patrick Moses
- 2nd – J. McCleary
- All in Favor: Carried.

P. Moses was sworn in as a Councilman by Mayor Branella

120-16 Acceptance of Resignation – Patrick Moses for P/Z

Motion – M. Mevoli

2nd – J. McCleary

Abstained – p. Moses

All in Favor: Carried.

Approval of payment of bills: \$ 475,968.97

Motion – M. Mevoli

2nd – J. Granstrom

Abstained – P. Moses

All in favor: Carried.

Open to Council:

Everyone on council congratulated the newest member of council for his nomination. M. Mevoli said he will be a great asset to this town and now its time to get to work.

M. Mevoli said we need to address the problem on 4th Street. He wants a letter sent to all the residents along the street to inform them of our progress. The clerk said this will be out to the residents before the next meeting.

J. Granstrom talked about EMS being dissolved. He said it was a really tough decision that cost many hours of discussion among the committee. We feel it's the right decision and look forward to our new partners of EMS services being provided by Bellmawr Borough under a shared service.

Motion to Adjourn – M. Mevoli

2nd – G. Gilbert

All in favor: Adjourned.

Ryan Giles
Borough Clerk